

NOTIFICATION OF DELAY OF PROJECT OR PROGRAMME INCEPTION

*Notification of delay of project/programme start (As per Decision B.18/29, for concrete adaptation projects/programmes, the Board decided to consider the start date to be **the first day of the project/ programme's inception workshop**)*

Implementing Entity Name: World Food Programme			
AF Project/programme ID: AF00000165			
Project/programme Title: Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services			
Country(ies): El Salvador, Honduras			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	October 2022 (Decision B.39/35)		
Expected Project/programme Start (date)	01 February 2024	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	31 January 2029

1. Reasons/ justification for delay in the project's/programme's inception and the number of months of delay from the project approval date

The project inception has suffered an unforeseen delay, mainly due to:

- The process of developing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with the Executing Entities has taken longer than anticipated. This was partly due to the change in Government administration in Honduras, which required additional time for officials to familiarize themselves with the project's content, scope, and commitments.
- In El Salvador, the Salvadoran Agency for International Cooperation (ESCO), which is part of the Presidential House and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has cleared the draft MOU and SOPs, but took considerable time to understand the approved project document, requesting clarifications and providing suggestions for actions to be incorporated into the project implementation.
- In Honduras, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) is currently reviewing aspects related to procurement, staffing, and budget management services, which has required additional time to ensure project robustness and alignment with regulatory requirements. In this regard, WFP and SERNA are actively working to find a mutually beneficial solution to expedite the resolution of the above-mentioned issues.

WFP is actively working with the relevant authorities of SERNA to speed up reviewing and negotiating the terms and conditions in the documents. However, these activities are expected to delay signing the SOP and MOUs with governments and, consequently, delaying the development of the inception workshop.

It is estimated that an additional 6 months will be required to finalize negotiations and progress in signing agreements with both governments and related actions. Thus, the new proposed start date of the project is February 1, 2024.

2. Approaches/ mitigation measures to ensure the start of implementation

To ensure that the project starts within the proposed timeframe, the following measures have been implemented:

- To facilitate the signature of the MOUs and SOP, bilateral meetings have been held with both countries' representatives to analyze the requests of national authorities and clarify aspects related to the agreed arrangements.
- WFP is closely following the development of these discussions and is open to further negotiation with governments to adopt the strategies necessary to ensure the project's success.

3. Challenges (in addition to those mentioned in section 1) that may extend the project/ programme completion date)

Other factors that could affect the timely implementation and achievement of project objectives include:

- The ongoing process of review and approval of the terms set out in the approved Project Document by the Government of Honduras could affect the project's expected timeline.
- In addition, prioritizing the project's goals over political agendas is crucial, especially with potential government changes in the future.
- Finally, although WFP works diligently, political considerations and competing priorities within these institutions could inadvertently slow decision-making processes and approvals.

While WFP remains optimistic about overcoming these challenges, we understand the importance of addressing them promptly and effectively to ensure the successful completion of the project. WFP's interest is to ensure the well-being of the population in the Goascorán basin, which is part of its prioritized areas, and to start project activities as soon as possible.

Implementing Entity certification

This notification for the delay on project/programme inception has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, and the delay on project/programme start has been agreed upon by participating executing entities. It has been notified to the designated authority(ies) (DA).

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