

Executive Board Second Regular Session

Rome, 8-11 November 2010

PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 9

For approval



Distribution: GENERAL WFP/EB.2/2010/9-B/4

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BUDGET INCREASES TO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES— MAURITANIA COUNTRY PROGRAMME 102090 (2003–2010)

Cost (United States dollars)			
	Current budget	Increase	Revised budget
WFP food cost	26,332,286	7,367,433	33,699,719
Total cost to WFP	54,991,614	15,808,005	70,799,619

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Regional Director, ODD*: Mr T. Yanga tel.: 066513-2792

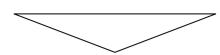
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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).



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DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves the budget increase of US\$15.8 million to Mauritania country programme 102090 (2003–2010) (WFP/EB.2/2010/9-B/4) with a one-year extension from 1 January to 31 December 2011.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



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NATURE OF THE INCREASE

1. This budget revision to Mauritania country programme (CP) 102090 is proposed to:

- i) extend the CP for one year from 1 January to 31 December 2011;
- ii) provide an additional 18,866 mt of food valued at US\$7.4 million;
- iii) provide an additional US\$7.4 million for external transport, landside transport, storage and handling, direct support costs and other direct operational costs;
- iv) provide an additional US\$1.0 million in indirect support costs; and
- v) introduce a change in orientation.
- 2. The one-year extension will align the CP with the Government's strategic framework to end poverty and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which was extended until December 2011. The revision will shift some activities from the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) to the CP.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION IN TIME AND BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of Existing Project Activities

- 3. The CP, originally approved from 2003 to 2007, was designed to assist Mauritania in overcoming development challenges in education, health and rural development. It extended until 31 December 2010 through several budget revisions in line with the extension of the UNDAF cycle.
- 4. The CP's objectives are to: i) invest in human capital by supporting primary education, through improvement of school enrolment rates (Component 1); and ii) build assets and mitigate the effects of natural disasters in areas vulnerable to recurring crises (Component 3). In 2008, with a rise in food prices and deteriorating nutrition, nutrition interventions under CP Component 2 were shifted to the PRRO and expanded as part of the relief response; these interventions will be shifted back to the CP through this budget revision.
- 5. In January 2008 PRRO 106050 was launched to provide emergency relief assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure populations and included nutrition interventions for children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women and people living with HIV (PLHIV) receiving anti-retroviral treatment. Through a recovery component, the PRRO aimed to strengthen the livelihoods of food-insecure communities and improve their resilience to natural disasters and high food prices. WFP also facilitated the reintegration of 19,000 Mauritanian refugees from Senegal between 2008 and 2010.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ASSESSMENTS

6. Mauritania is 154th of 182 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2009 Human Development Index. The poverty rate in rural areas was 59 percent in 2008 while extreme poverty affected 30 percent of the population. The country faces recurrent droughts, floods and locust infestations; lean seasons last five to six months and half of rural households

¹ High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis country visit report 24–29 January 2010



lack access to safe drinking water. High incidences of diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections further undermine food security.

- 7. According to food security assessments carried out by WFP and the Food Security Commission since 2007, food security remains extremely precarious, particularly in the south-eastern regions of Hodh el Gharbi, Hodh Charghi and Tagant. According to a report issued by the Food Security Monitoring System in June 2010, 25 percent of the rural population is food-insecure, especially within agro-pastoral zones. Poor subsistence farmers and small-scale pastoralists are the most affected. The negative coping strategies used by poor households are exacerbated by a decline in natural resources, especially forages and water. Poor crop yields and a depletion of grain stocks have also been reported. Reduced food imports from neighbouring countries have resulted in a scarcity of grain in markets.²
- 8. Given that 90 percent of the land is arid, Mauritania has limited agricultural potential. Cereal production has declined with recurrent droughts, a lack of investment and limited access to credit and inputs. Since 75 percent of Mauritania's food is imported, food prices are a major determinant of food security. Poor households were particularly affected by rising fuel and food prices in 2007 and 2008. Although cereal prices have stabilized since 2009, the population remains vulnerable to price fluctuations.
- 9. Poor rural households allocate 80 percent of their income to food; many have had to cut back on other expenses such as health and education, sell their assets and reduce their consumption of meat and dairy products. Migration to cities has led to accelerated urbanization and increased urban poverty. With the majority of households' assets depleted, recovery has been challenging.
- 10. According to the 2010 standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions (SMART) survey carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) global acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months was 12.5 percent nationwide above the World Health Organization threshold with peaks above 18 percent. It is unlikely Mauritania will achieve its target for Millennium Development Goal 1 Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.

Purpose of Extension and Budget Increase

- 11. A WFP country strategy document and the recommendations of the PRRO evaluation⁴ have informed this budget revision. The evaluation's recommendations include: i) streamlining partnerships; ii) reorienting activities based on food security and nutrition survey findings; iii) reinforcing safety nets such as cereals banks; iv) creating assets for returnees and host communities; and v) improving the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.
- 12. An extension in time from 1 January to 31 December 2011 will enable WFP to align the CP with the new UNDAF, which will start in 2012. In accordance with the ongoing programme category review, PRRO 106050 will end on 31 December 2010. As of January 2011, WFP will operate only under the CP. This budget revision proposes re-orientation of programming by integrating activities currently implemented under the PRRO into the CP, including: i) assistance to moderately malnourished children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women; ii) assistance to PLHIV; and iii) support to rural development through cereal banks and food for work (FFW).

⁴ Decentralized evaluation of PRRO Mauritania 106050, January 2010. Nouakchott.



² WFP and Mauritanian Food Security Commission, FSMS, June 2010.

³ FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, April 2010.

- 13. The CP will include the following components in 2011:
 - Component 1: Support for basic education
 - Component 2: Support for vulnerable mothers, children and PLHIV
 - Component 3: Support for rural development
- 14. WFP will target Tagant, Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimagha, Brakna, Trarza, Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh Charghi regions, and the periphery of Nouakchott. The most vulnerable communities will be prioritized based on FSMS and SMART surveys. The number of targeted villages will be reduced from 3,800 to 2,400, enabling WFP to strengthen its focus, enhance collaboration and maximize impacts.

Component 1: Support for Basic Education

- 15. In line with Strategic Objective 4, WFP will support basic education through school feeding in order to: i) improve the gender ratio in assisted schools; ii) increase enrolment and reduce the drop-out rate; and iii) improve children's ability to learn. WFP proposes to maintain the current number of beneficiaries in the first half of 2011, and to initiate a transfer of this component to the Government in October in accordance with CP evaluations and the country strategy document.
- 16. The Government recognizes the value of school meals and is committed to funding the programme from 2011 onwards; WFP is planning a gradual hand-over of the school feeding component because of limited government capacity. By 2012, the Government plans to include school feeding in the state budget and WFP plans to hand over school feeding to the Government within the next five years.

Component 2: Support for Vulnerable Mothers, Children and PLHIV

- ⇒ Targeted supplementary feeding
- 17. Nutrition interventions being implemented under PRRO 106050 as part of the REACH initiative will shift to the CP.⁵ Under the REACH initiative, the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have developed a nutrition action plan with the objective of achieving Millennium Development Goal 1. The action plan emphasizes the need for information, education, communication and integration within the national health system. WFP contributes to this goal by providing supplementary feeding to moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women.
- 18. While acute malnutrition continues, WFP will continue to support 46,800 beneficiaries through targeted supplementary feeding in 2011 under this CP. Beneficiaries will be screened through government health centres and supplementary feeding centres, on the basis of criteria such as mid-upper arm circumference and weight-for-height.
- 19. Capacity development efforts will continue for government counterparts, NGOs and community members. Nutrition interventions will be progressively integrated in government structures. In the Hodh el Gharbi and Hodh Charghi regions, WFP's support to targeted supplementary feeding will be implemented through a multi-agency nutrition programme.

⁵ REACH is a joint strategy carried out by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and WHO in partnership with the Government to address child hunger and undernutrition.



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20. WFP may add blanket feeding at a later stage for children under 2, depending on the results of a UNICEF-led pilot project. In the interim, acute malnutrition will be addressed through targeted supplementary feeding.

- \Rightarrow Food for training for PLHIV
- 21. In 2011, WFP proposes to support 800 PLHIV through food for training (FFT), completing a transition to self-support that began under the PRRO. PLHIV will receive a two-month family ration linked to anti-retroviral treatment, along with training in income-generation. WFP intends to hand over assistance to PLHIV to the Government in 2012 once funds are secured.

Component 3: Support for Rural Development

- 22. In line with Strategic Objective 2, Component 3 supports rural development in the most food-insecure districts by building assets to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and food-price fluctuations. WFP is considering implementing a cash pilot project under this component, pending the outcome of feasibility studies.
- ⇒ Productive safety nets and building resilience
- 23. Under Component 3, WFP will support productive safety nets for asset creation to enhance livelihoods. The component will aim at building vulnerable households' resilience to droughts and floods. Component 3 has been reviewed based on the CP mid-term evaluation recommendations, focusing on the need to ensure broader community participation in planning and asset management. WFP will support rehabilitation of dykes, vegetable plots and forests using labour-based conditional transfers, and will also provide skills training and support solidarity schemes such as placing a percentage of harvests into a pooled fund.
- 24. WFP plans to start a new activity in collaboration with UNICEF to support people engaged in water, sanitation and health initiatives. UNICEF will identify activities such as construction of latrines and sewage wells, and will support behaviour change communication.
- 25. Component 3 will be expanded in 2011 to assist 160,000 food-insecure people. Geographical targeting will include: i) areas where refugees returning from Senegal have settled; and ii) the most food-insecure areas, based on the FSMS, which meet technical capacity requirements. Steering committees composed of local authorities, civil society, NGOs and United Nations agencies will identify the most vulnerable communities. WFP assistance will be largely self targeted through community-based participatory planning that includes the poorest households.
- 26. WFP and Ministry of Rural Development staff will ensure beneficiaries' full ownership of assets and benefits. Technical standards, work plans and planning will be suited to local contexts based on best practices. WFP and the Government will link productive safety nets with NGO partners' income-generating activities following extensive consultations in each district.

Support for Cereal Banks

- 27. WFP's support to cereal banks will shift from the PRRO to the CP. In the Senegal River Valley and rain-fed cultivation areas, WFP will assist communities in transforming cereal banks into cooperatives. In pastoral areas, WFP will assist communities in meeting their food needs during the lean season by restocking cereal banks and preventing the use of negative coping strategies such as sale of animals.
- 28. Cereal banks will be selected for transformation into cooperatives based on specific eligibility criteria. WFP will help to coordinate group purchases and connect farmers with local producers of enriched flour and UNDP will allocate loans and provide assets such as solar panels. These actions will contribute to the cereal banks' sustainability and encourage community ownership.



TABLE 1. BENEFICIARIES BY COMPONENT				
2010 Increase 2011				
Component 1				
School feeding	202 100	26 947	229 047	
Component 2				
Supplementary feeding	0	46 800	46 800	
FFT (PLHIV)	0	4 000	4 000	
Component 3				
Cereal banks	0	80 000	80 000	
FFW (productive safety net)	105 000	53 750	158 750	
TOTAL (adjusted)*	286 499	203 617	490 116	

^{*} The total number of beneficiaries has been adjusted to avoid double-counting of beneficiaries assisted under more than one component.

- 29. In line with evaluation recommendations, WFP will continue to develop the capacities of the Government, cooperating partners and targeted communities, specifically working with the Mauritanian Food Security Commission to develop capacity for food distribution and monitoring. Training on improved food-storage methods will be provided to the Government, partners, and communities. Community ownership of WFP activities will be increased through management committees, food-storage training, involvement in monitoring and improved management skills.
- 30. An alliance was formed with the University of Nouakchott to create an online database for a new M&E system that allows WFP to upload monitoring data and produce reports from anywhere with an internet connection; partners will be trained in the system's use. The M&E plan was refined to focus on measurable indicators.

TABLE 2. FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT (mt)					
Current Increase Revise					
Component 1					
School feeding	38 581	7 878	46 459		
Component 2					
Supplementary feeding	1 500	2 835	4 335		
FFT (PLHIV)	0	134	134		
Component 3					
Cereal banks	0	2 880	2 880		
FFW (productive safety net)	21 200	5 139	26 339		
TOTAL	61 281	18 866	80 147		



ANNEX I-A

BUDGET INCREASE COST BREAKDOWN				
Food ¹	Quantity (mt)	Average cost (US\$/mt)	Value (US\$)	Value (US\$)
Cereals	12 931	4 069 900	4 069 900	
Pulses	1 458	653 724	653 724	
Oil and fats	946	1 054 790	1 054 790	
Mixed and blended food	2 955	1 255 875	1 255 875	
Others	576	333 144	333 144	
Total food	18 866		7 367 433	7 367 433
External transport	1 398 265			
Landside transport, storage a	2 810 845			
Other direct operational costs	1 074 144			
Direct support costs ² (see An	2 123 149			
Total WFP direct costs				14 773 836
Indirect support costs (7.0 percent) ³				1 034 169
TOTAL WFP COSTS				15 808 005

³ The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.



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¹ This is a notional food basket for budgeting and approval. The contents may vary.

² Indicative figure for information purposes; the direct support cost allotment is reviewed annually.

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)		
Staff costs		
International professional staff	372 780	
Local professional staff	142 000	
Local general service staff	121 500	
Temporary assistance	353 000	
International consultants	32 319	
United Nations volunteers	55 000	
Staff duty travel	97 000	
Subtotal	1 173 599	
Recurring expenses	,	
Facility rental	39 000	
Utilities	32 000	
Office supplies and other consumables	30 000	
Communications and information technology services	180 000	
Vehicle running costs and maintenance	172 500	
Office set-up and repairs	50 500	
United Nations organization services	120 000	
Subtotal	624 000	
Equipment and capital costs		
Vehicle leasing	102 000	
Information technology equipment	33 000	
Local security costs	190 550	
Subtotal	325 550	
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	2 123 149	



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions	
UNDAF OUTCOMES	UNDAF Outcome Indicators	Existence of adequate political and security conditions	
Outcome 1 Food security of vulnerable populations is ensured.	 % of population suffering from food insecurity % of income households spend on food yearly % of food imports 	Commitments by Government and cooperating partners respected	
Outcome 2 Economic and social living conditions of poor and vulnerable groups are improved in an environment where access to natural resources and their sustainable management are improved.	Number of households sedentary during the lean season		



COMPONENT 1: SUPPORT FOR BASIC EDUCATION

Strategic Objective 4: Reduce Chronic Hunger and Undernutrition

Outcome 1.1 Increased access to education and human capital in assisted schools Activity: school feeding	 Gender ratio (ratio of girls to boys enrolled) Target: 1 Enrolment: average annual rate of change in number of girls and boys enrolled Drop-out rate for girls and boys Target: establishing baseline in early 2011 % of teachers reporting children's improved ability to concentrate and learn in school as a result of school feeding Target: baseline established in early 2011 	Support and complementary funding from the Government and donors Stable political and security conditions
Output 1.1 Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys under secure conditions	 Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as % of planned Target: 100% Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned 	Sound pipeline, donor contributions and government commitment. Stable political and security conditions

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ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK				
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions		
	 Target: 100% ➤ Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% ➤ Number of security incidents Target: 0 			
Output 1.2 School feeding coverage aligned with programme of work	 Number of schools assisted by WFP Target: 1,700 Number of feeding days as % of actual school days Target: 100% 	Sound pipeline, donor contributions and government commitment		
COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE MOT	HERS, CHILDREN AND PLHIV			
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce Chronic Hunger and U	ndernutrition			
Outcome 2.1	Prevalence of stunting (height for age) among targeted	Continuation of REACH		



Outcome 2.1 Improved nutritional status of targeted women, girls and	Prevalence of stunting (height for age) among targeted children under 5	Continuation of REACH
boys	Target: <20%	Adequate funding levels
	Prevalence of acute malnutrition (weight for height)	
Activity: supplementary feeding centres	among children under 5 in WFP-assisted interventions areas	Sound commitment from partners
	Target: <10%	
	Supplementary feeding death rate	
	Target: <3%	
	Supplementary feeding defaulter rate	
	Target: 15%	
	Supplementary feeding recovery rate	
	Target: >75%	

ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions	
Outcome 2.2 Adequate food consumption over assistance period for targeted households at risk of acute hunger Activity: FFT for PLHIV	➤ Household food consumption score Target: > 35%	Adequate commitment from partners Continued application of skills learned by beneficiaries	
Output 2.1 Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys under secure conditions	 Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as % of planned Target: 100% Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% Quantity of non-food items distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% Number of security incidents Target: 0 	Sound pipeline, donor contributions and Government commitment Stable political and security conditions	
Output 2.2 Enhanced human capital in targeted households	 Number of targeted households with enhanced human capital Target: 800 	Adequate partner commitment and complementary activities Continued application of skills learned by beneficiaries	
COMPONENT 3: SUPPORT FOR RURAL DEVELOPME			
Strategic Objective 2: Prevent Acute Hunger and Inves	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Committee and his second and	
Outcome 3.1 Early-warning systems contingency plans and food security monitoring systems in place and enhanced with WFP capacity-development support	Disaster preparedness indexTarget: 8	Commitments by government and cooperating partners respected Stable political and security conditions	



	Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
	Outcome 3.2 Adequate food consumption over assistance period for targeted households at risk of falling into acute hunger	➤ Household food consumption score Target: >35 %	Support and complementary funding from the Government and donors
	Activity: FFW and cereal banks		Price stability; availability and accessibility of food in markets
	Outcome 3.3 Hazard risk reduced at the community and household levels in targeted communities	 Household asset score Target: score increased in at least 80 percent of targeted households 	Support and complementary funding from donors
	Activity: FFW and cereal banks	Community asset scoreTarget: establish baseline by the end of 2010	Sound coordination with partners
WEP	Output 3.1 Food and non-food items distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to targeted women, men, girls and boys	Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food and non-food items, by category and as % of planned Target: 100%	Sound pipeline, donor contributions and Government commitment
•	under secure conditions	 Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% Quantity of fortified foods, complementary foods and special nutritional products distributed, by type, as % of planned 	Stable political and security conditions
		Target: 100% ➤ Quantity of non-food items distributed, by type, as % of planned Target: 100% ➤ Number of security incidents Target: 0	

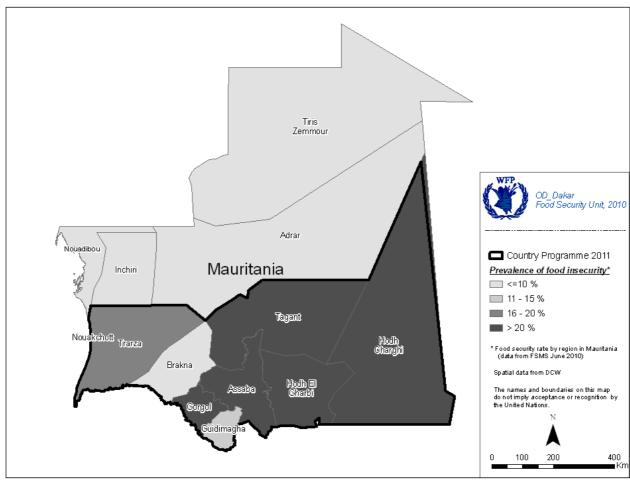
ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK



ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK		
Results	Performance indicators	Risks, assumptions
Output 3.2 Targeted communities' disaster-mitigation assets built or	 Risk-reduction and disaster-mitigation assets created or restored, by type and unit of measure 	Support and complementary funding from donors
restored	 ♦ Number of cereal banks created/reinforced Target: 500 ♦ Area (ha) protected/developed Target: to be confirmed ♦ Area of trees planted Target: 812 ha ▶ Number of training sessions held Target: 16 ▶ Number of training sessions in emergency food security assessment provided for government counterpart staff Target: 1 	Sound coordination with partners Active beneficiary participation



WFP Operational Areas in Mauritania





The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CP country programme

EMOP emergency operation

FFT food for training

FFW food for work

M&E monitoring and evaluation

NGO non-governmental organization

PLHIV people living with HIV

PRRO protracted relief and recovery operation

SMART standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

