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Projects for Executive Board Approval

For approval

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

Budget Increases to Development Activities — Ghana Country Programme 200247

Cost (United States dollars)			
	Current budget	Increase	Revised budget
Food and related costs	24,457,463	-	24,457,463
Cash-based transfers and related costs	17,954,174	6,537,024	24,491,198
Capacity development and augmentation	3,523,683	6,014,731	9,538,414
Total cost to WFP	62,338,759	16,373,220	78,711,979

Gender marker code 2A

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/gm-overview-en.pdf>.

Draft decision*

The Board approves the proposed budget increase of USD 16.4 million for Ghana country programme 200247 with a 12-month extension from 1 January to 31 December 2017 (WFP/EB.2/2016/8-A/3).

* 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.

Focal points:

Mr A. Dieng
Regional Director, West Africa
email: abdou.dieng@wfp.org

Ms M. Moshi
Country Director a.i.
email: magdalena.moshi@wfp.org

Nature of the Increase

1. This one-year extension of country programme (CP) 200247 aligns it with the 2012–2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the 2018–2021 phase of Ghana’s national development plan, and provides time for the Government to design an action plan for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, and for WFP to prepare its Country Strategic Plan, which starts in January 2018.
2. The revision covers: i) transition from providing school meals to promoting improvements in their nutritional value; ii) support for girls’ education by addressing gender gaps; iii) transition to cash-based transfers (CBTs) for nutrition interventions and take-home rations; iv) scale-up of nutrition assistance for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV; and v) promotion of nutrition-sensitive value chains and links between smallholder farmers and food processors. In 2017, CBTs will be provided for 109,000 people, of whom 64 percent will be women and girls.
3. This budget revision will:
 - increase the value of CBTs by USD 5.5 million;
 - increase capacity development and augmentation by USD 6 million; and
 - increase direct support costs by USD 2.8 million.

Justification for Extension-In-Time and Budget Increase

Project Activities

4. CP 200247 supports government work to improve the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in Northern, Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Brong-Ahafo regions of the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone, where there are high rates of malnutrition and poverty, and large socio-economic and gender disparities;¹ it also supports smallholder farmers in Ashanti region and the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone.
5. Component 1: i) addresses gender inequalities in education by promoting improved attendance and retention among primary schoolchildren and junior high school girls;² ii) builds government capacities for the management of sustainable home-grown school feeding; and iii) enhances the nutritional value of school meals through links with smallholder farmers.
6. Component 2: i) supports the Government in prevention of stunting among children aged 6–23 months and of micronutrient deficiencies among pregnant and lactating women (PLW); and ii) provides nutrition assistance for anti-retroviral therapy (ART) patients and their households, with a pilot focusing on PMTCT. Social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) for men and women are integrated into nutrition activities. Nutrition-sensitive value chains are promoted through the links between smallholder farmers and producers of special nutritious foods.
7. Component 3 focuses on increasing resilience to climate change through the repair of dams for off-season gardening and construction of irrigation facilities and fish ponds, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and the Government.

¹ In Brong-Ahafo and Volta regions, of the 15.6 percent of households assessed as food-insecure 15 percent were moderately food-insecure and 1 percent severely food-insecure.

² Gender disparities in education are exacerbated by poverty, sexual harassment and social norms that devalue education for women.

Conclusion and Recommendations of the Re-Assessment

8. The mid-term evaluation of CP 200247 and the nutrition assessment in 2015 recommended that prevention-of-stunting interventions be scaled up, and that beneficiary targets for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition be reduced. The 2014 demographic and health survey showed a decline in acute malnutrition among children under 5 to below the threshold for targeted supplementary feeding; treatment of moderate acute malnutrition was accordingly discontinued in the previous budget revision. Interventions to prevent stunting are being scaled up, particularly in Northern region, where prevalence among children under 5 is 33 percent compared with the 19 percent national average.³
9. The Fill the Nutrient Gap pilot showed the need to address stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, particularly in the first 1,000 days. The Ghana cost-of-hunger analysis showed the need for advocacy and investment in interventions addressing malnutrition.⁴ The nutrition assessment recommended a shift to PMTCT as part of nutrition programming for PLW and children, and support for local production of special nutritious foods.
10. The evaluation of Purchase for Progress confirmed the need to continue support for smallholder farmers and agricultural value chains. The 2016 assessments of emergency food security and markets showed that the ten most food-insecure districts were in the Northern Savannah Ecological Zone and that CBT interventions could be implemented in them.
11. The 2015 Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment evaluated the Government's capacity to implement home-grown school feeding. An assessment of the national school feeding programme with the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank concluded that national school meals and social-protection policies were sound but that improvements were required in: i) the nutritional value of school meals; ii) community involvement and oversight; iii) links with smallholder farmers; and iv) monitoring and evaluation. A recent assessment has shown that on average 63 percent of boys are enrolled in junior secondary education, compared with 37 percent for girls; gender gaps reach 25 percent in many districts.⁵

Purpose of Extension and Budget Increase

12. In 2017, CP 200247 will support: i) primary and girls' education through assistance in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with a view to the enactment of school feeding legislation;⁶ ii) training for stakeholders in collaboration with the Partnership for Child Development with regard to nutritious school meals; and iii) enhancement of government capacities to implement the recommendations of the SABER and other assessments.
13. Vouchers will be provided for girls' take-home rations in areas with high gender gaps, food insecurity and malnutrition to discourage withdrawals from school. Nutritious foods will be included in the rations to support adolescent girls before they reach reproductive age. Sexual and reproductive health education will be provided for adolescents in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund, non-governmental organizations and traditional authorities. The Government's 2016 Child and Family Welfare Policy will be applied to prevent early marriages.
14. The Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chain (ENVAC) initiative will be integrated into the nutrition component. WFP will support prevention-of-stunting and micronutrient interventions in the first 1,000 days by promoting natural and processed nutritious foods. Nutrition-sensitive SBCC will target women and girls to promote healthy eating and infant and young child feeding.

³ Significant geographic disparity in stunting prevalence is confirmed by the United States Agency for International Development.

⁴ African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, WFP, New Partnership for Africa's Development and Government of Ghana. 2016. *The Cost of Hunger in Ghana; Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition on Ghana's Long-term Development*. <http://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/cost-hunger-ghana-social-and-economic-impact-child-undernutrition-ghana-s-long-term>

⁵ <http://www.moe.gov.gh/emis/index.htm>.

⁶ Direct WFP engagement in school feeding will end in 2016.

People living with HIV and AIDS will be targeted at the household level and will receive SuperCereal; household members will receive beans, oil and salt. Prevention of stunting among children and PLW will target individuals.

15. WFP will enhance nutrition value chains by linking smallholder farmers as suppliers to producers of special nutritious foods. The gender analytical framework for assessing value chains will support assessments and monitoring by WFP and its partners. Gender concerns, which cut across ENVAC activities, will be assessed with a view to increasing participation by women. Research institutions will conduct baseline and final surveys to assess the effects of SBCC interventions on dietary diversity. WFP will advocate the use of locally produced nutritious foods in government programmes, focusing on the prevention of stunting, and will help food processors to improve production systems and food safety and quality. Current activities addressing food safety and quality in relation to aflatoxins will be continued.
16. Asset-creation activities will be incorporated into the Ghana Social Opportunities Project, which shares WFP's social-protection objectives and undertakes labour-intensive public works to address climate change through rehabilitation of public infrastructures. There will consequently be no new WFP-initiated asset-creation interventions in 2017; projects started in 2016 will be completed and handed over to the Government in 2018.
17. WFP will increase smallholder farmers' knowledge of and access to agricultural insurance packages such as the Ghana Agriculture Insurance Pool and the African Risk Capacity.⁷
18. WFP has helped to augment the capacities of national institutions with regard to disaster preparedness under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework provisions for sustainable environment, energy and human settlement. In the imminent common country assessment, WFP will work with United Nations agencies on capacity assessments to support: i) institutional capacity development and coordination with regard to achieving sustainable resilience to climate shocks; ii) policies and systems for disaster risk reduction, with emphasis on allocating funds to disaster-prone districts; and iii) raising of public awareness of disaster risk reduction.
19. WFP will increase its staffing to improve the coverage and frequency of monitoring and reporting, working in collaboration with the Government's national service scheme with a view to increasing the number of monitors in project areas.

⁷ Ghana signed the African Risk Capacity Establishment Agreement in January 2016.

TABLE 3: CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT (USD)			
Component	Current	Increase	Revised total
1. Support for primary education and girls' education – take-home rations	5 267 994	2 626 134	7 894 128
2. Enhanced nutrition and value chains for the prevention of stunting	3 007 244	2 920 214	5 927 458
3. Resilience to climate shocks and support for livelihoods	7 369 312	-	7 369 312
TOTAL	15 644 550	5 546 348	21 190 898

ANNEX I-A

BUDGET REVISION COST BREAKDOWN		
	Value (USD)	Value (USD)
Cash-based transfers	5 546 348	
Related costs	990 676	
Cash-based transfers and related costs	6 537 024	6 537 024
Capacity development and augmentation	6 014 731	6 014 731
Direct operational costs		12 551 755
Direct support costs (see Annex I-B) ¹		2 750 320
Total direct project costs		15 302 075
Indirect support costs (7 percent) ²		1 071 145
TOTAL WFP COSTS		16 373 220

¹ Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support cost allotment is reviewed annually.

² The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (USD)	
Staff and staff-related	
Professional staff	1 153 965
General service staff	647 362
Subtotal	1 801 327
Recurring and other	288 137
Capital equipment	39 000
Security	85 976
Travel and transportation	325 880
Assessments, evaluations and monitoring¹	210 000
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	2 750 320

ANNEX I-C

TRANSFER BY COMPONENT				
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Total
Food transfers (<i>mt</i>)	-	-	-	-
Food transfers (<i>USD</i>)	-	-	-	-
CBT (<i>USD</i>)	2 626 134	2 920 214	-	5 546 348
Capacity development and augmentation (<i>USD</i>)				6 014 731

¹ Reflects estimated costs when these activities are carried out by third parties.

ANNEX II



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

ART	anti-retroviral therapy
CBT	cash-based transfer
CP	country programme
ENVAC	Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chains
PLW	pregnant and lactating women
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
SBCC	social and behaviour change communication