

BUDGET INCREASE TO PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION: PRRO 200310 Targeted Assistance to Refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq

Total revised number of beneficiaries	30,200		
Duration of entire project	1 July 2013- 31 December 2016 (42 months)		
Extension/Reduction period	18 months		
Gender marker code	2a		
WFP food tonnage	7,061 mt		
Cost (United States dollars)			
	Current Budget	Increase	Revised Budget
Food and Related Costs	5,390,373	4,683,604	10,073,977
Cash and Vouchers and Related Costs	-	-	-
Capacity Development & Augmentation	-	-	-
DSC	1,168,522	993,497	2,162,019
ISC	459,123	397,397	856,520
Total cost to WFP	7,018,018	6,074,498	13,092,516

NATURE OF THE INCREASE

1. This budget revision to the Iran Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200310 will extend the project in time by 18 months through 31 December 2016. The extension will enable WFP to implement recommendations of an external operational evaluation and to prepare for and conduct a WFP/UNHCR joint assessment mission (JAM) ahead of new project formulation. This budget revision proposes the following changes:
 - a) increase the number of most vulnerable refugees entitled to full rations under the relief component from 10,000 to 11,500 as of July 2015;
 - b) increase food tonnage by 7,061 mt (from 9,060 mt to 16,121 mt), and
 - c) augment direct support costs (DSC) and other associated costs as per the increased tonnage and taking into account the trend of actual expenditures over the project's implementation period.
2. The total budget increase through this budget revision amounts to US\$ 6,074,498 and includes:
 - a) US\$ 4,683,604 in the value of food transfer (including food value and direct operational costs);
 - b) US\$ 993,497 in DSC costs; and,
 - c) US\$ 397,397 in indirect support costs (ISC) costs.

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION-IN-TIME AND BUDGET INCREASE

Summary of Existing Project Activities

1. The PRRO addresses the basic food needs of 30,000 of the most vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi refugees located in 19 refugee settlements in Iran through targeted relief and recovery activities. In addition, the PRRO increases access to education for refugee girls and provides skills development opportunities for youth.
2. The PRRO's main objectives are: maintaining/improving the level of food security inside the settlements with a focus on improving consumption for the most vulnerable households through the provision of full rations together with the provision of partial rations to vulnerable refugee households; and increasing access to education and human capital development for refugee girls and youth through take home rations.
3. In agreement with the government and UNHCR, the PRRO introduced a new targeting criteria based on vulnerability, which enabled the categorization of refugees into full and partial ration recipients.

Conclusion and Recommendations of the Re-Assessment

4. A targeting validation exercise conducted in July and December 2014 verified a progressive deterioration of the living conditions of refugees following blanket subsidy removals arising from the economic reform plan of the government. The worsening of the economic situation combined with ageing of refugees, resulted in the need to shift 1,500 persons (300 households) who, based on the vulnerability criteria, fall under categories of women headed households, households with elderly and chronically ill members, only one income earner whose food security situation makes them eligible to receive full rations rather than partial rations.
5. PRRO 200310 underwent an independent mid-term Operations Evaluation by the Office of Evaluation in October 2014. While the evaluation findings confirmed the relevance of the operation in its current context, it made a number of recommendations to improve operational effectiveness and to strengthen the programmatic approach through better monitoring of project implementation and improved targeting mechanisms. The report further recommended to improve the gender approach and more actively support self-reliance and livelihood activities for refugees.
6. The timing of the mid-term Operations Evaluation allows WFP to incorporate the evaluation recommendations into the new planning process and strengthen its capacities prior to next project cycle. Given the number of recommendations requiring technical support from the Regional Bureau in order to implement, sufficient time should be allocated for implementation before embarking on a JAM and subsequent formulation of a new project. An extension of 18 months will allow time for implementation of evaluation recommendations and conduct a JAM for WFP's future interventions for refugees.

Purpose of Extension and Budget Increase

7. Through two joint-agency monitoring missions conducted in 2014, the number of vulnerable refugees has been increased by 8 percent. This will result in increased costs to the project due to an increase in proportion of refugees entitled to full-rations, despite the overall beneficiary numbers not changing.

8. Implementing recommendations of the evaluation mission requires a strengthened programme unit. The gaps identified by the evaluation team in the areas of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), gender, Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) and resilience-building will require at least four support missions from the Regional Bureau. In addition, the programme unit will be strengthened by recruiting a Head of Programme at national officer level who will help to strengthen the M&E capacity. This will also ensure integration of the recommendations of the evaluation and enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of future interventions that support refugees in Iran.
9. WFP will increase local purchases whenever feasible to reduce lead times and circumvent lengthy custom clearance processes. During the extension period, WFP Iran will also explore the possibility of utilizing cash or voucher transfers, and will liaise with the Regional Bureau in Cairo on suitable timing of a cash and voucher market feasibility assessment.
10. WFP will identify relevant activities aiming to strengthen the livelihoods, self-reliance and resilience of targeted refugees within the framework of UNHCR's livelihoods strategy process for camp setting and consider the feasibility of including food assistance in this area as and when appropriate.
11. During the extension period, WFP will aim to improve the gender approach of the operation in areas such as participation of women in food distribution committees and the participation of women in decision-making over the use of food through a combination of actions to be put in place by WFP and UNHCR. In discussions with the Regional Bureau, WFP Iran will explore the possibility to conduct a gender assessment in close consultation with UNHCR.
12. WFP will act on the recommendations of the Operations Evaluation to conduct statistically representative post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercises twice per year. The PDM will aim to collect data on cross-cutting information such as gender, protection, accountability, micronutrient deficiencies and anemia levels, food security outcomes and process-related information and findings will feed into JAM planned for fourth quarter of 2015.
13. WFP will aim to triangulate and contextualize findings from the PDM using other qualitative tools such as on-site monitoring, activity monitoring and beneficiary outreach tools.
14. To allow for better informed decisions and to ensure that WFP keeps its obligations on transparency and accountability, outcome information needs will be shared on a regular basis to ensure that the operation is achieving its intended objectives. Adequate frequency for reviewing process information to facilitate decision making will be established following a support mission from the Regional Bureau. M&E reports will be published twice a year. Donor briefing sessions as well as high level and working level coordination meetings with UNHCR and BAFIA will be held every six months.

TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY

Activity	Category of beneficiaries	Current			Increase / Decrease			Revised		
		Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total	Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total	Boys / Men	Girls / Women	Total
General Food Distribution	Partial ration (Ration A) (1,340 kcal/ person/ day	9,500	10,500	20,000	-900	-600	-1,500	8,600	9,900	18,500
	Full ration (Ration B) (2,185 kcal/ person/ day	4,700	5,300	10,000	900	600	1,500	5,600	5,900	11,500
Support to	Primary	-	2,350	2350	-		-	-	2,350	2,350

girls' education	Secondary	-	650	650	-	-	-	-	650	650
	Female teachers	-	200	200	-	-	-	-	200	200
Food For Training	Skills training	100	100	200	75	75	150	75	75	350
TOTAL		14,200	16,000	30,200	-	-	-	14,200	16,000	30,200

*Total number of beneficiaries takes into account that participants in more than one activity are counted only once.

15. No changes in rations or transfer modality are envisaged for the duration of the budget revision, although they will be reviewed and new transfer modalities considered.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (Based on PRRO Document approved in 2013) BY ACTIVITY (g/person/day)				
	GFD (Ration A)	GFD (Ration B)	Support to Girls' Education	Skills training
Wheat flour	300	300		
Vegetable oil	15.3	30.3	24.5*	24.5**
Lentils	33.3	66.6		
Rice		133.3		
Sugar		16		
TOTAL	348.6	546.2	24.5*	24.5**
Total kcal/day	1,340	2,185	216.58	216.58
% kcal from protein	12%	11%		
% kcal from fat	12%	16.2%		
Number of feeding days per year or per month (as applicable)	365 days/year	365 days/year	270 days/year	270 days /year

* 4 litres of oil, equal to 3.68 kg, will be provided to the households sending a girl to school each month for 9 months of scholastic year

**4 litres of oil, equal to 3.68 kg, will be provided to the households sending a youth to skills training. The food ration for the incentives has been calculated based on a household of five members. WFP will support 3 skills training courses per year. Duration of each course is estimated as 3 months.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

16. During the 18 month extension 7,061 mt of mixed commodities will be required to ensure the nutritional status of the most vulnerable refugees is maintained at an acceptable level and that both girls education and skills training classes are supported through take home rations as indicated below:

TABLE 3: FOOD/CASH AND VOUCHER REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY		
Activity	Commodity¹ /	Food requirements (mt)

¹ Please only present overall food requirement. Do not split by commodity.

	Cash & voucher	Current	Increase / Decrease	Revised total
GFD (Partial Ration) Ration A (mt)		5,256	3,492	8,748
GFD (Full Ration) Ration B (mt)		3,583	3,404	6,987
Support to girls' education		217	156	373
Skills training		3	9	12
TOTAL		9,060	7,061	16,121

Hazard / Risk Assessment and Preparedness Planning (if applicable)

17. No new risks were identified during the extension period. The main risks for WFP's continued support to refugees remain largely dependent on a number of factors beyond WFP's control, such as timely provision of services and inputs by the Government and UNHCR and shortfalls in funding that can result in pipeline breaks and subsequent food insecurity of the refugees.

Approved by:

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Executive Director, WFP

Date

ANNEX I-A

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (mt)	Value (US\$)	Value (US\$)
<i>Food Transfers</i>	-	-	
Cereals	5,688	2,767,933	
Pulses	747	818,868	
Oil and fats	522	690,180	
Mixed and blended food	-	0	
Others	104	45,136	
Total Food Transfers	7,061	4,322,117	
External Transport		197,610	
LTSH		146,164	
ODOC Food		17,713	
Food and Related Costs ¹		4,683,604	
C&V Transfers		-	
C&V Related costs		-	
Cash and Vouchers and Related Costs		-	
Capacity Development & Augmentation		-	
<i>Direct Operational Costs</i>			4,683,604
Direct support costs (see Annex I-B)			993,497
Total Direct Project Costs			5,677,101
Indirect support costs (,0 percent) ²			397,397
TOTAL WFP COSTS,			6,074,498

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

² The indirect support cost rate may be amended by the Board during the project.

ANNEX I-B

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
WFP Staff and Staff-Related	
Professional staff *	43,904
General service staff **	563,048
Danger pay and local allowances	0
Subtotal	606,952
Recurring and Other	156,050
Capital Equipment	38,300
Security	50,000
Travel and transportation	90,395
Assessments, Evaluations and Monitoring¹	51,800
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	993,497

* Costs to be included in this line are under the following cost elements: International Professional Staff (P1 to D2), 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

¹ 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.

MAP



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

BAFIA	bureau of aliens and foreign immigrants' affairs
DSC	direct support cost
GFD	general food distribution
ISC	indirect support costs
JAM	joint assessment mission
LTSH	landside transport, storage and handling
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
ODOC	other direct operational costs
PDM	post distribution monitoring
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
UNHCR	United Nations high Commissioner for Refugees
VAM	vulnerability assessment and mapping
WFP	World Food Programme

