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Operational matters – Projects approved by correspondence
For information

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Revision of Jordan transitional interim country strategic plan

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January– 31 December 2018	1 January– 31 December 2019	1 January 2018– 31 December 2019
Beneficiaries	1 082 250	-9 675	1 072 575
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	259 336 422	245 999 478	505 335 900
Transfer	228 085 547	214 702 422	442 787 969
Implementation	9 398 579	9 418 890	18 817 469
Adjusted direct support costs	6 024 251	6 864 113	12 888 364
Subtotal	243 508 378	230 985 425	474 493 803
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	15 828 045	15 014 053	30 842 097

Gender and age marker* 2A

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

Decision

The Board approved by correspondence the revision of the Jordan transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase of USD 245,999,478 outlined in the present document.

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Rationale

1. This revision of the Jordan transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) extends the duration of the T-ICSP by one year, from 1 January to 31 December 2019 pending formulation of the full country strategic plan (CSP) for Jordan, which is expected to be presented to the Executive Board at its 2019 second regular session, based on the findings of the most recent sectoral assessments and on subsequent consultations with partners.
2. Socio-economic data in Jordan is outdated: the latest figures on poverty, food security, nutrition and related sectors pre-date the start of the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Government, with its partners, is in the midst of a series of assessments that will provide updated data. Most of these, however, as well as other WFP-commissioned assessments, evaluations and studies intended to inform the design of the CSP, will not be released before autumn 2018. The assessments include the following:
 - a household income and expenditure survey and a demographic and health survey, conducted by the Government;
 - a WFP comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment;
 - a WFP/UNICEF micronutrient deficiency survey intended to fill a critical malnutrition data gap;
 - a decentralized evaluation of WFP's unconditional assistance to Syrian refugees; and
3. The revision also makes slight changes to some of the implementation arrangements to reflect updated beneficiary figures and transfer values.

Changes

Strategic orientation

4. This revision does not change the strategic orientation of the T-ICSP.

Strategic outcomes

5. **Strategic outcome 1:** This outcome has been reformulated because Syrians stranded at the north-eastern border between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan (Berm) are no longer assisted by WFP.
 - Original formulation: Food-insecure Syrian refugees and Syrians stranded at the Berm have access to safe, adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.
 - New formulation: Food-insecure Syrian refugees have access to safe, adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.
6. When the T-ICSP was being formulated, WFP expected to continue to assist the estimated 60,000 Syrians stranded at the Berm from Jordan. In line with past practice, these refugees would receive in-kind food assistance from WFP upon registration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
7. The Jordanian Government, however, has expressed a preference for this group to be assisted from the Syrian Arab Republic, so the international community has taken steps to make that possible. Consequently, activity 1 has been reformulated to refer only to unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees, omitting any reference to Syrians at the Berm. Related outputs have also been deleted.
8. Strategic outcomes 2 and 3: This revision results in no change to strategic outcomes 2 and 3 or their related activities.

Beneficiary analysis

Activity 1: Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees

- 60,000 Syrians stranded at the Berm (65 percent of whom were women and girls) have been removed from activity 1.
- 20,000 Syrian refugees (50 percent of whom are expected to be women) have been added starting from September 2018. The Government of Jordan and UNHCR have conducted an amnesty allowing Syrians who moved out of the refugee camps illegally to be officially registered as refugees. This process, which ended in August 2018, is expected to result in 20,000 refugees newly registered with UNHCR who will meet the WFP targeting criteria for access to food assistance.

Activity 2: Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behaviour change activities to refugee children

- The number of children benefiting from school meals remains unchanged (30,000 refugee schoolchildren in camps, with boys and girls in equal numbers). However, the planned number of workers from Syrian refugee households (80 percent of whom are women) preparing school meals in camps has been reduced slightly to reflect the actual number of workers employed in this activity.

Activity 3: Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians

- The number of assisted vulnerable Jordanians remains unchanged.

Activity 4: Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behaviour change activities to children in host communities

- The number of children benefiting from school meals has increased from 350,000 to 400,000 (with girls expected to make up 50 percent of the total) to account for an expected increase in enrollment in the schools currently targeted as well as the inclusion of children attending the second shift in double-shift schools.
- The planned number of workers (80 percent of whom are women) preparing the school meals has been reduced to reflect the actual number of workers employed in this activity and the expansion of the healthy kitchen model has been more limited than anticipated.

Activity 5: Provide asset creation and livelihood support activities including through individual capacity strengthening to vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians

- The planned number of beneficiaries has been reduced by 7,500 to reflect actual implementation capacity and the funding outlook for this activity.

TABLE 1: FOOD AND CASH TRANSFER BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

Strategic outcome	Activity	Current			Increase/decrease			Revised		
		Boys/ men	Girls/ women	Total	Boys/men	Girls/ women	Total	Boys/ men	Girls/ women	Total
1	1. Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees.	274 000	286 000	560 000	-14 000	-26 000	-40 000	260 000	260 000	520 000
1	2. Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behavioural change activities to refugee children.	15 420	16 680	32 100	-12	-48	-60	15 408	16 632	32 040
2	3. Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians.	70 000	70 000	140 000	-	-	-	70 000	70 000	140 000
2	4. Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behavioural change activities to children in host communities.	175 950	178 800	354 750	24 285	22 140	46 425	200 235	200 940	401 175
3	5. Provide asset creation and livelihood support activities including through individual capacity strengthening to vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians.	11 000	16 500	27 500	-3 000	-4 500	-7 500	8 000	12 000	20 000
Total*		546 370	567 980	1 082 250				533 735	538 840	1 072 575

* Beneficiaries supported through more than one source (e.g., cash-based transfers and school meals in camps) are counted only once.

9. The overall proportion of women and girls targeted has fallen from 52 to 50 percent because of the discontinuation of assistance at the Berm, where it was estimated that women and girls made up over 65 percent of the Syrians stranded at the border. However, the country office remains committed to enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment and is working to implement the recommendations resulting from a February 2018 gender assessment that it commissioned.

Transfers

Activity 1: Provide unconditional resource transfers to Syrian refugees

10. In February 2018, the Government stopped subsidizing the price of bread and increased taxes on food; the price of bread doubled and sales tax on selected food items rose sharply. The Government has compensated the poorest Jordanians for these measures.
11. To compensate for the lost purchasing power of Syrian refugee beneficiaries, in April 2018 WFP increased the value of the assistance it provides them in line with the compensation provided by the Government to Jordan's most vulnerable citizens.
12. The increase applied to beneficiary refugees categorized as "vulnerable" or "extremely vulnerable" by WFP, with the increase proportionally greater for those in the "vulnerable" group. This was in response to repeated findings from internal and external assessments that the gap between the two groups was too large, such that the food security status of the vulnerable group was decreasing over time. Thus the value of the assistance provided to "extremely vulnerable" refugees was increased from USD 28 to USD 31 per person per month and that for "vulnerable" refugees from USD 14 to USD 21 per person per month.
13. This change was applied to assisted refugees living in host communities in April 2018 and will be expanded to those living in camps from September 2018 onwards, when the distribution of bread will stop.

Activity 2: Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behavioural change activities to refugee children

- There are no changes to the transfer value.

Activity 3: Provide unconditional resource transfers to vulnerable Jordanians

- The basket of commodities has been slightly amended, notably to include dates.

Activity 4: Provide school meals and nutrition-related communication and behavioural change activities to children in host communities

- There has been no change to the transfer value.

Activity 5: Provide asset creation and livelihood support activities including through individual capacity strengthening to vulnerable Syrians and Jordanians

- There has been no change to the transfer value.

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2			Strategic outcome 3		
	Activity 1					Activity 2		Activity 3	Activity 4		Activity 5	
Beneficiary type	Syrian refugees (camps)		Refugees in host comms. (extremely)	Refugees in host comms. (vulnerable)	Refugees (new arrivals / referrals)	Refugee children (5-17)	Refugee (school meals workers)	Vulnerable Jordanians	Jordanian school children (5 to 12)	School-meal workers	Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians	
Modality	CBTs	In-kind	CBTs	CBTs	In-kind	In-kind	CBTs	In-kind	In-kind	In-kind	CBTs	CBTs
Cereals								21				
Pulses								20				
Oil								22				
Salt												
Sugar								29				
Powdered milk								9				
Dates								19				
Date bars									80			
Healthy meal ¹						230				230		
Food parcels ²					1 unit (2 400 grams)							
Bread ³		240										
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/month) ⁴	32		32	21			120				120	110 ⁵
Cash-based transfer grant (one-off)												USD 1 000 per participant
Feeding days	365	365	365	365	1	177	200	365	100	125	156 or 208 ⁶	

¹ The healthy meal received by the children is 230 g/person/day and is made up of a pastry, a fruit and a vegetable providing 400 kcal per child per day (with 20 percent from fat and 23 percent from protein). However, based on how the food is procured, this is captured as cash in WFP accounting systems.

² The food parcel includes ready-to-eat food items (including pulses, vegetables and fruits and animal products) providing 2,100 kcal per person per day (with 22 percent from fat and 25 percent from protein). It also includes a bottle of water.

³ To be discontinued in autumn 2018. The bread provides 650 kcal per person per day (with 12 percent from fat and 16 percent from protein).

⁴ The transfer value for activity 1 for “extremely vulnerable” and “vulnerable” refugees in host communities was raised in April 2018 from USD 28 per person per month and USD 14 per person per month, respectively.

⁵ Total amount of assistance per participant is USD 21 per day of attendance of training or work. It assumes five beneficiaries per participant household and is the total amount of assistance if the participant attends 26 days of training or work per month.

⁶ Corresponds to work days.

Abbreviations: CBT = cash-based transfer; comms. = communities

Food type/cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase\decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	10 548	5 204 587	- 2 559	-1 016 424	7 989	4 188 163
Pulses	1 044	1 318 759	609	769 300	1 653	2 088 059
Oil and fats	673	1 121 265	1 091	1 816 821	1 764	2 938 086
Mixed and blended foods	1 085	1 986 079	1 764	3 228 384	2 849	5 214 463
Other	14 812	18 571 018	- 10 030	-11.449 100	4 782	7 121 918
Total (food)	28 163	28 201 707	- 9 125	-6 651 017	19 038	21 550 690
Cash-based transfers (USD)	-	174 379 254	-	210 569 624	-	384 948 878
Total (food and CBT value, in USD)	28 163	202 580 961	- 9 125	203 918 607	19 038	406 499 568

Supply chain

14. Under activity 4, the Ministry of Education is responsible for transporting and distributing date bars procured by WFP. Supply chain management is thus central to the implementation of the national school meals programme. A recent supply chain assessment indicated a number of limitations that should be addressed to enhance the performance of the programme and its cost-efficiency. As a result, WFP will increase its efforts to help the Ministry of Education strengthen its capacity and systems related to supply chain management.

Other considerations

- No significant changes to country office capacity, partnerships or monitoring and evaluation are required as a result of this revision.
- With the discontinuation of assistance to Syrians at the Berm, the risks faced by the country office – particularly programme-related ones – have been reduced significantly.

Cost breakdown

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)				
	WFP Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	WFP Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	WFP Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience-building	Resilience-building	
Transfer	196 418 556	7 966 949	10 316 918	214 702 422
Implementation	6 875 707	1 105 009	1 438 174	9 418 890
Adjusted direct support costs				6 864 113
Subtotal				230 985 425
Indirect support costs (6.5%)				15 014 053
Total				245 999 478

TABLE 5: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE FULL T-ICSP FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)				
	WFP Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	WFP Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	WFP Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience-building	Resilience-building	
Transfer	370 225 182	30 823 172	41 739 615	442 787 969
Implementation	13 961 390	2 238 835	2 617 244	18 817 469
Adjusted direct support costs	10 740 359	919 450	1 228 555	12 888 364
Subtotal	394 926 931	33 981 457	45 585 414	474 493 803
Indirect support costs (6.5%)	25 670 251	2 208 795	2 963 052	30 842 097
Total	420 597 181	36 190 252	48 548 466	505 335 900