

INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION

REVISION

Syrian Arab Republic interim country strategic plan, revision 04

Gender and age marker code: 4

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	January 2019–December 2021	<i>No change</i>	January 2019–December 2021
Beneficiaries	7 886 500	3 384 250¹	11 270 750
Total cost (USD)	2 969 830 945	109 641 639	3 079 472 585
Transfer	2 605 002 140	103 780 920	2 708 783 060
Implementation	109 505 059	144 000	109 649 059
Direct Support Costs	74 066 459	0	74 066 459
Sub-total	2 788 573 658	103 924 920	2 892 498 578
Indirect Support Costs	181 257 288	5 716 719	186 974 007

RATIONALE

1. Food insecurity rose to unprecedented levels across all the governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic in 2020. Around 12.4 million people (60 percent of the population)² are estimated to be food insecure³, representing an increase of 57 percent from 2019. Food insecurity, fuelled by conflict and mass population displacement, was further exacerbated by the impacts of the financial crisis in Lebanon and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as continued economic deterioration.
2. The purchasing power of Syrian households was further eroded as the Syrian pound continued to lose its value, while food prices increased by 236 percent from December 2019 to December 2020. Furthermore, projections indicate that significant improvements in food security are unlikely in the near-to-medium term.⁴
3. As food insecurity soared, vulnerable segments of the Syrian population, unable to access diversified diets, have become at an increased risk of malnutrition. The national prevalence of chronic malnutrition stood at 12.6 percent in 2019 (SMART survey), peaking at 22 percent in some governorates. While no nationwide nutrition assessment was conducted in Syria in 2020, available data from north-western Syria highlights that chronic malnutrition among children reached 33 percent in September 2020, an increase of 74 percent from May

¹ This increase is higher than the increase under activities 1 and 4 introduced through this revision due to the use of an enhanced methodology to account for overlap between activities.

² According to the United Nations Syria Population Task Force, the total population of the Syrian Arab Republic is estimated to be approximately 20.8 million as of August 2020.

³ Including 1.3 million severely food-insecure. Furthermore, 54.8 percent of interviewed female headed households were found to be food insecure compared to 50.5 percent of male headed households (noting that only 14 percent of the interviewed households were female headed). Source: World Food Programme/Whole-of-Syria Food Security Sector. 2020 Food Security Assessment/Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSA/FSLA). January 2021.

⁴ World Food Programme. Socio-Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Syrian Arab Republic, October 2020: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000120093/download/>.

2019. Similarly, the prevalence of acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) reached 11 percent in September 2020.⁵

4. Responding to the continuing deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation, BR 04 will increase the number of targeted beneficiaries under activity 1 (*general food assistance*) and activity 4 (*prevention of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies*), as well as introduce a new activity under strategic outcome (SO4) to accommodate increased demand from United Nations partners to use WFP cash-based transfer (CBT) platforms to deliver complementary assistance.⁶

CHANGES

Strategic orientation

5. This budget revision introduces a new activity under SO4. The new activity is as follows:

[New activity] Activity 10: Provide on-demand cash-based transfer services to humanitarian partners.⁷

6. Previous revisions:

- BR01 (approved by ED/DG-FAO March 2020): (i) expanded the number of targeted beneficiaries under SO1 (ii) adjusted the number of beneficiaries in the nutrition programme; (iii) added a new activity, UNHAS (SO4) and (iv) included adjustments to the food ration, implementation and DSC costs in line with the expansion to the programme.⁸
- BR02 (approved by ED/DG-FAO June 2020): i) increased the beneficiary caseload of activity 1; and ii) adjusted the beneficiary caseload of activity 4.⁹
- BR03 (approved by ED/DG-FAO December 2020): Extended the duration of the ICSP by twelve months through December 2021; ii) adjusted the beneficiaries targeted under activities 2, 3, and 4; iii) scaled up the use of CBT; and iv) adjusted the food rations provided under activity 1.¹⁰

Strategic outcomes

Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis

7. Under activity 1, WFP will increase the number of beneficiaries from 6.4 to 8.3 million¹¹ to assist all severely food-insecure households and populations living in camps and half of the moderately food-insecure households.¹² The current demographic and socio-economic

⁵ OCHA. [Recent Developments in Northwest Syria \(Situation Report 21 – October 2020\)](#)

⁶ WFP Syria has been providing this service to UNFPA and other UN partners since early 2020. However, the creation of a new activity is required as per updated HQ guidance.

⁷ This project has been implemented since 2020 using the special account for Cash and Voucher service platform. As per new corporate guidance, this budget revision will introduce a stand-alone activity in the ICSP to enable the continuation of on-demand cash transfer services.

⁸ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000113603/download/>

⁹ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117177/download/>

¹⁰ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000121810/download/>

¹¹ This figure also includes a contingency to assist 500,000 people affected by sudden onset shocks, already introduced in the third budget revision.

¹² WFP prioritizes the most vulnerable among the moderately food-insecure households for general food assistance. Moderately food-insecure households not covered by WFP's general food assistance are expected to benefit from WFP's livelihoods and resilience activities or from emergency food assistance and livelihoods support of other members of the food security sector.

targeting criteria and the associated beneficiary selection tool¹³ will be applied to enrol the additional beneficiaries.

8. WFP will also increase the number of targeted children aged 6 to 23 months under malnutrition prevention (activity 4) from 331,000 to 375,000 to ensure that the nutritionally vulnerable members of the additional households under activity 1 receive specialized nutritious food and nutrition support.¹⁴
9. The new activity 10 is a service delivery activity that will enable the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to transfer complementary assistance to PLWG receiving assistance under activity 4, using WFP-managed CBT platforms. The existing platforms can be further expanded for the use of other agencies, should such requirements arise.

Transfer modalities

10. The additional beneficiaries under activity 1 will receive in-kind¹⁵ food transfers in line with the currently used rations for populations living in camps and severely and moderately food-insecure households. Children aged 6-23 months under activity 4 will receive lipid-based nutrient supplement - medium quantity as per the current practices.

Supply chain challenges

11. WFP will continue rigorous supply chain optimization efforts such as regional sourcing and economizing on transport modalities as a mitigation measure to minimize the growth in operational expenses induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, rapid inflation, continued exchange rate fluctuations as well as reduced availability of fuel and truck spare parts for internal transport. WFP will continue expanding in-country food pre-positioning while working to ensure effective and flexible sourcing through local, regional and global food procurement sources. WFP will also continue to plan for possible adjustments to the food basket based on commodity availability.

Risk Management

12. The risks and mitigation measures identified in the previously approved BR03 remain valid. The increase in beneficiary targets amplifies the strategic risk related to funding; the funding gap continues to widen while the level of needs rises. Therefore, WFP will advocate for increased, timely and predictable funding from a diversified donor base in order to deliver life-saving food and nutrition assistance. In case funding shortfalls persist, WFP will resort to a prioritization approach in line with received contributions and operational capability.
13. The Country Office will also take additional analytical and security risk management efforts to reduce the likelihood and impact of civil unrest and crime on the supply chain

¹³ Please refer to BR02 and BR03 for more details. The beneficiary selection tool will continue to be implemented until the Vulnerability Needs Review (VNR) is rolled out.

¹⁴ Activity 4 beneficiaries are selected among activity 1 households.

¹⁵ CBT and hybrid modalities cannot be scaled up beyond the ceiling introduced in BR03 given challenges in implementation due to the volatility of the exchange rate of the Syrian pound and continued inflation. Furthermore, the number of beneficiaries receiving CBT will be reduced to a maximum of 500,000 instead of the initially planned/approved 1 million beneficiaries. This reduction in CBT target (beneficiaries will still be assisted with in-kind food) led to the reduction in the budgeted CBT total transfer value.

and final distribution points, as these threats may increase due to the volatility of the economic situation.

14. The implementation of all activities will comply with COVID-19 precautionary measures and standard operating procedures developed in 2020.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY

Strategic outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0–18 years)	Boys (0–18 years)	Total
1	1	In-kind	Current	1 390 464	1 335 936	1 875 200	1 798 400	6 400 000
			Increase/decrease	401 931	386 169	542 050	519 850	1 850 000
			Revised	1 792 395	1 722 105	2 417 250	2 318 250	8 250 000
	1	CBTs	Current	217 260	208 740	293 000	281 000	1 000 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	217 260	208 740	293 000	281 000	1 000 000
	1	Total	Current	1 390 464	1 335 936	1 875 200	1 798 400	6 400 000
			Increase/decrease	401 931	386 169	542 050	519 850	1 850 000
			Revised	1 792 395	1 722 105	2 417 250	2 318 250	8 250 000
	2	In-kind	Current	0	0	573 300	596 700	1 170 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	0	0	573 300	596 700	1 170 000
	2	CBTs	Current	0	0	95 550	99 450	195 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	0	0	95 550	99 450	195 000
	2	Total	Current	0	0	634 550	660 450	1 295 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	0	0	634 550	660 450	1 295 000
2	3	In-kind	Current	233 555	224 396	314 975	302 075	1 075 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	233 555	224 396	314 975	302 075	1 075 000
	3	CBTs	Current	309 596	297 455	417 525	400 425	1 425 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY

Strategic outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0–18 years)	Boys (0–18 years)	Total
			Revised	309 596	297 455	417 525	400 425	1 425 000
	3	Capacity strengthening	Current	86 904	83 496	117 200	112 400	400 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	86 904	83 496	117 200	112 400	400 000
	3	Total	Current	630 054	605 346	849 700	814 900	2 900 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	543 150	521 850	732 500	702 500	2 500 000¹⁶
3	4	In-kind	Current	0	0	239 721	230 320	470 041
			Increase/decrease	0	0	34 569	33 213	67 782
			Revised	0	0	274 290	263 533	537 823
	4	CBTs	Current	410 404	0	21 600	0	432 004
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	410 404	0	21 600	0	432 004
	4	Total	Current	410 404	0	261 321	230 320	902 045
			Increase/decrease	0	0	34 569	33 213	67 782
			Revised	410 404	0	295 890	263 533	969 827
	5	Total	Current	66 500	0	37 300	31 200	135 000
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	66 500	0	37 300	31 200	135 000
Total (without overlap)			Current	1 687 381	1 282 128	2 499 308	2 417 683	7 886 500
			Increase/decrease	724 088	550 186	1 072 502	1 037 475	3 384 250¹⁷

¹⁶ Capacity strengthening beneficiaries under activity 3 are indirect beneficiaries (tier 2) and therefore they were removed from the total beneficiary figure for the activity.

¹⁷ This increase is higher than the increase under activities 1 and 4 introduced through this revision due to the use of an enhanced methodology to account for overlap between activities.

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY								
Strategic outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0–18 years)	Boys (0–18 years)	Total
			Revised	2 411 469	1 832 314	3 571 810	3 455 158	11 270 750

Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATIONS (g/person/day) OR CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY												
	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3				
	Activity 1			Activity 2			Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity 5			
Beneficiary type	Vulnerable Syrians in camps	Severely food-insecure Syrians	Moderately food-insecure Syrians	Newly displaced vulnerable Syrians	Pre-primary and primary schoolchildren	Out of school children	Vulnerable Syrians	Children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls	Children aged 6–59 months	Pregnant and lactating women and girls		
Modality	Food/ CBTs	Food	Food/ CBTs	Food	CBTs	Food	Food/ CBTs	CBTs	Food/ CBTs	Food/ CBTs	Food	Food
Cereals	300	233	33	167			70		233			
Pulses	120	100		73					100			
Oil	49	42	36	36					42			
Salt	7	7		7					7			
Sugar	40	33	33	33					33			
Fortified date bars							80					
Yeast	0.5						0.375					

**TABLE 2: FOOD RATIONS (g/person/day) OR CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day)
BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

	Strategic outcome 1								Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3		
	Activity 1					Activity 2			Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity 5	
Beneficiary type	Vulnerable Syrians in camps	Severely food-insecure Syrians		Moderately food-insecure Syrians		Newly displaced vulnerable Syrians	Pre-primary and primary schoolchildren	Out of school children	Vulnerable Syrians	Children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls	Children aged 6–59 months	Pregnant and lactating women and girls
Modality	Food/CBTs	Food	Food/CBTs	Food	CBTs	Food	Food/CBTs	CBTs	Food/CBTs	Food/CBTs	Food	Food
Ready-to-eat rations						458						
Lipid-based nutrient supplement – LNS-MQ										50		
Lipid-based nutrient supplement – LNS-LQ											100	100
Total kcal/day	2 075	1 690	565	1 307		2 075	344		1 690	255	510	510
% kcal from protein	10.8	10.8	1.5	10.3		17.1	5.6		10.8	10	10	10
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)			0.38		0.38		0.7	1	0.5	1.2		
Number of feeding days per year	360	360	360	360	360	5	220	300	180	360	90	120

LNS-MQ: medium-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement; LNS-LQ: large-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE

Food type/ cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	784 981	364 299 625	41 561	19 497 912	826 542	383 797 537
Pulses	407 460	252 408 487	31 345	18 414 590	438 805	270 823 078
Oil and Fats	148 514	190 097 288	13 786	17 645 567	162 299	207 742 855
Mixed and blended	98 761	189 309 217	915	2 312 907	99 676	191 622 124
Other	744 294	421 572 572	79 812	44 421 242	824 106	465 993 814
Total (food)	2 184 009	1 417 687 189	167 420	102 292 219	2 351 428	1 519 979 407
Cash-based transfers		588 513 440		- 34 200 000		554 313 440
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	2 184 009	2 006 200 629	167 420	68 092 219	2 351 428	2 074 292 847

COST BREAKDOWN

15. Revision 04 will increase the ICSP budget by USD 109 million; the costs are calculated based on previously established and approved rates:

COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2 / SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 8 / SDG Target 17.16	TOTAL
Strategic outcome	01	02	03	04	
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	86 382 685	0	2 422 235	14 976 000	103 780 920
Implementation	0	0	0	144 000	144 000
Direct support costs					0
Subtotal					103 924 920
Indirect support costs					5 716 719
TOTAL					109 641 639

OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)

	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2 / SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 8 / SDG Target 17.16	TOTAL
Strategic outcome	01	02	03	04	
Focus Area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	Crisis Response	
Transfer	2 094 002 776	330 108 830	237 571 169	47 100 285	2 708 783 060
Implementation	88 411 922	11 996 192	9 096 944	144 000	109 649 059
Direct support costs	57 327 618	9 089 185	6 425 792	1 223 864	74 066 459
Subtotal	2 239 742 315	351 194 208	253 093 906	48 468 149	2 892 498 578
Indirect support costs	145 583 251	22 827 623	16 451 104	2 112 029	186 974 007
TOTAL	2 385 325 566	374 021 831	269 545 010	50 580 178	3 079 472 585