

BUDGET REVISION FOR THE APPROVAL OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

	<u>Initials</u>	<u>In Date</u>	<u>Out Date</u>	<u>Reason For Delay</u>
<u>ORIGINATOR</u>				
Country Office or Regional Bureau on behalf of Country Office
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Project Budget & Programming Officer, RMBP
Chief, RMBP
Chief, ODLT (change in LTSH and/or External Transport)
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Director

EMOP – 200225: “Assistance to Ivorian Refugees and Host Population in North-Central and South-Eastern Liberia”

	Previous Budget		Revision		New Budget
Food cost ¹	US\$ 13,046,545	US\$	2,162,310	US\$	15,208,855
External transport ²	US\$ 2,884,288	US\$	1,126,036	US\$	4,010,324
LTSH ³	US\$ 6,209,974	US\$	828,229	US\$	7,038,203
ODOC ⁴	US\$ 420,526	US\$	25,615	US\$	446,141
DSC ⁵	US\$ 7,205,469	US\$	0	US\$	7,205,469
ISC (7%) ⁶	US\$ 2,083,676	US\$	289,954	US\$	2,373,630
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$ 31,850,478	US\$	4,432,144	US\$	36,282,622

TYPE OF REVISION

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional commodity | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional DSC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional ODOC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional LTSH |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional external transport | <input type="checkbox"/> Extension or Reduction in time | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

¹ Food cost can comprise both commodities and cash/voucher transfers.

² The first leg of transport for commodities: from the donor country to the recipient country port, or in cases of regional commodity purchases, from the place of purchase to the recipient country.

³ Landside, Transport, Storage and Handling - LTSH comprises the actions required to (a) care for and (b) physically deliver the commodities from the completion of external transport through to final distribution.

⁴ Other Direct Operational Costs - ODOC include deliverable goods (non-food items), services and training to beneficiaries and/or to implementing partners.

⁵ Direct Support Costs - DSC are those costs which are incurred directly in support of projects by a WFP Country Office.

⁶ Indirect Support Costs - ISC is a fixed rate resourced from all donor contributions, which is used to cover (non-project) corporate overhead costs, i.e. PSA.

NATURE OF THE INCREASE

1. This budget revision to Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200225 “Emergency Assistance to Ivorian Refugees and Host Populations in North-Central and South-Eastern Liberia” is to increase the beneficiary caseload. The revised caseload covers an additional 10,000 refugees and 100,000 vulnerable people amongst the host community adversely affected not only by the refugee influx but also by shocks from high food prices in the counties of Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland. The budget revision covers the period October to December 2011.
2. This increase in caseload to 160,000 individuals is part of an inter-agency agreement based on revised figures provided by UNCHR and agreed by the humanitarian community in Liberia and is used for the revised Emergency Humanitarian Appeal (EHAP) launched in September 2011.
3. In particular, this 3rd budget revision to the EMOP will:
 - Deliver food assistance to a total of 160,000 refugees and 100,000 people affected by high food price shocks for a period of three months from October to December 2011;
 - Provide an additional 3,458.34 MT of food valued at US\$ 2,162,310;
 - Include additional associated costs of US\$ 1,979,880, comprising EXTR, LTSH and ODOC, and indirect support costs (ISC) of US\$ 289,954; N.B. There is no increase in or need for additional DSC which is adequately covered in the existing budget.
4. The budget revision proposes an overall increase of US\$ 4,432,144 to the EMOP, bringing total costs to US\$ 36,282,622.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION-IN-TIME AND/OR BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of existing project activities

5. EMOP 200225 began in February 2011 for an initial six-month period. It aimed to address the food and nutritional needs of 60,000 beneficiaries: (i) refugees seeking sanctuary in Liberia after fleeing the crisis in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire; and (ii) vulnerable groups among the host population in Liberia affected by the refugee crisis. The EMOP is aligned with WFP Strategic Objective 1 (“to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies”) and its specific objectives are to:
 - Improve the food security and nutrition situation of Ivorian refugees and vulnerable host community populations adversely affected by the refugee influx in Liberia; and
 - Stabilize acute malnutrition rates below 10 percent among children under 5 in refugee and host populations.
6. A budget revision increasing the caseload to 150,000 refugees and 36,000 beneficiaries within the host population and extending the project until December 31, 2011 was approved in March 2011.
7. Most refugees are hosted by rural communities located in approximately 150 villages near the border with Côte d’Ivoire. Some refugees are sheltered in camps and transit sites. UNHCR has established one camp at Bahn in Nimba County with some 5,000 refugees. Another two camps, one at Solo and the other at Dougee, both in Grand Gedeh County house some 4,000 refugees. Additional camps are being established at PTP in Grand Gedeh and Little Wlebo in Maryland.
8. Between February and April, food assistance was directed at the refugee population while consensus between Government, donors and other actors in the humanitarian arena was built for blanket general food distributions to host communities. In June, a one-time distribution to 80,000

beneficiaries in host communities took place using criteria developed by WFP and NGO partners. Distributions have been hampered by a delay in registration procedures and logistical constraints caused by the poor state of road infrastructure compounded by the onset of the rainy season. However, by June WFP had begun to distribute food to 100,000 of the planned 150,000 refugees.

Conclusion and recommendation of the re-assessment

Refugee population:

9. While there have been many reports of refugees crossing borders on both sides, UNHCR, as of end August 2011, estimates the refugee population at 173,000. The UNHCR “business plan” forecasts that by 31st December 2011:
 - 80,000 refugees will reside in camps;
 - 31,600 refugees will live with host families;
 - 32,400 refugees will have spontaneously returned to Côte d’Ivoire;
 - 16,000 refugees will be dropped from the caseload due to biometric registration.
10. However, due to the fluid nature of the refugee flows and the delay in the implementation of the UNHCR ‘business plan’ and the beginning of bio-metric registration, the inter-agency humanitarian community has agreed that 160,000 should be the planning figure for refugees until 31 December 2011. This number has been incorporated in the revised EHAP. It should be noted, however, that the refugee numbers will be monitored and adjusted to take into account ongoing returns. This will be part of the Liberia CAP process which is now taking place.
11. Despite the establishment of a new government in Côte d’Ivoire, the refugee influx continues, particularly in Grand Gedeh, Maryland and River Gee Counties. This has been attributed to the uncertain and changing situation still prevailing in Côte d’Ivoire and also due to the perceived political affiliations of certain groups. While these numbers are fluid, as a way forward, the Humanitarian Action Coordination (HAC) group has recently taken up the issue with the concerned officials in Côte d’Ivoire to ascertain the number of people crossing the border on both sides.
12. WFP Liberia, while preparing for this BR3 with the Regional Bureau, commenced food assistance to the increased beneficiary caseload (host population and refugees) from August 2011. The increased beneficiary caseload reflects the ascertained needs on the ground and has been possible (for August and September) within the approved budget with no requirement for additional resources.

Emergency Food Security and Market Assessment, May 2011

13. An assessment to study the impact of rising food and fuel prices and the effects of the refugee influx was carried out by WFP in collaboration with the Government of Liberia during April and May 2011. The overall objective of the assessment was to gain a robust understanding of the impact of rising food and fuel prices on three population groups:
 - urban and peri-urban poor households;
 - rural households in communities hosting Ivorian refugees households; and
 - households from an agricultural productive area with established markets and food insecure non-refugee affected households.
14. The key findings of the assessment are:

- a. Food consumption has deteriorated in April 2011 compared to July 2010 in four of the six surveyed counties. Proportion of households with poor consumption level has increased from 8% to 40% in urban poor locations of Greater Monrovia (Montserado County); from 73% to 90% in Bomi; from 42% to 75% in Grand Gedeh; and from 33% to 67% in Nimba. In Maryland and Lofa, the proportion of households with poor dietary intake remained almost same as last year which stood at 72% and 38%, respectively. In Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland the influx of the refugee population further exacerbated the situation with additional demands of both food and fuel;
 - b. In the counties hosting the refugee population, the proportion of food expenditures has significantly increased from 53% to 59% during the period July 2010 to April 2011.
 - c. Further, the report also indicates an increase in consumption-related coping mechanisms such as reduced food intake (from 19% to 62%), borrowing (from 10% to 32%), skipping of meals for the whole day (from 3% to 10%) and consumption of seed stocks by farming households (from 1% to 6%) during the period July 2010 to April 2011; and
 - d. In refugee-affected counties (Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland), there are inadequate employment opportunities and even if they exist the wages are very low. The proportion of unemployment has reached to 63% in April 2011 for the residents of refugee affected districts of the three counties compared with the national average in July 2010 which stood at 6.3%
15. The assessment recommended expanding general food distributions to communities in refugee-hosting counties to cover some 10,000 - 13,000 families with poor dietary intake for 3 to 4 months, particularly during the critical months of July to October.
 16. WFP continues to explore possibilities to implement Food for Work (FFW) activities but thus far no NGO has expressed interest or has the capacity to implement these projects. Some capacity building for national NGOs to implement FFW will be investigated over the coming months.
 17. Based on the recommendation of the assessment, and taking into account the expected evolution of the situation in the coming months as determined by the Humanitarian Community in Liberia, the CO decided to include 100,000 vulnerable people in the refugee-hosting counties of Nimba (40,000), Grand Gedeh (40,000) and Maryland (20,000) for a period of six months from July to December 2011.
 18. Furthermore, in line with assessment recommendations and order to mitigate the adverse effects of refugee influx as well as the high food prices, the beneficiary selection criteria has been expanded to cover a larger vulnerable group. Accordingly, the following targeting criteria, in order of preference, will be used in selecting target beneficiaries in the above counties:
 - Households physically hosting refugees will be selected and the level of assistance will be determined based on the number of refugees being hosted by the resident households;
 - Households headed by the disabled who do not work;
 - Households headed by the sick unable to work;
 - Households headed by elderly (>70years old) not able to work
 - Households with malnourished children;
 - Large families (more than 15 members in a household) including both the resident household members and refugees living together within the same household;
 - Youth, in the age group of 18-35, with no employment; and
 - Households that did not cultivate last season and do not have any other economic activity due to lack of farm holdings and/or small plots.

19. A combination of the poor response to calls for FFW projects by NGOs and the fact that a large proportion of vulnerable people are expected to meet the above criteria and be covered by the Targeted Food Distribution (TFD) over the next three months it has been decided to reconsider the FFW component for the next phase based on feasibility study for recovery activities that will be carried out by end the of the year.

Purpose of extension and/or budget increase

20. This budget revision reflects an increase in the number of refugees in need of food assistance. In addition, it reflects the increased requirements for food assistance to vulnerable populations who have been severely affected by the influx of large numbers of refugees, have inadequate employment opportunities, low wage rates and suffer from the impact of high food price shocks. The Humanitarian Assistance Committee (HAC) in Liberia, chaired by the Deputy SRSR, has agreed to extend refugee operations until the end of 2011 and issue an EHAP to provide a framework for humanitarian assistance. The EHAP was launched in September 2011.
21. Given the current number of refugees registered and the uncertainty surrounding future returns or influxes from Côte d'Ivoire, this budget revision increases the planning figure for refugees in Liberia from 150,000 to 160,000.
22. Targeted food assistance to the host population to cover some 100,000 beneficiaries is also taking place based on the high vulnerability of the host population that has been aggravated by the increased burden of the refugees, inadequate employment opportunities, and low wages coupled with high food price shocks. The identification of beneficiaries is carried out by WFP's cooperating partners, working in close consultation with local community and government authorities using the selection criteria outlined above.
23. Implementation modalities: Existing tripartite agreements between WFP, UNHCR and cooperating partners for GFD will be amended to cover additional refugee numbers. WFP is also exploring collaboration with a number of NGOs for the implementation of targeted food distribution to vulnerable populations in three counties.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY

Activity	Category of beneficiaries	Current	Increase	Revised
General Food Distribution	Refugees	150,000	10,000	160,000
Targeted Food Distribution	Vulnerable Population	36,000*	100,000	100,000
Supplementary Feeding	Malnourished children under 5	3,000	0	3,000**
TOTAL		186,000	110,000	260,000

* This was a one-off distribution to the host families and the increase looks at continued food assistance to the vulnerable host population for a longer period.

** Based on malnutrition prevalence rates for both categories of populations, with a 2 percent increase if the situation deteriorates.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 2: FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY				
Activity	Commodity type	Food requirements (mt)		
		Current	Increase	Revised total
General Food Distribution (Refugees)	Bulgur Wheat/rice	16,380	378	16,758
	Yellow Split Peas	1,950	45	1,995
	Corn-Soya Blend	1,950	45	1,995
	Vegetable Oil	1,170	27	1,197
	Iodized Salt	195	5	200
Targeted Food Distribution to Vulnerable Populations	Bulgur Wheat/rice	454	3,780	4,234
	Yellow Split Peas	54	450	504
	Corn-Soya Blend	54	450	504
	Vegetable Oil	32	270	302
	Iodized Salt	5	45	50
Food for Work (Host Population)*	Bulgur Wheat/rice	1,613	(1,613)	0
	Yellow Split Peas	323	(323)	0
	Vegetable Oil	101	(101)	0
Emergency Ration (Refugees)	High Energy Biscuits	131		131
Supplementary Feeding	Corn-Soya Blend	0		0
	Vegetable Oil	0		0
	Sugar	0		0
	Supplementary Plumpy	17		17
TOTAL		24,428	3458	27,887
NOTE: All numbers in this table are rounded off from their actual decimal values, so the total along some rows/columns may appear to be less (or more) by 1MT when the visible values are added up.				
*Potential FFW beneficiaries will now be included under vulnerable population.				

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