

**Benin Development Project 200045
B/R No. 3**

22 May 2014

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 Director
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Project Budget & Programming Officer, RMBP
Chief, RMBP
Chief, OSLT (change in LTSH and/or External Transport)
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director

PROJECT: Promotion of sustainable school feeding

Start date: 01/07/2010 End date: 30/06/2014 Extension period: 12 months New end date: 30/06/2015

Cost (United States dollars)

	Current Budget	Increase	Revised Budget
Food related costs	8 327 460	2 073 616	10 401 076
Cash and vouchers and related costs	0	0	0
Capacity development & augmentation	292 585	24 040	316 625
Direct support cost	2 932 961	829 443	3 762 404
Indirect support cost	808 710	204 897	1 013 607
Total cost to WFP	12 361 716	3 131 996	15 493 712

CHANGES TO:

Food Tool

- MT
- Commodity Value
- External Transport
- LTSH
- ODOC

C&V Tool

- C&V Transfers
- C&V Related Costs

CD&A

- DSC
- Project duration
- Other

Project Rates

- LTSH (USD/MT)
- ODOC (USD/MT)
- C&V Related (%)
- DSC (%)

DISTRIBUTION:

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Director, OSZ
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Programme Officer, RMBP
Programming Assistant, RMBP
Liaison Officer, OMD

Chief, OSZP
Regional Director
RB Programme Advisor
RB Programme Assistant
RB Chrono

NATURE OF THE REVISION

1. This budget revision proposes a 12-month extension-in-time from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and additional resources in support of Government efforts to promote sustainable school feeding.
2. Specifically, the budget revision will:
 - Increase 3,185 mt of food valued at USD 1,427,206;
 - Increase capacity development and augmentation by USD 24,040;
 - Provide associated costs of USD 1,475,853, including external transport, landside transport storage and handling, other direct operational costs, and direct support costs; and
 - Provide required indirect support costs (ISC) of USD 204,897.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION

Summary of existing project activities

3. The project aims to increase access to education and human capital development, enhance capacities to sustain a national school feeding programme, and stimulate agricultural and economic development by linking school feeding with local production. In addition, the project seeks to increase enrolment and attendance rates. At national level, the ratio boys/girls is about 0,9 while in most of the districts where WFP intervenes, the ratio remains below the national average. This is why the project will aim to increase the ratio of girls to boys enrolled. A further goal is to reduce school dropout rates in targeted districts. The project contributes to WFP Strategic Objectives 3 “Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food nutrition needs”, and 4 “Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger.”
4. For the 2013/2014 school year, a daily nutritious meal is provided to 95,000 primary schoolchildren in 484 schools located in rural areas with low enrolment and high rates of poverty, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. Children in these schools receive food rations designed to satisfy one-third of their daily nutritional needs. The project provides a critical safety net for poorer families whose children benefit from nutritional support.
5. Complementary activities in nutrition, hygiene and health education, and school gardens are being implemented in partnership with UNICEF, FAO, the United States Peace Corps, non-governmental organizations and the Government. Capacity development activities focus on building institutional capacity of both Government partners and community school feeding management committees.
6. Funding during the 2013/2014 school year included a contribution from the Government along with other donors. The Government established the Directorate for School Feeding in 2013 and an action plan is expected following a study visit to Brazil. Capacity strengthening and coordination of actors at local and regional level should be addressed to fulfil priorities identified through the System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results (SABER) analysis.

Conclusion and recommendation of the re-assessment

7. Going forward, the project seeks to build on the achievements and challenges of previous years. Most WFP-assisted schools are located in areas with food insecurity, chronic malnutrition and low enrolment rates. According to 2012 statistics, the dropout rate in WFP-assisted schools was 8 percent, compared with a national dropout rate of 14 percent

during the same year.¹ The ratio of girls to boys enrolled has improved from a baseline of 0.75 in 2010 to 0.80 in 2013. The Government has requested WFP to extend assistance as it continues building institutional capacity towards a nationally owned school feeding programme. WFP and the Government coordinate school feeding operations to avoid operational overlap.

8. Following the March 2014 SABER workshop, WFP is working towards achievement of pillar one, policy reinforcement, through these priority actions: (i) adopt (by the council of ministers), publish and promote the school feeding national policy document; (ii) elaborate the school feeding national policy action plan, and (iii) lead advocacy efforts to integrate school feeding into the national strategy for the education development plan.
9. The national school feeding policy was validated at a stakeholder workshop held in December 2013. WFP had a large role in providing technical support and expertise throughout the drafting process. WFP will continue supporting the Government in implementing this policy, enabling stakeholders to harmonize their activities and improve standards in line with the school feeding SABER action plan validated by the Government during the SABER workshop. In April 2014 the Government participated in a South-South cooperation visit organized by Brazil to learn school feeding best practices. WFP continues to emphasize local purchase—over 70 percent of project food requirements are procured locally. In the 2013/2014 school year, however, local food purchases declined to 51 percent following inclusion of more cost effective internationally procured rice in the food basket. WFP continues to evaluate possible ways to increase the share of locally purchased rice.
10. A Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) survey was carried out in February–March 2013 and published in January 2014. The 2013/2014 budget revision increased the number of beneficiary schools from 300 to 484, basing the 184 school increase on preliminary CFSVA results. The same 484 schools will be supported in 2014/2015.
11. CFSVA results demonstrate the need for continued school feeding to alleviate food insecurity and vulnerability. According to the CFSVA, 40 percent of parents cited economic difficulties as the reason for student dropout or abandonment. This gives further evidence that nutritious meals provided through daily school feeding increase incentives for keeping students in school. School feeding also serves as a social safety net, as it decreases the economic vulnerability of households by assuring children are provided with a daily nutritious meal. Integrated sustainable solutions that would allow parents to generate income while supporting or supplying school feeding are likely to have a greater impact on improving school retention rates. WFP is committed to the development of such sustainable solutions as a medium term strategic objective and anticipates their integration in future programming so that sending a child to school is no longer an obstacle for households because of low income or poverty.

Purpose of change in project duration and budget increase

12. WFP is integrating CFSVA findings into the 2014–2018 country strategy that is being finalized with the Government. While this work is ongoing, a project extension of one year will allow additional time for consolidation of Government capacity to manage an expanded school feeding programme.
13. Through this budget revision, WFP will continue supporting 484 primary schools in the same geographic regions. WFP will provide school meals to 100,000 vulnerable children. The 5 percent increase in the beneficiary caseload anticipates increased student enrolment in WFP-supported schools during 2014/2015. The daily ration remains unchanged,

¹ Statistics provided by the Ministry of Education.

including 150 g cereals (50 percent rice and 50 percent maize), 30 g pulses, 10 g vegetable oil and 3 g iodized salt. Maize will be purchased locally.

14. The 2013 CFSVA revealed 11 percent of the population is food insecure,² and 34 percent in borderline food security. Food security is found unevenly throughout Benin. High rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were registered in Couffo region (29 percent), Mono (28 percent) and Atacora (25 percent), as compared to the global score of 11 percent. The same report showed a sharp deterioration in food consumption,³ with 23 percent of the population having poor or inadequate food consumption, as compared to 12 percent reported in 2008. These indicators highlight the aggravated food security situation in Benin, especially as it concerns food availability. Within certain districts in Benin, the food consumption situation is critical—passing well beyond 50 percent, with a global score of 23 percent. Toucountouna district in Atacora department reports poor or limited food consumption of 81 percent. Bopa district in Mono department reports poor or limited food consumption of 56.8 percent. Districts with poor or limited food consumption rates host 67 percent of WFP-supported schools
15. The capacity augmentation component of the project will focus on providing equipment and supplies to relevant parties including the Directorate of School Feeding and the UNDAF Coordination and Management Unit. In addition, improvements to the Early Warning System represent another crucial capacity augmentation activity for WFP and the national counterpart to regularly assess the food security situation.
16. This one-year extension will enable WFP to take into account CFSVA results while continuing to strengthen Government institutional capacity in school feeding and determine the scope of WFP support beyond 2015. The current project and this extension-in-time are aligned with priorities stated in the new UNDAF document for Benin.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY TYPE

Activity	Beneficiaries		
	Present	Increase	Revised
School feeding	95 000	5 000	100 000

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 2: FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY TYPE

Activity	Food requirement (mt)		
	Present	Increase	Revised
School Feeding	12 579	3 185	15 764

² Consolidated Approach Results Indicators (2014).

³ Food consumption score was used in the 2008 CFSVA as a proxy indicator to analyze food insecurity.

The proposed budget revision does not include any changes to the distribution modality as approved in the original project document.