

**Yemen Country Programme (CP) 104350
B/R No.: 9**

BUDGET REVISION FOR THE APPROVAL OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

	<u>Initials</u>	<u>In Date</u>	<u>Out Date</u>	<u>Reason For</u>
<u>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	

PROJECT	Previous Budget US\$	Revision US\$	New Budget US\$
Food cost	52,358,672	2,590,600	54,949,272
External transport	4,459,954	-	4,459,954
LTSH	9,708,348	1,890,328	11,598,675
ODOC	993,285	-	993,285
DSC	6,410,418	-	6,410,418
ISC (7%)	5,175,147	313,665	5,488,812
Total WFP cost (US\$)	79,105,823	4,794,592	83,900,415

TYPE OF REVISION

Additional commodity
 Additional DSC
 Additional ODOC
 Additional LTSH
 Additional external transport
 Extension in time
 Other

NATURE OF THE INCREASE

- 1 Extension of project duration by 12 months, to 31 December 2012, with increase in commodity requirement of 8,380 mt;
- 2 Reduction in beneficiary numbers for 2012 to 53,000;
- 3 Increase in landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) costs to reflect the new LTSH matrix of US\$ 184.89/mt for the increased food tonnage;
- 4 While the overall direct support cost (DSC) and other direct operational cost (ODOC) budget needs are not changing with the extension in time, the budget includes an increase in planned needs for these components for 2012, reflecting gross needs for the extended period, and a corresponding decrease in 2011 budget plan for DSC and 2010/2011 for ODOC.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION-IN-TIME AND BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of existing project activities

- 5 This CP was launched in January 2007 with the overall goal of contributing to the joint efforts of the Government and the United Nations agencies to reduce poverty and food insecurity in Yemen in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the National Development Plan 2006–2010 and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007-2011. It is also in line with the Food Security Strategy compiled by WFP in 2010 and the Regional Bureau's Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region 2011 - 2014. Initially the CP included Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) activities, which were terminated under Budget Revision No. 8. WFP's role under the CP Activity 2 was to focus on reducing the gender gap through food assistance by encouraging families to enrol and keep their daughters in basic and secondary-level education. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) assist families to meet their food needs and improve girls' attendance in 1,300 rural schools in 19 governorates across Yemen through the provision of take-home rations to those families whose girls attend school. The ration therefore acts not only as an incentive for poor families to send and keep their daughters in school but also as a valuable income transfer. Indirectly it also helps address key challenges facing the country such as: critical gender gap, illiteracy, low nutrition and health education, child marriage, maternal/child mortality, and high population growth. Within the first year of Food for Education implementation, girls' enrolment increased by 60 percent, in some cases surpassing that of boys.
- 6 This project has been under-funded for much of its implementation period, despite numerous fund-raising and advocacy efforts. Due to funding shortfalls, in 2010 about 77 percent of school girls (85,700 school girls) received one reduced ration out of three planned full rations. Approximately 80 percent of beneficiaries assisted by the supplementary feeding programme received two reduced food rations out of the four planned for the year. In order to ensure operational continuity and meet the intended

nutritional outcomes, WFP agreed with the Ministry of Public Health and Population to consolidate most nutrition activities under the newly approved PRRO 200038 (launched in January 2011) and effectively closed CP Activity 1. In 2011, the project reached only 59,000 school girls during May 2011 compared to the planned figure of 114,639 participants during the three distributions in the school year (September to June). However, with the deteriorating situation in Yemen, donors are showing increased interest in all WFP programmes including the school feeding, so the country office is optimistic that it will be able to achieve its planned targets for this extension period.

- 7 The current project ends on 31 December 2011, in line with the ongoing UNDAF cycle. The country office had planned to prepare a new project based on the recommendations of the 2011 Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE)¹ in time to start on 1 January 2012. However, with the deteriorating situation and the absence of stakeholders, it has not been possible to prepare a new project using the participatory approach recommended by WFP. This extension in time will therefore ensure operational continuity for the project and will prevent regression on those achievements already reached in the enrolment and attendance of girls in the targeted schools. When possible, the country office will prepare a new programme reflecting the planned UNDAF cycle of 2012 – 2015.

Conclusion and recommendation of the re-assessment

8. The 2010 Global Gender Gap Index ranks Yemen lowest in the world.² Yemen's gender gap in education is among the highest in the region - illiteracy rates are at 66 percent for women compared to 27 percent for men. Impediments to girls' education include opportunity cost, limited number of women teachers in rural areas, long distances to schools in remote and mountainous regions, traditional attitudes to girls' education and under-age marriage. Even for those who do attend school, poor nutrition and health among the schoolchildren contribute to a weak educational system and learning environment. Malnourished and unhealthy children perform less well, attend fewer class days, are more likely to repeat grades and/or drop out of school, enroll in school at a later age (or not at all) and are less likely to complete the school year. Consequently, women generally lack skills and capital, which deprives them of income-generating opportunities and access to markets.
9. The present unpredictable political situation of civil unrest, war in the north, and refugee influxes in the south further affects delivery of education and other social services. The incidence of poverty has increased by 25 percent since 2006.³ In 2010, the WFP comprehensive food security survey found that 32 percent of the population was food-insecure, equating to 7.2 million Yemenis. Twelve percent of this population was severely food-insecure. Based on the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) recorded during the survey, 9.5 percent of children aged 12-59 months and 25 percent of pregnant and lactating women were acutely malnourished. A previous household survey⁴ in 2005/06 had found that 13 percent of children 6-59 months were wasted and 56 percent stunted. A follow-up survey starting in October 2011 is likely to show deterioration of such indicators given that the overall political situation has worsened since the last comprehensive food security assessment in 2010.

¹ World Food Programme, *Country Portfolio Evaluation Yemen 2005-2010*, Aide Memoire Food for Education (2011)

² World Economic Forum: "Gender Gap Index 2010", Table 3a,

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_IndexRankingAndComparison_2006-2010.pdf

³ IFPRI Discussion Paper, "Impacts of the Triple Global Crisis on Growth and Poverty in Yemen", February 2010.

⁴ World Food Programme, Household Budget Survey, 2005-06

10. The 2011 CPE covered the country programme as part of its ToR, noting that it had been prepared during a calmer period in Yemen, when there was a stronger development focus. The evaluation agreed on the need to support both education and gender in Yemen and that this project was closely aligned with the priorities of the Government of Yemen. It also noted that this project was an integral part of the WFP programme strategy for addressing rural vulnerability in Yemen. The evaluation therefore recommended continuing the implementation of a school feeding programme with take-home rations as it has proven to be an appropriate mechanism with clear proof of encouraging girls' school enrolment and attendance. The evaluation also suggested continuing the present strategy as the programme has a well developed logistics and distribution system, but noted the need to improve coordination with various stakeholders at the local level. The evaluation also cited that the CP is a good example for government activities implemented under its Social Welfare Fund.

Purpose of extension and budget increase

11. The purpose of this budget revision is the extension of the project duration for 12 months, until 31 December 2012. Such an extension in time will permit the activity to continue throughout the extension period, allowing time for the protracted political crisis to stabilize. When the situation permits, the country office will initiate the participatory design of a new scheme, including the possibility of different, innovative transfer mechanisms such as cash and vouchers. The country office will also use the time of this extension to align the programme with the likely revision to the UNDAF cycle (currently 2012- 2015) and work with donors to mobilize funding.
12. Continuing the project is an integral part of the WFP Yemen programme strategy as the situation deteriorates in country. Consequently, beneficiary needs increase; this project effectively works as a safety net assisting vulnerable rural families in some of the most food-insecure parts of Yemen. As such, it reflects the approach adopted under PRRO 200038, in which WFP food complements cash payments from the Government's Social Welfare Fund to assist vulnerable rural families during the hunger season of May to October. This combined approach was endorsed under the 2011 CPE.
13. Somewhat reluctantly, the country office is also reducing the number of planned beneficiaries for 2012, despite the improved funding prospects. As the situation deteriorates across much of Yemen, it is increasingly difficult for the government authorities to maintain the delivery of services, including education, in conflict-affected areas. WFP Yemen is also prioritizing the delivery of large-scale assistance under the revised PRRO (200038) and the new EMOP (200306) in these inaccessible areas. This school feeding activity will therefore be suspended in Sa'adah, Al Jawf, Mareb, Abyan (currently inaccessible under UN security regulations) and parts of Amran governorates. The likely funding prospects should however ensure that WFP will be able to complete all three cycles of distribution for this reduced number of beneficiaries. Should the situation and hence access improve, WFP will look to reinstate the programme in these currently suspended areas. Meanwhile, the programme will continue to target districts in some 13 governorates including Rayma, Hajjah and Dhamar as well as parts of Amran, which WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Monitoring (VAM) has assessed as being among the most food-insecure in the country. Criteria for school selection will remain the same taking into account adjustments based on security advisories.

14. The continuation of this project is also an integral part of the country office's programme strategy for addressing the needs under the deteriorating situation in Yemen, alongside the new EMOP (200306) and the expansion of PRRO (200038) currently being prepared for 2012, given that it is a safety net for some of the most vulnerable rural populations.

Activity	Category	Participants	
		2011	2012
Act.2	School girls (take-home rations)	111,000	53,000
Total ⁵		111,000	53,000

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

15. Given the early termination of the nutrition component (Activity 1) under budget revision n. 8, the overall food requirements for the CP Activity 2 for one more year will increase as outlined below:

ACTIVITY	Commodity type	Food requirements (mt)		
		Present	Increase	Revised total
Activity 2	Cereal	69,858	7,950	77,808
	Dates	2,338	-	2,338
	Oil	3,562	430	3,992
	Total	75,758	8,380	84,138

16. The modalities of implementation and food rations for this activity will remain the same. The MoE and WFP will share the responsibility for food management. Food distributions will be implemented from January to December 2012 at the school level with the support of parents' associations, headmasters and teachers.

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⁵ The figures represent the direct participants. However, since family rations are provided, total beneficiary numbers are higher based on an average household size of 7 members.