

Crisis response revision for transitional interim multi-country strategic plan for Latin American countries impacted by the situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	March 2020– August 2021	12 months	March 2020– August 2022
Beneficiaries	258 666	808 000	1 066 666
	<i>(USD)</i>		
Total cost	47 015 486	144 029 465	191 044 951
Transfers	34 246 753	123 972 243	158 218 996
Implementation	3 939 417	7 280 339	11 219 756
Adjusted direct support costs	5 959 826	4 111 529	10 071 355
Subtotal	44 145 997	135 364 111	179 510 107
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	2 869 490	8 665 354	11 534 844

Gender and age marker code:* 3

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Rationale

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is facing significant socio-economic challenges, characterized by hyperinflation, significantly diminished purchasing power, rising poverty, increasing malnutrition, and migration.¹ The gross domestic product contracted 53 percent between 2014 and the first quarter of 2019,² by which time, 59 percent of households had insufficient income to buy food.³ The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has added a new layer of complexity to a multidimensional crisis, exacerbating vulnerabilities and further straining livelihoods across the country.
2. Against this backdrop, WFP and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela signed a memorandum of understanding in April 2021 for the implementation of school-based programming, including capacity strengthening activities for partners and school personnel and rehabilitation of school kitchens, with an estimated 1.5 million beneficiaries by August 2023. School-based interventions offer a unique opportunity for support among the most vulnerable members of society with targeted interventions around the most at risk age groups, supporting their access to food, other services and reducing the

¹ See R4V, “Plataforma de Coordinación Interagencial para Refugiados y Migrantes Venezolanos”: <https://r4v.info/en/situations/platform>

² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2020). *Humanitarian Response Plan With Humanitarian Needs Overview for Venezuela*. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/venezuela_hrp_2020_en_vf.pdf

³ WFP (2020). *WFP Venezuela Food Security Assessment*. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/venezuela-bolivarian-republic/wfp-venezuela-food-security-assessment-main-findings-data>



risk of exclusion errors. With the endorsement of the Executive Board, this crisis response budget revision therefore seeks to extend the duration of the transitional Interim multi-country strategic plan (T-IMCSP) by 12 months (until 31 August 2022) so as to enable WFP's set up in the country, implementation and scale up of its assistance and alignment of subsequent (I)CSPs with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela set to launch in September 2022.

Changes

Strategic orientation

3. The proposed revision covers budgetary adjustments to existing activities and also modifies activity 2 to better distinguish the on-demand services from the responsibilities of clusters in activities 4 and 5:
 - Activity 2: Provide on-demand logistics services to humanitarian and development partners
 - Output: Crisis-affected populations (tier 3) benefit from on-demand logistics and supply chain services supporting humanitarian and development partners' effective and timely intervention, including the delivery of life-saving supplies (SR 8)
 - Two previous outputs related to emergency telecommunications are removed as ETC services are not contemplated and activity 5 covers the coordination of the food security cluster.
4. The first revision to the T-IMCSP was approved by regional director in November 2020 to extend its duration to August 2021. A second revision (CD authority–May 2021) introduced school-based assistance and separated cluster coordination activities (logistics, food security).

Strategic outcomes

5. In scaling up its school-based programming (SO 1, Act 3), WFP will target schools in the most vulnerable and food-insecure areas, as per its own 2019 food security assessment. Following its launch in the state of Falcón (BR02), the programme will sequentially expand to other prioritized states, taking into account vulnerability levels and operational factors.
6. As per the MOU and in light of their particular vulnerability, WFP will prioritize pre-schoolchildren (under 6 years) to protect their early development, as well as provide assistance to school personnel. Pending further information on local demographics and the school registration process, where pre-schools share premises with other levels, WFP will evaluate the possibility of assisting all schoolchildren.
7. On account of COVID-19 induced closures, WFP expects to exclusively deliver take-home rations through 2021 and simultaneously assess and enhance the infrastructure of prioritized schools to enable the safe launch of on-site school meals after these reopen.
8. Once the conditions are met to implement school meals on site, WFP will adjust its programming to deliver holistic nutrition-sensitive school-based interventions, including through the safe introduction of specialized nutritious products in response to children's limited dietary diversity and their nutrition status. To do so, WFP will extend capacity strengthening activities to partners and school personnel from food management and storage, to food safety and preparation, hygiene practices, sensitization on differentiated nutritional needs and other key health, gender equality and childcare messages. WFP



guidance will also focus on protection and accountability to affected populations, including humanitarian principles.

9. Through December 2021, the primary sourcing strategy leverages pre-positioned commodities stored in regional and subregional hubs, before importing them kitted through WFP's logistics hub in Maracaibo and from there dispatched on to final delivery points through private sector companies. Pending analysis of market capacity to avoid unintended impacts on food supply and prices in country, WFP plans to gradually shift to local procurement to strengthen the private sector in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
10. WFP began leading the logistics cluster on 1 July, and together with FAO, co-leading the food security cluster, both of which were activated in November 2019 focusing on the provision of coordination and information management services. The education cluster is also active in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, under UNICEF's lead.
11. WFP will also progressively offer bilateral service provision on a full-cost-recovery basis to humanitarian and development partners in country, under activity 2 (on-demand services).⁴
12. The country office has recently set up an office in Caracas and a logistics hub in Maracaibo to facilitate the launch of operations in the western states. Management structures (country director, deputy country director) have been filled, while recruitment is ongoing for additional national and international positions.
13. WFP is coordinating access and independent programme implementation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Education. As schools reopen and are renovated, UNICEF will be a critical partner providing complementary WASH and nutrition assistance for a comprehensive school-based intervention. WFP is also engaged in the development of the upcoming UNSDCF and began working with international and national non-governmental organizations.
14. WFP is establishing an adapted M&E system for the COVID-19 context, seeking to limit the exposure of personnel, partners and beneficiaries, employing remote monitoring solutions where possible. Similarly, WFP will use existing school lists to facilitate registration and verification on the day of distribution. With approximately 12 months of implementation planned by the end of the T-IMCSP (August 2022), WFP is not currently considering a mid-term review of its portfolio nor a final T-IMCSP evaluation.
15. WFP will ensure its interventions are designed with a protection focus to avoid unintentional consequences, which may jeopardize the safety and dignity of beneficiaries. WFP will take every precaution to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as fraud, corruption, and other wrongdoings. WFP is in the process of setting up its complaints and feedback mechanism, ensuring beneficiaries and their families are consulted on their preferences and understand their rights.
16. WFP's intervention will also consider gender issues within its design and implementation, not only to avoid unintentional negative consequences but to seek to advance gender equality and ensure that the school feeding programme is equitable and gender responsive. To do so, WFP will carry out a gender, age and protection analysis to inform programme development.

⁴ Note: there is no budgetary adjustment to activity 2 at this stage, in absence of confirmed demand for such services at this time.



17. The operation faces a number of risks which WFP will seek to control and mitigate through periodic risk assessments on different areas, including security threats linked to the limited presence of non-state armed groups, COVID-19 contagion, and the unintended use of WFP resources. Mitigating measures being put in place include school-aged targeting, setting up an independent supply chain, extensive vetting of partners and beneficiaries, and fraud prevention mechanisms. Post-distribution monitoring will provide information on any problems with the operation reaching its intended beneficiaries, and if so additional measures will be taken. The operations will also leverage WFP's expertise in humanitarian access through the deployment of an issue-area expert.
18. This revision does not currently consider a handover of activities, which are set to continue to expand through August 2023 as per the MOU signed with the Government.

Beneficiary analysis

19. WFP will progressively expand the number of beneficiaries served, from the approximately 42,000 targeted in the State of Falcón in July–August 2021 (BR02), then 185,000 between September and December 2021 and up to 850,000 between January and August 2022. Implementation of WFP activities will focus exclusively on school-based programming for the foreseeable future, leading to a reduction in planned CBT beneficiaries under activity 1.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY							
Strategic outcome	Activity and modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1 (food)	Current	72 150	74 749	34 234	35 533	216 666
		Increase/(decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	72 150	74 749	34 234	35 533	216 666
	1 (CBTs)	Current	72 150	74 749	34 234	35 533	216 666
		Increase/(decrease)	(72 150)	(74 749)	(34 234)	(35 533)	(216 666)
		Revised	-	-	-	-	-
	3	Current	2 268	2 352	18 270	19 110	42 000
		Increase/(decrease)	56 018	58 196	341 913	351 873	808 000
		Revised	58 286	60 548	360 183	370 983	850 000
Total (without overlap)		Current	74 418	77 101	52 504	54 643	258 666
		Increase/(decrease)	56 018	58 196	341 913	351 873	808 000
		Revised	130 436	135 297	394 417	406 516	1 066 666

Transfers

20. While lead times constrain the use of commodities to those pre-positioned for Sept-Dec 2021, WFP will progressively adapt the ration to better meet the needs of the pre-primary schoolchildren in a context of elevated rates of malnutrition. WFP will seek to introduce specialized nutritious products exclusively in on-site school meals to limit risks associated with water quality.



TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY			
	Strategic outcome 1		
	Activity 3		
Beneficiary type	School-based take-home ration (September-December 2021)	School-based take-home ration (January-August 2022)	On site school ration meals (January-August 2022)
Modality	Food	Food	Food
Cereals	200	200	160
Pulses	133.33	133.33	60
Oil	33.33	33.33	15
Salt	15.13	15.13	2
Canned fish (sardine)		20	40
Super Cereal			
Super Cereal Plus			40
Total kcal/day	1 470	1 507	1 154
% kcal from protein	13%	13%	15%
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)			
Number of feeding days per year	120	240	160

* The take-home ration was designed taking into account that intrahousehold sharing is highly likely given prevalent food insecurity. As such, the same ration size will apply for all beneficiaries (not adjusted by age in this initial period): schoolchildren and school personnel, which results in a daily average kcal contribution above the needs of pre-primary schoolchildren, at approximately 137 percent of the 1,073kcal required for children under 6.

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
Food type/ cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	3 354	1 585 144	35 720	29 488 260	39 074	31 073 404
Pulses	2 136	1 448 617	20 640	24 419 033	22 776	25 867 650
Oil and fats	534	582 347	5 160	7 904 056	5 694	8 486 403
Mixed and blended foods	0	0	2 720	3 541 440	2 720	3 541 440
Other	132	33 957	6 775	12 459 706	6 907	12 493 663
Total (food)	6 156	3 650 065	71 015	77 812 495	77 171	81 462 560
Cash-based transfers		21 579 934		-21 579 934		0
Total (food and CBT value)	6 156	25 229 999	71 015	56 232 561	77 171	81 462 560



Cost breakdown

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)			
	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	
Focus area	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfers	123 194 123	778 120	123 972 243
Implementation	7 245 339	35 000	7 280 339
Adjusted direct support costs			4 111 529
Subtotal			135 364 111
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)			8 665 354
Total			144 029 465

TABLE 5: OVERALL T-IMCSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)			
	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	
Focus area	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfers	155 762 729	2 456 267	158 218 996
Implementation	10 956 994	262 762	11 219 756
Adjusted direct support costs	9 773 518	297 837	10 071 355
Subtotal	176 493 241	3 016 866	179 510 107
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	11 472 061	62 783	11 534 844
Total	187 965 302	3 079 649	191 044 951