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Lesotho EMOP No.: 200367

B/R No.: 01

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BUDGET REVISION FOR THE APPROVAL OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR

	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason For Delay
ORIGINATOR				
Country Office or Regional Bureau on behalf of Country Office	....	....	…………..	…………..
CLEARANCE				
Project Budget and Programming Officer, RMBP	....	....	…………….	……………
Chief, RMBP	....	....	……………..	……………
Chief, ODLT (change in LTSH and/or External Transport)	....	....	……………	……………
APPROVAL				
☒ Country Director	....	....	……………..	……………

PROJECT
Start date: 01/11/2011   **End date:** 30/04/2012   **Extension/Reduction period: 3 months**
New end date: 31/07/2012

	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
Food cost (US$)	US$ 1 852 560	US$	US$ 1 852 560
Total WFP cost (US$)	US$ 3 136 439	US$	US$ 3 136 439

TYPE OF REVISION

☐ **Resource reallocation** ☒ **Extension/Reduction in time** ☐ **Adjustment of Fiscal Year Planning** ☐ **Other**

NATURE OF ADJUSTMENT:

1. This first budget revision to this Emergency Operation is required to extend the project duration in time from 1 May to 31 July 2012 at no additional; costs.

JUSTIFCATION FOR THE ADJUSTMENT:

2. From December 2010 to February 2011, Lesotho experienced the heaviest rains recorded in any ten-year period. In June 2011, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) conducted its annual assessment and concluded that as a result of reduced crop production prospects coupled with rising food and agricultural input prices, some 514,000 poor and very poor people would be food insecure and would require humanitarian assistance during the 2011/2012 agriculture season.

3. As a consequence, the Government of Lesotho requested WFP to provide food assistance to people faced with high levels of food insecurity. To that effect, an Emergency Operation- (EMOP) was launched with the objective of saving lives, protecting livelihoods and enhancing self-reliance of vulnerable individuals affected by crop failures as a result of the heavy rains. So far, 20,000 beneficiaries have received 940 mt of food since the start of the intervention.

4. Still, the 2011/12 agriculture season was faced with late and insufficient rainfall, which has led to delayed and sparse cultivation. As a consequence, it is expected that the food security situation will face further deterioration. As winter approaches in the southern hemisphere, there is considerable speculation for yet another poor harvest in Lesotho.

5. Senque River Valley still faces food shortage from last year with the highlands experiencing the majority of it. Early frosts have already been reported in some of the areas indicative of serious damage to the relatively smaller area planted this year as compared to last year.

6. Current trends depict a deterioration of the food security situation and with coping mechanisms already stretched; a second consecutive poor harvest will have a very negative effect on the already highly vulnerable populations.

7. With further funding now secured from ECHO (EUR 1 million), WFP intends to extend the EMOP for an additional three-month period to continue its assistance to targeted 40,000 beneficiaries to mitigate the need to resort to negative coping mechanisms and will stem further degradation of livelihood insecurity.

8. Resource mobilization for the EMOP has been less than optimal with only US$ 1.4 million out of a total need of US$ 3.1 million (about 45 percent) so far realised. Contributions from the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) combined with Irish Aid funding, has compelled WFP to prioritize general food distributions and focus on Senque River Valley where the most serious food insecurity conditions have prevailed by assisting a total of 20,000 out of the planned 40,000. This additional funding will now enable WFP to cover the entire population requiring assistance as per the original plan.

9. Targeting mechanisms, beneficiary criteria and assistance methodology will remain the same as will the total food requirements and recourses as described in the original project proposal.