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BUDGET INCREASES TO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 103610

Support for Education for All and Health

Cost (United States dollars)			
	Current Budget	Increase	Revised budget
WFP food cost	12,527,122	3,483,024	16,010,146
Total cost to WFP	29,033,125	9,421,106	38,454,231

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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.

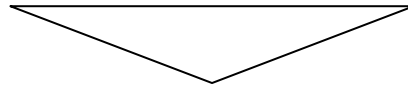
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* Regional Bureau Dakar (West Africa)

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves the proposed budget increase of US\$9.4 million for the Central African Republic development project 103610 “Support for Education for All and Health” (WFP/EB.A/2010/9-B/1) to extend the project for 18 months from 1 July 2010 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.

NATURE OF THE INCREASE

1. This budget revision to the Central African Republic development project (DEV) 103610 is proposed to:
 - a) extend the project for 18 months from 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2011, which will allow future development activities to be aligned with the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle starting in 2012;
 - b) provide an additional 7,276 mt of food, valued at US\$3.5 million;
 - c) provide additional funding for external transport, landside transport, storage and handling, other direct operational costs and direct support costs of US\$5.3 million;
 - d) provide additional indirect support costs of US\$616,334;
 - e) assist an additional 26,000 food-insecure people, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 178,500; and
 - f) introduce programmatic changes under the nutrition component and review ration sizes.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION-IN-TIME AND BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of Existing Project Activities

2. DEV 103610 was launched in October 2005 to support the Government in improving nutrition and health among children under 5 and mothers and to achieve Education For All¹ in line with Strategic Objective 4.
3. DEV 103610 has two components:
 - Education: school meals programme for primary school and preschool children to increase enrolment, improve attendance and reduce drop-outs; and
 - Health: support for nutritional rehabilitation centres to address moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6 to 59 months, and support for mother-and-child health centres to improve the nutritional status of malnourished pregnant and lactating women.
4. DEV 103610 targets eight prefectures² in southern Central African Republic; protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200050,³ which started in January 2010, targets 460,000 conflict-affected people in the north. The two projects and the operation address different geographical and socio-economic realities: the northern region is unstable and insecure, which hampers agricultural production; the south has structural problems originating in high levels of poverty and lack of basic services in health and education.

¹ Education for All is an international initiative launched in 1990 to bring education to “every citizen in every society”. It is supported by a coalition of governments, civil society groups and development agencies and is committed to six education goals.

² Mbomou, Basse Kotto, Ouaka, Ombella Mpoko, Lobaye, Nana Mambere, Mambere Kadei and Sangha Mbaere prefectures.

³ The PRRO provides assistance through general relief distributions, emergency nutritional supplementary feeding, emergency school feeding and food for asset creation.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Re-Assessment

5. Recent high food prices and the international financial crisis have had negative consequences for the Central African Republic. According to the comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis (CFSVA),⁴ food prices rose by 8 percent between June 2008 and July 2009 and remained high throughout 2009.⁵ Exports of forest products and diamonds fell in 2009, resulting in increased unemployment and reduced revenues in the south. This situation caused the food security and nutritional status of vulnerable households to deteriorate, which requires the continuation of WFP support for the education and health sectors.
6. Five of the targeted southern prefectures have food insecurity prevalence of between 27 percent and 44 percent⁶ and high prevalence of malnutrition. The 2006 multiple-indicator cluster survey (MICS) showed that 28 percent of children under 5 were moderately underweight and 8 percent were severely underweight. Between 14 percent and 27 percent suffered from moderate stunting, and between 11 percent and 26 percent from severe stunting; 10 percent of children suffered from global acute malnutrition and 2.3 percent from severe acute malnutrition. The most recent reliable data on malnutrition in the Central African Republic are in the 2006 MICS, but monitoring reports by the Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations indicate disturbing levels of acute malnutrition in the south-west. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is planning a MICS in 2010 that will provide updated figures, which will be used to readjust the WFP nutrition intervention. If stunting levels are confirmed to be high, WFP will collaborate with partners to look into ways to address the situation.
7. Net enrolment in primary schools varies from 42 percent in the south-west to 54 percent in the centre-south; the national average is 56 percent.⁷ The areas with low enrolment correspond to areas of food insecurity and malnutrition identified in the CFSVA where vulnerable households cannot afford to send children to school, keeping them at home to help with household duties.
8. The CFSVA confirmed the important role of food assistance in increasing access to education and improving nutritional status in the context of food insecurity and malnutrition, and therefore recommended the continuation of school meals and supplementary feeding in the south.
9. A mid-term technical review of DEV 103610 in April 2008 confirmed the need for the project, the relevance of its design and the effectiveness of implementation. It recommended that project activities continue and that government and community involvement and project monitoring and targeting should be improved.⁸

⁴ WFP. 2009. Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis. Bangui.

⁵ The consumer price index has risen continuously since 2004, climbing from 209.59 in 2002 to 267.79 in June 2009 (CFSVA, WFP and the Ministry of Planning, 2009).

⁶ The 2009 CFSVA indicates that prefectures with higher prevalence of food insecurity include Basse Kotto (43.8 percent), Kemo (39 percent), Ouaka (30 percent), Lobaye (28 percent) and Sangha Mbaere (27 percent); these are located in the DEV target areas.

⁷ Biannual school statistics 2006–2007 and 2007–2008, Ministry of National Education, 2009. Centre-East (Ouaka and Haut Kotto): 50.3 percent; South-east (Mbomou, Haut Mbomou and Basse Kotto): 48.5 percent; Centre-south (Ombella Mpoko and Lobaye): 54.0 percent; and West (Nana Mambere, Mambere Kadei, and Sangha Mbaere): 42.1 percent.

⁸ Mid-term technical review of DEV 103610, 10 April – 1 May 2008.

Purpose of Extension and Budget Increase

10. The proposed extension is requested to align DEV 103610 with the new UNDAF cycle that starts in 2012. It addresses the increased needs resulting from the recent deterioration in food security and nutrition and takes into account the new WFP guidelines on nutrition and new government policies. The nutritional component has been realigned with the latest National Protocol on Nutritional Care.⁹
11. The budget revision proposes to assist 180,000 beneficiaries from July 2010 to December 2011 as outlined Table 1.

Component	Category of beneficiaries	Beneficiaries		
		Current	Increase	Revised
Education	Primary school children	119 100	12 200	131 300
	Preschool children	3 630	370	4 000
Health	Malnourished children under 5	12 500	7 500	20 000
	Mothers of children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition	12 500	-12 500	0
	Pregnant and lactating women	5 000	5 000	10 000
	Caretakers of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition	0	13 200	13 200
Total		152 730	25 770	178 500

12. **Education component.** In view of national birth rate and education statistics, the number of children receiving school meals is expected to increase by 5 percent to 131,300 primary schoolchildren and 4,000 preschool children at the beginning of the 2010/11 school year.¹⁰ This budget revision proposes to reduce school meals from two to one per day to encourage communities to complement meals with local food, increase community and government ownership of the programme and enhance sustainability.¹¹
13. **Health component.** The revised National Protocol on Nutritional Care introduced a new ration for moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, which has been incorporated in this budget revision. The food assistance for mothers of malnourished children and families of pregnant and lactating women will be discontinued from July 2010 because the new rations have been increased to take food sharing into account. The admission criteria for the nutritional programme will be in line with the

⁹ The 2006 Central African Republic National Protocol on Nutrition Care was revised in 2010.

¹⁰ These figures make provision for the projected enrolment increase.

¹¹ A cereal-based meal is proposed instead of CSB porridge. A cereal-based meal is easier to complete with local ingredients.

national protocol.¹² This budget revision proposes an increase in beneficiary numbers for supplementary feeding to reflect the deterioration of the food and nutrition situation, as highlighted by the CFSVA and by increased admissions to health centres assisted by WFP. The provision of food will be accompanied by increased advocacy and enhanced education components with a view to improving nutrition.

14. UNICEF and other partners have requested WFP to support therapeutic feeding by providing a daily ration for caregivers of severely malnourished children under 5 who accompany them to health centres. These rations are valued by partners as an incentive to attend health centres.

TABLE 2: PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF RATIONS (g/person/day)									
	Primary school		Preschool		Malnourished children under 5		Pregnant and lactating women		Caregivers of severely malnourished children
	Original	Revised	Original	Revised	Original	Revised	Original	Revised	New ration
Cereals	120	120	100	80	0	0	200	0	400
Pulses	30	30	20	20	0	0	30	0	60
CSB*	25	0	25	0	110	250	0	250	50
Vegetable oil	15	10	10	10	10	30	15	30	25
Sugar	10	0	10	0	10	10	0	10	15
Salt	3	5	3	3	0	0	5	0	5
Total	203	165	168	113	130	290	250	290	555
Total kcal	800	621	650	444	542	1242	953	1,246	2,110
% energy supplied by protein	10.9	11.2	10.9	10.5	14.0	13.8	10.3	13.8	11.0
% energy supplied by fat	24.0	21.2	21.5	26.5	29.2	34.1	21.2	34.1	18.5

* Corn-soya blend

¹² Entry criteria for moderately malnourished children aged 6–59 months are: i) weight for height (WFH) between 70 and 80 percent; and ii) children exiting therapeutic feeding. The exit criterion for malnourished children aged 6–59 months is WFH \geq 85 percent taken during two consecutive weighings. The entry criterion for pregnant and lactating women is mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) $<$ 21 cm. Exit criteria for pregnant and lactating women are: i) 6 months after delivery; and ii) MUAC \geq 22.5 cm.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

15. The proposed addition of 7,276 mt of food will increase the total project requirement to 31,649 mt as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3: FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY TYPE			
Activity	Food requirements (mt)		
	Current	Increase	Revised total
Primary schoolchildren	16 661	5 015	21 676
Preschool children	280	104	384
Malnourished children under 5	700	783	1 483
Mothers of children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition	1 346	0	1 346
Pregnant and lactating women	5 386	1 044	6 430
Caregivers of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition	0	330	330
Total	24 373	7 276	31 649

ANNEX I-A

BUDGET INCREASE COST BREAKDOWN				
	Tonnage (mt)	Average cost/mt (US\$)	Value (US\$)	Value (US\$)
Food ¹				
Cereals	3 960	393	1 557 030	
Pulses	966	462	446 292	
Oil and fats	517	902	466 334	
Mixed and blended food	1 605	590	946 948	
Other	228	289	66 420	
Total food	7 276		3 483 024	3 483 024
External transport				622 442
Landside transport, storage and handling				3 327 169
Other direct operational costs				424 455
Direct support costs ² (see Annex I-B) details				947 682
			Total direct project costs	8 804 772
			Indirect support costs (7 percent) ³	616 334
			TOTAL WFP COSTS	9 421 106

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

² Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support costs allotment is reviewed annually.

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

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff	
International professional staff	296 910
Local staff – national officers	58 620
Local staff – temporary assistance	129 810
Local staff – overtime	4 000
Hazard pay and hardship allowance	61 410
United Nations volunteers	216 000
Staff duty travel	23 352
Subtotal	790 102
Recurring expenses	
Rental of facility	8 500
Utilities	27 500
Office supplies and other consumables	19 500
Information technology and telecommunications services	7 500
Equipment repair and maintenance	9 800
Vehicle running costs and maintenance	38 700
Subtotal	111 500
Equipment and capital costs	
Local security costs	46 080
Subtotal	46 080
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	947 682

ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX		
Results	Performance indicators	Risks and assumptions
Strategic Objective 4: Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition		
Outcomes		
<p>Outcome 1: Increased access to education and human capital development in assisted primary schools and preschools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enrolment: average annual rate of change in number of girls and boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools and preschools. Target: increase by 5 percentage points ➤ Net enrolment rate: number of primary school-age children enrolled as percentage of total number of primary school-age children in the prefectures where WFP school feeding is implemented. Target: average in the target areas more than 56 percent ➤ Attendance rate: number of schooldays on which girls and boys attend classes as percentage of total number of schooldays. Target: 80% ➤ Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled. Target: 0.7 ➤ Drop-out rate: percentage of primary schoolchildren from a cohort enrolled in a given grade in a school year who are not enrolled the next school year. Target: 4% for boys and 6% for girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased poverty and insecurity make parents withdraw children from school. ➤ Lack of teachers and infrastructure reduces the effects of the school feeding programme on education. ➤ New political or military crises could cause population displacements.



ANNEX II: RESULTS AND RESOURCES MATRIX		
Results	Performance indicators	Risks and assumptions
Outcome 2: Improved nutritional status of targeted women and younger children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age as percentage). Target: reduction of 5 percentage points per year ➤ Prevalence of acute malnutrition among targeted children under 5 (weight/height). Target: below 10% ➤ Body mass index among non-pregnant women. Target: increase of 5 percentage points per year ➤ Recovery rate among children in WFP-assisted centres. Target: >75%. ➤ Recovery rate among pregnant and lactating women in WFP-assisted centres. Target: >75% 	Malnourished children could be affected by HIV and AIDS; nutrition rehabilitation may be ineffective.
Output 1.1: Food assistance provided on time in sufficient quantity and quality for targeted schoolchildren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of boys and girls assisted by school feeding in primary schools and preschools ➤ Number of schools assisted by school feeding ➤ Quantity of food distributed at WFP-assisted schools 	
Output 2.1: Food assistance provided in sufficient quantity and quality for targeted women and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Number of moderately malnourished children under 5 assisted by supplementary feeding ➤ Quantity of food distributed in WFP-assisted nutrition rehabilitation centres ➤ Number of pregnant and lactating women assisted by supplementary feeding ➤ Quantity of food distributed in WFP-assisted mother-and-child health centres ➤ Number of caregivers accompanying severely malnourished children in therapeutic feeding who receive WFP rations ➤ Quantity of food distributed to caregivers in WFP-supported therapeutic feeding centres 	



WFP Operational Areas in the Central African Republic



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

CFSVA	Comprehensive food security and vulnerability analysis
DEV	development project
MICS	multiple-indicator cluster survey
MUAC	mid-upper arm circumference
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund