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Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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by correspondence

For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<https://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Revision of Eswatini transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2018– 30 June 2019	1 July 2019– 31 December 2019	1 January 2018– 31 December 2019
Beneficiaries	268 292	–	268 292
(USD)			
Total cost	17 408 833	11 845 462	29 254 294
Transfers	14 882 623	10 342 339	25 224 962
Implementation	672 127	411 143	1 083 270
Adjusted direct support costs	791 572	369 017	1 160 589
Subtotal	16 346 322	11 122 499	27 468 821
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 062 511	722 962	1 785 473

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 Eswatini transitional interim country strategic plan and the corresponding budget increase of USD 11,845,462 outlined in the present document.

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Rationale

1. This fifth revision of the Eswatini transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) has the aim of extending the duration of the lean-season support provided under strategic outcome 3 – “Targeted food-insecure households in Eswatini are able to meet their basic food requirements in times of shock” – for six months from July to December 2019 in response to a deterioration in the food security situation in the country.
2. Activities under strategic outcome 3, which focuses on crisis response, have continued beyond the end of the lean season in March 2019 and will continue into the first three months of 2020, overlapping with the start of implementation of the country strategic plan (CSP) for 2020–2024. Following a poor agricultural season, the risk of food insecurity will persist and the lean season will commence earlier than usual. In March 2019, a rapid pre-harvest assessment conducted by the disaster management authority and the Ministry of Agriculture indicated a drop in agricultural production, with the area of land under cultivation and planted declining by 37 percent compared with the previous season. National maize production is expected to decrease by 22 percent. Based on this outlook, WFP will be required to provide emergency assistance earlier than normal while the Government’s capacity to respond is exacerbated by budgetary shortfalls.
3. The anticipated poor production of the coming harvest, combined with the fact that 26 percent of the population lives in areas that are in phases 3 or 4 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, highlights the need for WFP to extend its lean-season support for six months. New data from the vulnerability assessment committee is expected to be available in June 2019 and will inform decisions regarding lean-season needs and targeting criteria.
4. While the need to extend the duration of its lean-season response is the primary rationale for this T-ICSP revision, WFP is also strengthening its work on addressing root causes and building resilience, laying the foundations for the CSP (2020–2024). The extension will also allow sufficient time for finalization of the zero hunger strategic review.

Changes

Strategic orientation

5. The revision will not result in any changes to the strategic outcomes or the line of sight of the T-ICSP.
6. Implementation of the T-ICSP contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 Target 2.1 on ending hunger by promoting access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round, and SDG 5 on achieving gender equality. The home-grown school feeding pilot programme contributes to the achievement of SDG 4 on ensuring that all girls and boys receive free, good-quality primary and secondary education equitably, and SDG 1 on implementing social protection systems and measures that are appropriate to national conditions. It is in line with the United Nations development assistance framework for Eswatini (2016–2020) and its pillars of poverty and inequality reduction, inclusive growth and sustainable development.

7. According to the 2018 household income and expenditure survey, an estimated 59 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and poverty and vulnerability affect women disproportionately. Eswatini is ranked 128th of 188 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. Targeting and the selection of response modalities for the lean-season response will take into account the protection and safety of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, including by communicating entitlements clearly and holding distributions at times that minimize the risk of theft or harassment.

Beneficiary analysis

8. Under the revision, beneficiary numbers will be maintained for the six-month extension of activities 1, 4 and 6 through which WFP provides direct transfers to beneficiaries. WFP will target an estimated 166,000 people for the extended lean-season support (activity 6) based on projections derived from vulnerability analysis over the past four years.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND TRANSFER MODALITY											
Strategic outcome	Activity	Beneficiary group	Modality	Period	Women	Men	Girls		Boys		Total
					> 18 years	> 18 years	0-5 years	5-18 years	0-5 years	5-18 years	
1	1	Households of malnourished clients	CBTs	Revised (no change)	6 120	5 426	1 478	4 640	1 292	4 132	23 088
		Clients of ART, TB treatment or PMTCT treatment	Food	Revised (no change)	3 059	2 714	739	2 320	646	2 066	11 544
2	4	Orphans and vulnerable children at neighbourhood care points and children in primary and secondary schools	Food	Revised (no change)			44 521	27 980	42 364	28 455	143 320
3	6	Men, women, boys and girls affected by shocks or drought	Food	Revised (no change)	15 580	13 865	3 314	9 501	3 314	9 667	55 241
			CBTs	Revised (no change)	31 156	27 731	6 629	19 003	6 629	19 334	110 482
Total (cumulative)				Revised (no change)	55 915	49 736	56 681	63 444	54 245	63 654	343 675
Total (without overlaps)				Revised (no change)	49 385	45 309	53 927	33 891	51 314	34 466	268 292

ART = anti-retroviral therapy; CBT = cash-based transfer; PMTCT = prevention of mother-to-child transmission; TB = tuberculosis.

Transfers

	Strategic outcome 2		Strategic outcome 3	
	Activity 4		Activity 6	
Beneficiary type	Orphans and vulnerable children	Primary and secondary schoolchildren	Food-insecure populations affected by shocks	
Modality	Food	Food	CBTs	Food
Cereals	200	150	N/A	333
Pulses	28	40		83
Oil	12.5	7.5		30
SuperCereal				
SuperCereal Plus		75		
Total kcal/day	938	1 051		1 767
% kcal from protein	10.2	13		11.7
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)			0.27	
Number of feeding days per year	132	132	180	180

9. No changes to the food basket will be introduced in this revision. Through activities under strategic outcome 3, WFP plans to reach an estimated 166,000 beneficiaries, of whom 67 percent will receive cash-based transfers and 33 percent in-kind food. Households will receive a monthly cash transfer of SZL 110 (USD 8.08)¹ per person for an average of five people per household. The value of the transfers for lean-season support are based on the national emergency response and adaptation plan of 2016, which stipulates that cash transfers should cover 45 percent of daily energy requirements and in-kind transfers 84 percent. Based on the findings of a government market assessment conducted in April 2019, the costs of commodities and the transfer values of 2016 will continue to be used for emergency response given that inflation rates have decreased since 2016² and are expected to remain stable in 2019 and 2020.
10. Under the home-grown school feeding pilot programme, the ration for primary and secondary schoolchildren consists of cereals, beans, vegetable oil, peanut butter and milk. WFP will provide cereals, beans and vegetable oil and the Government will provide peanut butter and milk. To enhance the nutrition sensitivity of the food basket, fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from local communities will complement the commodities provided by WFP and the Government.

¹ Based on the official United Nations exchange rate in March 2019.

² The interest rate decreased from 7.85 percent in 2016 to 4.8 percent in 2018.

Food type/ cash-based transfers	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	7 386	2 580 521	5 123	1 683 916	12 508	4 264 437
Pulses	1 894	1 650 220	1 311	1 310 683	3 205	2 960 904
Oil and fats	506	457 111	389	310 957	894	768 068
Mixed and blended foods	346	192 762			346	192 761
Total (food)	10 131	4 880 614	6 822	3 305 556	16 953	8 186 170
Cash-based transfers		6 060 349		5 353 753		11 414 102
Total (food and cash-based transfers value)	10 131	10 940 963	6 822	8 659 309	16 953	19 600 272

Cost breakdown

11. The changes reported in table 4 reflect the extension of lean-season support for 166,000 beneficiaries from July to December 2019. An estimated 86 percent of the additional budget for the revision is related to the transfers provided during the extension of the lean-season response, with associated increases in implementation and direct support costs.

	Strategic Result 1	Strategic Result 2	Strategic Result 5	Total
	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Resilience building	
Transfers	8 348 289	138 241	1 855 809	10 342 339
Implementation	105 232	1 669	304 242	411 143
Adjusted direct support costs				369 017
Subtotal				11 122 499
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)				722 962
Total				11 845 462

TABLE 5: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE FULL T-ICSP FOLLOWING REVISION (USD)				
	Strategic Result 1	Strategic Result 2	Strategic Result 5	Total
	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Resilience building	
Transfers	16 311 249	2 321 541	6 592 172	25 224 962
Implementation	222 130	303 660	557 480	1 083 270
Adjusted direct support costs	525 484	198 321	436 784	1 160 589
Subtotal	17 058 863	2 823 522	7 586 436	27 468 821
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 108 826	183 529	493 118	1 785 473
Total	18 167 689	3 007 051	8 079 554	29 254 294

Acronyms used in the document

ART	anti-retroviral therapy
CBT	cash-based transfer
CSP	country strategic plan
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TB	tuberculosis
T-ICSP	transitional interim country strategic plan