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For information

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Revision of Niger protracted relief and recovery operation 200961 and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	36 months (Jan 2017–Dec 2019)	N/A	36 months (Jan 2017–Dec 2019)
Beneficiaries	2,768,526	179,794	2,948,320
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	420 562 319	71 886 951	492 449 270
Transfers	323 917 492	73 569 094	397 486 586
Implementation	0	12 785 503	12 785 503
Adjusted direct support costs	69 131 404	(17 955 107)	51 176 297
Subtotal	393 048 896	68 399 490	461 448 386
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	27 513 423	3 487 461	31 000 884

Gender and age marker* 2A (based on the marker of the transitional interim country strategic plan approved by the Board)

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

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Decision

The Board approved by correspondence the revision of the Niger protracted relief and recovery operation PRRO 200961, "Strengthening resilience in Niger through an integrated multi-sector and multi-partner safety net and disaster risk reduction approach", and corresponding budget increase in the amount of USD 71,886,951 described in the present document.

31 December 2018

Rationale

1. Through protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200961, WFP aims to strengthen the resilience of systems, communities and individuals, in partnership with a wide range of partners using an integrated, multisectoral and geographically concentrated approach.
2. PRRO 200961 is organized around the following three pillars: delivery of an integrated resilience package; national capacity development; and the development of strategic partnerships.
3. This revision of PRRO 200961 is part of WFP's transition to a transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP) in 2019 and will enable the country office to continue to provide timely assistance to targeted vulnerable populations. The revision seeks to adjust WFP's operational planning, taking into account recent developments in the country that require the adjustment of beneficiary numbers, particularly for enhanced contingency and food assistance for asset beneficiaries, as shown in table 1. The revision will not affect the duration of the PRRO, which began in January 2017 and is slated to finish on 31 December 2019. The revision continues activities that were approved under the PRRO, without any change in the type of activities, while laying the ground for strategic shifts that will arise from the national zero hunger strategic review consultations and the process for formulating a country strategic plan to cover the period 2020–2024. Moreover, the activities and budget of the PRRO will be integrated into the T-ICSP.
4. More specifically, the present budget revision will:
 - Decrease food transfers by 2,114 mt while increasing food value by USD 25,473,320. This is due to a decrease in the amount of non-nutritional food (cereals, pulses and salt) by 14,855 mt and an increase in the amount of nutritional food due to an increase in the number of beneficiaries of prevention activities (these are provided as an integrated package to lean season and food assistance for assets beneficiaries);
 - Increase cash-based transfers by USD 27,226,601;
 - Increase capacity development and augmentation transfers by USD 10,358,218; and
 - Increase external transport, landside transportation, shipping and handling, other direct operational costs for food and cash and vouchers and related costs by USD 23,293,458.

Summary of existing activities

5. PRRO 200961 (like the 2019 T-ICSP) uses an integrated approach to bridge the humanitarian and development divide by lifting the poor out of poverty and bringing them into the economic system. It triggers change and prepares for progressive phase-out through three interrelated and mutually reinforcing pillars: an integrated resilience package that supports the identification of successful scalable models; the strengthening of national capacity; and the building of strategic partnerships.

6. Through the integrated resilience package (strategic outcomes 2, 3 and 4 of the T-ICSP), WFP will target priority “convergence communes”¹ providing them with a set of mixed activities through a multi-sector, multi-actor community-based approach that tackles gender inequalities to support sustained outcomes. This will be done through food assistance for assets (FFA), seasonal food assistance, school feeding, integrated nutrition services and support for smallholder farmers. The PRRO also includes a contingency plan to cover acute needs during the lean season and assistance to long-term Malian refugees.²
7. Complementing the integrated package of activities, under strategic outcome 5 of the T-ICSP, WFP will continue to provide capacity support to government institutions (at all levels) to enhance emergency preparedness and response, social protection and resilience-building programmes that equitably meet the needs and priorities of the various population groups.
8. Gender, protection and accountability to affected populations are mainstreamed throughout the T-ICSP activities.

Assessment conclusions and recommendations

9. On average, 5.6 million people are food insecure³ because of insufficient food availability resulting from inadequate production, security constraints, demographic growth and other factors. Of these, about 2.65 million are affected each year, constituting the most vulnerable people. In case of shocks, up to 48 percent of the country's population can become food insecure, highlighting the chronic nature of Niger's vulnerability to food insecurity.⁴
10. Other constraints on access to food include gender inequalities, inadequate care and food, limited access to education and to water, sanitation and hygiene services. Food consumed is mainly cereals (59 percent). More than 40 percent of households cannot afford a daily nutritious diet in the Maradi (43 percent), Zinder (47 percent) and Diffa (59 percent) regions.⁵
11. In 2018, over 2.7 million people are food insecure in rural areas, with an additional 6 million people at risk of falling into food insecurity in the event of a shock.⁶ The main causes are poor production during the 2017 season in pastoral areas,⁷ pockets of poor agricultural production and conflict that limit market activity, restrict people's movements and cause displacement. Women-headed households are more than twice as likely to be food insecure in 2018⁸ than men-headed households.⁹ Food security assessments currently

¹ The communes de convergence (C2C) approach guides coordination and coherence in the field, using the municipality as an entry point for interventions in line with the Government's decentralization policy.

² Niger has hosted 58,000 Malian refugees since 2012 in the Tillabery and Tahoua regions.

³ Integrated context analysis.

⁴ No data available on hunger vulnerability and food insecurity.

⁵ WFP. 2018. Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Niger. (Not available online).

⁶ National Statistics Institute and Disaster Prevention and Early Warning System (Institut national de la statistique et Systeme d'alerte précoce et prevention des catastrophes). 2017. *Joint assessment of household vulnerability to food insecurity in Niger: final report (Enquete conjointe de vulnerabilite a l'insecurite alimentaire des menages au Niger: rapport final)*. Available at http://www.stat-niger.org/statistique/file/Vulnerabilite/Rapport_vulnerabilite_2017.pdf.

⁷ Resulting in a livestock fodder deficit of around 11 million mt, or 41 percent of overall needs, higher than the early warning threshold of 35 percent.

⁸ Around 30 percent of women-headed households were found to be food insecure, against 13 percent of men-headed households, EVIAM 2017/18.

⁹ Age and sex disaggregated data are not available. This could be due to the limited formal employment for women and restricted access to land (to work) and its resources.

under way will indicate the level of food insecurity in 2019. Preliminary estimates from the humanitarian response plan for Niger indicate that 1.3 million people will need food assistance in 2019, including in conflict-affected areas.

12. Insecurity along the borders with Mali and Burkina Faso, combined with inter-communal violence, has caused the displacement of about 48,000 people in Tillabery and Tahoua regions since the beginning of 2018. Civil-military coordination was extended to these regions and WFP has been providing emergency food assistance to displaced populations there through its contingency mechanism and in coordination with the rapid response mechanism, led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Government.
13. A standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions (SMART) assessment is currently underway throughout the country's eight regions. Existing validated data indicate that stunting and global acute malnutrition affect 42.2 percent and 10.3 percent of children under 5, respectively, with large disparities among regions.¹⁰ Anaemia affects 73.4 percent of children under 5 and 45.8 percent of females aged 15–49 years. The main immediate determinants of maternal and child undernutrition include inadequate infant and young child feeding practices, high morbidity, adolescent pregnancies, a high fertility rate,¹¹ short inter-reproductive intervals and limited access to basic health services, including sexual and reproductive health services.
14. A Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis¹² highlighted the advantage of combining interventions to reduce the cost of the diet at the household level, for example, the combination of three interventions such as nutrition supplementation for children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls; school feeding for children aged 6–11 and cash-based transfers for households.
15. A decentralized evaluation of protracted relief and recovery operation 200961¹³ showed that WFP's activities were pertinent and aligned with the Government's priorities, despite funding constraints and a multiplicity of coordination mechanisms at decentralized levels. Other challenges include insufficient monitoring and evaluation systems and a lack of alternative scenarios in the event of large funding gaps resulting in less effective activities.

Purpose of the revision and budget increase

16. This revision and corresponding budget increase is required by several developments. First, there is a need for a larger contingency fund for the lean season to support of the Government's support plan for acutely food-insecure people affected by shocks. This is based on experience of the 2018 Sahel shock response, which showed that resources need to be mobilized well ahead of recurrent crises, including those that occur early in the year (e.g., in pastoral areas due to increasing competition for pasture, which in turn increases social tensions and conflict); in addition, a new crisis has unfolded in the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions and demands continuous attention. Second, there has been a decrease in the number of long-term Malian refugees assisted in Tillaberi and Tahoua regions and the inclusion of host communities in food assistance for assets in the context of a

¹⁰ National Statistics Institute (Institut national de la statistique). 2018. *Niger 2017 Demographic and Health Survey: Preliminary Results (Enquête démographique et de santé du Niger EDSN-V 2017: résultats préliminaires)*.

¹¹ The fertility rate is 7.6 children per woman (World Bank).

¹² WFP. March 2018, Fill the Nutrient Gap presentation.

¹³ WFP Niger country office. 2018. *Mid-term evaluation of PRRO 2000961 (January 2017–December 2019) and of the last year of PRRO 200583 (January 2014–December 2016) (Evaluation à mi-parcours de l'Intervention prolongée de secours et de redressement (IPSR) Niger 200961 (Janvier 2017 – Décembre 2019) et de la dernière année de l'IPSR 200583 (Janvier 2014 – Décembre 2016))*. (Not available online.)

joint United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-WFP strategy for self-reliance. Third, resilience activities in Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder regions have been scaled up following intensive advocacy by WFP leadership and a large contribution in support of the Government's scale-up plan. The resulting increase in the number of beneficiaries includes a larger number of children aged 6–23 months benefiting from malnutrition prevention through blanket supplementary feeding.

17. This revision does not affect WFP's strategic orientation in Niger. There is no essential strategic change, except that the T-ICSP provides greater coherence and integration between resilience and crisis response activities, particularly in refugee and crisis-affected areas where relief assistance will be implemented as part of a long-term strategy to enhance self-reliance and strengthen livelihoods, thus reinforcing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
18. The PRRO activities will be integrated into the T-ICSP, which consists of existing interventions adjusted to the current context. The country office will continue to implement already approved activities, incorporating the lessons learned and recommendations from previous assessments and evaluations. Priority actions and opportunities for the Niger CSP for 2020–2024 will be identified through the ongoing zero hunger strategic review and extensive consultations with the various key stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY										
Activity	Modalities	Current			Increase/Decrease			Revised		
		Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total	Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total	Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total
Targeted supplementary feeding (children aged 6–23 months)	Food	612 221	629 607	1 241 828	0	0	0	612 221	629 607	1 241 828
Targeted supplementary feeding (pregnant women)	Food	0	373 515	373 515	0	0	0	0	373 515	373 515
Caretakers with children in therapeutic feeding	Food	0	218 400	218 400	0	0	0	0	218 400	218 400
School meals - nomadic zones	Food	48 080	49 446	97 526	-11 755	-11 181	-22 936	36 325	38 265	74 590
School meals - sedentary zones	Food	118 426	121 789	240 215	-28 954	-27 540	-56 494	89 472	94 249	183 721
Asset creation (food)	Food	52 804	54 303	107 107	72 681	70 957	143 638	123 868	126 877	250 745
Unconditional transfers	Food	80 550	82 837	163 387	0	0	0	80 550	82 837	163 387
Blanket supplementary feeding (children aged 6–23 months)	Food	23 862	24 540	48 402	33 514	31 926	65 440	57 376	56 466	113 842
Contingency - lean season unconditional transfers	Food	73 950	76 050	150 000	44 460	45 540	90 000	118 560	121 440	240 000
Contingency - lean season unconditional transfers cash	Cash	0	0	0	29 640	30 360	60 000	29 640	30 360	60 000
Contingency – lean season blanket supplementary feeding	Food	5 916	6 084	12 000	1 008	992	2 000	7 056	6 944	14 000
Asset creation – refugees	Food	16 806	17 284	34 090	-13 496	-13 894	-27 390	3 310	3 390	6 700
Unconditional transfers – refugees	Food	16 806	17 284	34 090	-13 496	-13 894	-27 390	3 310	3 390	6 700
Blanket feeding – refugees (children aged 6–23 months)	Food	1 380	1 420	2 800	-186	-244	-430	1 194	1 176	2 370
Asset creation - host population	Food	0	0	0	1 044	1 056	2 100	1 044	1 056	2 100

Activity	Modalities	Current			Increase/Decrease			Revised		
		Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total	Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total	Boys /Men	Girls /Women	Total
Unconditional transfers - host population	Food	0	0	0	1 044	1 056	2 100	1 044	1 056	2 100
Blanket feeding – host population (children aged 6–23 months)	Food	0	0	0	104	106	210	104	106	210
School meals - nomadic zones (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	496	510	1 006	-121	-115	-236	375	395	770
School meals - sedentary zones (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	5 472	5 628	11 100	-1 338	-1 273	-2 611	4 134	4 355	8 489
Take-home rations (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	6 396	6 578	12 974	-6 396	-6 578	-12 974	0	0	0
Adolescent girls' education (cash)	Cash-based transfers	0	13 130	13 130	5 190	-7 662	-2 472	5 190	5 468	10 658
Asset creation (cash)	Cash-based transfers	102 625	100 592	203 217	91 177	97 917	189 094	193 802	198 509	392 311
Unconditional transfers (cash)	Cash-based transfers	74 203	72 734	146 937	119 599	125 775	245 374	193 802	198 509	392 311
Asset creation – refugees (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	3 111	3 049	6 160	5 287	5 553	10 840	8 398	8 602	17 000
Unconditional transfers – refugees (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	3 111	3 049	6 160	5 287	5 553	10 840	8 398	8 602	17 000
Asset creation – host population (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	0	0	0	7 952	8 048	16 000	7 952	8 048	16 000
Unconditional transfers – host population (commodity vouchers)	Cash-based transfers	0	0	0	7 952	8 048	16 000	7 952	8 048	16 000
Blanket feeding – host population (children aged 6–23 months)	Cash-based transfers	0	0	0	795	805	1 600	795	805	1 600

TABLE 2: REVISED DAILY FOOD RATIONS (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFERS (USD) BY ACTIVITY				
	Activity 1 (general food distribution)	Activity 2 (School feeding)	Activity 3 (nutrition- caregivers)	Activity 4 (FFA-lean season)
	Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised
Cereals	350	250	350	350
Pulses	60	50	60	60
Vegetable Oil	35	30	35	35
SuperCereal	50	50	50	50
Iodized salt	5	5	5	5
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.405	0.28	0	0.405
Total kcal/day	2 064	1 577	2 064	2 064
% kcal from protein	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.7
% kcal from fat	24.2	26.4	24.2	24.2
Number of feeding days per month	30	20	30	30

19. Some changes in the ration were made for 2019 as it was considered to provide more than the 2,100 kilocalories required under the PRRO.

Cost

TABLE 3: FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY				
Activity	Food/Cash-based transfers	Food (mt) Cash-based transfer (USD)		
		Current	Increase/Decrease	Revised total
Contingency/ Malian refugees	Food	27 770	(109)	27 661
Contingency/ Malian refugees	Cash-based transfers (USD)	2 209 043	5 797 664	8 006 706
School feeding	Food	72 477	(4 714)	67 763
School feeding	Cash-based transfers (USD)	3 064 209	(666 289)	2 397 920
Nutrition	Food	40 587	10 614	51 201
Nutrition	Cash-based transfers (USD)	-	768 335	768 335
Food assistance for assets/lean season	Food	65 586	(7 905)	57 681
Food assistance for assets/lean season	Cash-based transfers (USD)	43 005 239	21 326 891	64 332 130
Total	Food	206 418	(2 114)	204 304
Total	Cash-based transfers (USD)	48 278 491	27 226 600	75 505 091

ANNEX I-A

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (mt)	Value (USD)	Value (USD)
Food			
Cereals	89 287	37 274 425	
Pulses	22 360	16 001 846	
Oil and fats	12 291	8 795 596	
Mixed and blended food	78 864	103 788 292	
Others	1 502	406 691	
Total food	204 304	166 266 850	
Food transport, storage, handling and other direct operational costs		119 664 062	
Food and related costs¹		285 930 912	
Cash-based transfers		75 505 092	
Related costs		19 781 613	
Cash-based transfers and related costs		95 286 705	
Capacity development and augmentation		29 054 472	
Direct operational costs			410 272 089
Adjusted direct support costs (see annex I-B) ²			51 176 297
Total direct project costs			461 448 386
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent) ³			31 000 884
Total WFP costs			492 449 270

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

² Indicative figure for information purposes. The direct support cost 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 (USD)	
WFP staff and staff-related	
Professional staff *	19 343 208
General Service staff **	2 856 949
Danger pay and local allowances	385 361
Subtotal	22 585 519
Recurring and other	13 854 794
Capital equipment	4 644 022
Security	4 438 724
Travel and transportation	3 406 087
Assessments, evaluations and monitoring***	2 247 151
Total direct support costs	51 176 297

* Costs to be included in this line are under the following cost elements: International Professional Staff (P-1 to D-2), Local Staff - National Officer, International Consultants, Local Consultants, UNV.

** Costs to be included in this line are under the following cost elements: International GS Staff, Local Staff - General Service, Local Staff - Temporary Assist. (SC, SSA, Other), Overtime.

*** Reflects estimated costs when these activities are performed by third parties. If WFP country office staff perform these activities, the costs are included in staff and staff-related and travel and transportation

Acronyms used in the document

CSP	country strategic plan
FFA	food assistance for assets
GFD	general food distribution
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
T-ICSP	transitional interim country strategic plan