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Agenda item 7

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Operational matters — Projects approved by vote
by correspondence

For information

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

Revision of the Dominican Republic country strategic plan (2019–2023) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2019–31 December 2023	No change	1 January 2019–31 December 2023
Beneficiaries	482 400	28 000	510 400
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	28 942 859	16 206 944	45 149 802
Transfers	22 389 175	12 838 377	35 227 552
Implementation	3 642 937	1 640 285	5 283 222
Adjusted direct support costs	1 176 214	739 147	1 915 361
Subtotal	27 208 326	15 217 809	42 426 136
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 734 532	989 134	2 723 666

Gender and age marker:^{*} 3

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

Decision

The Board approved by vote by correspondence the revision of the Dominican Republic country strategic plan (2019–2023) and the corresponding budget increase of USD 16,206,944 outlined in the present document.

2 August 2021

Focal points:

Ms L. Castro
Regional Director
Latin America and the Caribbean
email: lola.castro@wfp.org

Ms G. Alvarado
Country Director
email: gabriela.alvarado@wfp.org

Rationale

1. This proposed revision of the Dominican Republic country strategic plan (CSP) will allow WFP to increase its budget to accommodate additional confirmed contributions and forecasts; address increased needs under strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3 that were not foreseen during the initial CSP submission and approval process; and cover revised supply chain costs under strategic outcome 2.
2. The increased needs identified and intervention areas prioritized with the Government take into consideration 2020 food security assessments and a Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis that estimates that 35.5 percent of the population is moderately food-insecure and 2.74 percent is severely food-insecure after the onset of COVID-19, with higher prevalence of food insecurity in households with pregnant and lactating women and girls (47.3 percent). According to the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, only one in three households has access to a nutritious diet, and the nutritious diet is between three and five times more expensive than the energy diet, thus increasing vulnerability to food insecurity. In addition, one in three pregnant women and girls has anaemia owing to a lack of micronutrients. WFP's nutrition and food assistance reduces the cost of a nutritious diet for pregnant and lactating women and girls by 20 to 30 percent and allows them to improve their nutrition status.
3. The increase in the CSP budget will allow WFP to continue to deliver on its commitments with partners and the Government and to maintain its support for the achievement of zero hunger and enhanced global partnerships.
4. The CSP has had three previous revisions. The first, in December 2019, was approved by the Regional Director to accommodate additional confirmed contributions for strategic outcome 3. The second, in July 2020, allowed for the addition of two crisis response strategic outcomes to address the COVID-19 emergency and was approved by the Regional Director after submission to the Executive Board for comment. The Country Director approved the third revision, which was to accommodate additional confirmed contributions for strategic outcome 3 and an extension of the duration of the CSP for strategic outcomes 3, 4 and 5.
5. This revision and corresponding budget increase cover the period from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2023.

Changes

Strategic orientation

6. The CSP revision is based on the country office's current portfolio, confirmed contributions, latest funding forecast and increased needs.
7. The changes introduced pertain to:
 - a budget increase for capacity strengthening transfer and implementation costs under strategic outcomes 1 and 3;
 - a budget increase for food transfer, transfer and implementation costs for capacity strengthening and supply chain costs under strategic outcome 2;
 - an increase in direct beneficiaries under strategic outcome 2, adding 28,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls;
 - a budget increase to cover staff and direct support costs for CSP implementation under strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3 in accordance with the organizational realignment exercises that began in 2020; and
 - a more detailed budget for direct support costs that takes into consideration an increased office structure and increases supply and support requirements.

8. There is no strategic change to the CSP, and the line of sight remains unchanged.

Strategic outcomes

9. No additional outcomes or activities are planned.
10. Under strategic outcome 1, WFP will increase its budget for providing the Government with technical assistance aimed at strengthening food security and nutrition frameworks and public policy from a food systems perspective. Activities will consist of technical assistance for expanding stakeholders' understanding of food systems and recognition of their complexity and the need for decentralized governance mechanisms, through awareness raising activities, roundtable discussions and planning that follow a comprehensive, "whole-of-society approach" to food systems transformation; support for government coordination councils and ministries in their leadership role in decision making that promotes changes in legal frameworks and comprehensive policies related to food security, nutrition and food systems; generation of information as a basis for advocacy aimed at improving food security and nutrition policies and plans at the national and local levels; and design and support for the adoption of an analytical public policy framework for all levels of food systems that defends and guarantees the right to adequate food for the most vulnerable . WFP will also expand its support for the Government and partners in developing a multisector behaviour change communication strategy that promotes healthy eating.
11. Under strategic outcome 2 WFP will continue to support social protection programmes and the primary health care system through capacity strengthening and direct implementation of interventions that address malnutrition in children under 5, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls, elderly adults and people living with HIV. WFP will expand its support for social protection programmes and ministries in integrating nutrition-sensitive components that incorporate gender-transformative approaches into the design and delivery of programmes. It will also engage in public policy design and improvement aimed at addressing malnutrition and facilitating access to diverse diets, following a multisector life cycle approach based on food systems.
12. Under strategic outcome 3, WFP will continue its country capacity strengthening efforts in disaster risk reduction, forecast-based financing, emergency preparedness and response and its capacity augmentation work with regard to supply chains, telecommunications and hurricane emergency preparedness with the Government and first responders, through a diploma course in supply chain management and a set of actions designed and implemented with the Government for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor. Through the CSP revision, WFP will increase its interventions related to climate services, climate change adaptation and building the resilience of food systems. It will continue to leverage its partnerships in the social protection sector to promote comprehensive strategies and enhance links among social protection, emergency response, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Activities will include improving climate services and risk analysis, including analysis of gender- and age-related risks, and developing anticipatory mechanisms that contribute to saving lives and protecting livelihoods and assets and support decision making, emergency preparedness and response, climate change adaptation and resilience building; and developing comprehensive, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and social protection strategies that strengthen the resilience of food systems, particularly for small farmers and retailers, and address the needs of the people most vulnerable to shocks.

Beneficiary analysis

13. The number of direct beneficiaries (tier 1) under strategic outcome 2 activity 2 will increase, with WFP supporting an additional 28,000 pregnant and lactating women and girls. Results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis show that one in three pregnant women and girls has anaemia. The Government has requested increased support for this group through social protection schemes.
14. WFP's capacity strengthening support for the Government under strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3 will also enable it to reach more indirect beneficiaries through the social protection system and emergency preparedness and response institutions.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY											
Strategic outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total			
2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups have improved their nutrition status by 2023	2: Support public health and social protection programmes in implementing comprehensive strategies and systems that follow a rights-based approach to improving the nutrition status of populations who are vulnerable to malnutrition at different stages in the life cycle	Food	Current	43 400	25 000	65 540	66 060	200 000			
			Increase/ (decrease)	19 040	0	8 960	0	28 000			
			Revised	62 440	25 000	74 500	66 060	228 000			
4: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of shocks	4: Provide emergency food assistance through cash based or in-kind transfers to shock-affected populations	Food	Current	39 000	40 000	11 000	10 000	100 000			
			Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	0	0			
			Revised	39 000	40 000	11 000	10 000	100 000			
	Cash-based transfers		Current	71 136	72 960	20 064	18 240	182 400			
			Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	0	0			
			Revised	71 136	72 960	20 064	18 240	182 400			
Total (without overlap)			Current	153 536	137 960	96 604	94 300	482 400			
			Increase/ (decrease)	19 040	0	8 960	0	28 000			
			Revised	172 576	137 960	105 564	94 300	510 400			

Note: The "current" beneficiary numbers have been adjusted to reflect the elimination, as required by current WFP rules, of tier 2 and 3 beneficiaries that had been included in table 1 of the second revision of the CSP.

Transfers

15. There are no changes in the size or composition of food transfers under this revision. However, while the current CSP foresees a gradual decrease in direct beneficiary numbers from 2021 to 2023, compared with 2019 and 2020, WFP will increase transfers of specialized nutritious foods from July 2021 to December 2023 thereby continuing to support the same number of direct beneficiaries as in 2020, specifically children of 6-59 months of age, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls, elderly adults and people living with HIV. The increase is due to the Government's request for increased support for and prioritization of nutrition interventions in social protection and primary health care programmes and to the increased needs related to food security and nutrition identified in recent assessments.
16. Food transfers under strategic outcome 2 have increased as a result of revised commodity requirements and supply chain costs.
17. Table 2 reflects the approved CSP food rations, transfer requirements and values for strategic outcomes 2 and 4.
18. Capacity strengthening transfers under strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3 have increased to cover technical assistance and capacity augmentation for the Government and other key partners, including the adoption of a food system strengthening approach under each strategic outcome.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (*g/person/day*) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (*USD/person/day*) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

	Strategic outcome 2				Strategic outcome 4	
	Activity 2				Activity 4	
Beneficiary type	Children age 6-59 months	Pregnant and lactating women and girls	Elderly people	People living with HIV	General food assistance	
Modality	Food	Food	Food	Food	In-kind food	Cash-based transfers
Food basket of cereals (421 g), pulses (80 g), oil (36 g) and salt (5 g)					542	
Super Cereal		100	100	100		
Super Cereal Plus	100					
Micronutrient powder	1					
Total kcal/day	-	410	380	380	380	1 772
% kcal from protein	-	16	14	14	14	10
Cash-based transfers (<i>USD/person/day</i>)						0.84
Number of feeding days per year	120	90	90	120	120	60
						60

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUES

Food type/cash-based transfers	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oil and fats	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed and blended foods	2 343	1 565 522	1 608	2 370 835	3 951	3 936 358
Other	3 302	4 086 030	25	13 860	3 328	4 099 890
Total (food)	5 645	5 651 552	1 633	2 384 695	7 279	8 036 248
Cash-based transfers		9 192 960		0		9 192 960
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	5 645	14 844 512	1 633	2 384 695	7 279	17 229 208

Cost breakdown

19. The costs for strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3 increase under this CSP revision. The revised budget takes into consideration updated forecasts and confirmed contributions and an increase in needs for technical assistance activities through capacity strengthening transfers under the three strategic outcomes and for nutrition interventions under strategic outcome 2, resulting in an increase in food transfers. It also covers an increase in supply chain costs under strategic outcome 2, which results in increased food transfer costs.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfers	262 745	4 609 453	7 966 179	0	0	12 838 377
Implementation	89 367	432 225	1 118 692	0	0	1 640 285
Adjusted direct support costs						739 147
Subtotal						15 217 809
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						989 135
Total						16 206 944

Abbreviation: SDG = Sustainable Development Goal.

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)

	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 17.16	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Crisis response	Crisis response	
Transfers	963 851	9 042 421	10 725 432	14 126 570	369 277	35 227 552
Implementation	473 504	1 844 673	1 800 327	1 033 994	130 724	5 283 222
Adjusted direct support costs	70 706	533 148	601 729	686 211	23 568	1 915 361
Subtotal	1 508 061	11 420 242	13 127 488	15 846 776	523 569	42 426 136
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	98 024	742 316	853 287	1 030 040	0	2 723 667
Total	1 606 085	12 162 558	13 980 775	16 876 816	523 569	45 149 802