

SO105020 Avian and Human Influenza Preparedness

B/R No.: 8

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BUDGET REVISION OF SO FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason For Delay
<u>ORIGINATOR</u>				
Carlos Veloso Chief, ODEP	<i>Carlos Veloso</i>	15/2/10	15/2/10	—
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Programme Officer, RMBP	<i>[Signature]</i>	18-2-10	17-2-10	—
Chief, RMBP	<i>[Signature]</i>	27/02/10	27/02/10	—
Chief, ODLT	<i>MM</i>	17/2/10	17/2/10	—
Director, ODL	<i>[Signature]</i>	17/2/10	17/2/10	—
Director, ODX	<i>[Signature]</i>	18/2/10	19/2/10	—
Deputy Chief Operating Officer	<i>[Signature]</i>			
Director & Deputy CFO, RM	<i>CA</i>	16/2/10	16/2/10	—
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Executive Director & COO, OD	<i>AM Modulle</i>	19/2		

PROJECT 105020

	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
ODOC (US\$)	US\$ 4,127,308	US\$ 3,006,000	US\$ 7,133,308
DSC (US\$)	US\$ 8,998,710	US\$ 2,549,022	US\$ 11,547,732
ISC (US\$)	US\$ 918,821	US\$ 388,852	US\$ 1,307,673
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$ 14,044,839	US\$ 5,943,874	US\$ 19,988,713

TYPE OF REVISION

☒ Additional DSC
 ☒ Additional ODOC
 ☒ Extension in time
 ☐ Change in project orientation

NATURE OF REVISION:

A budget revision to special operation (SO) 105020 "Avian and Human Influenza Preparedness" is proposed to increase the budget by US\$5.9 million and extend in time the operation from January to December 2010. Through this budget revision, WFP will aim at meeting WFP's evolving emergency preparedness requirements. The mainstreaming of tools developed under this special operation and aimed at strengthening WFP and partners' capacities and business continuity in the context of a pandemic, is expected during the extension phase.

BACKGROUND:

SO 105020 was approved in December 2005 with a budget of US\$2,992,338 and for an initial duration of six months to address the impacts that avian and human influenza could potentially have on WFP's operations. Six budget revisions have been approved to date to intensify planning and preparedness activities within the scope of the special operation;

one additional technical revision to adjust the Indirect Support Costs portion of the budget was approved on 16 November 2009. The current approved budget is US\$14 million.

In April 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported on the initial spread of a novel influenza virus, A/H1N1. By 11 June 2009, the declaration of a global influenza pandemic was announced, and the Secretary General asked United Nations agencies to plan for the impact that the pandemic may have on developing countries.

In response to the request from the Secretary General, WFP has scaled-up its pandemic readiness activities by utilising tools developed within the framework of the SO, including refining contingency planning, conducting multi-stakeholder consultations, and updating operations continuity guidance. WFP – (1) under its commitment to support national governments in Dr. David Nabarro's Urgent Needs Identification and Prioritisation (UNIP) process, (2) in line with its obligations set out in the United Nations Consolidated Action Plan for Avian and Human Influenza (UNCAPAHI) and (3) as the lead agency for the global Logistics Cluster – continues to work in close collaboration with United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) and other partners.

Below is a summary of the key activities undertaken in 2009:

- *Humanitarian Pandemic Operations Consultation (HPOC)*: In June 2009, WFP conducted an inter-agency technical consultation on operations continuity. The consultation sought to establish practical logistics guidance and tools for operations based on recommendations made during the Pandemic Logistics and Learning Exercise in November 2008 in Malaysia. Participants from the Logistics Cluster, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NGOs, IFRC, donors and others applied experiences gained from the Pandemic Logistics and Learning Exercise to further develop plans of action for operations continuity in a pandemic environment. Thematic areas addressed include logistics, procurement, health and safety, security and information and communication technologies (ICT).

- *Regional Pandemic Preparedness Planning Meeting*: In June 2009, WFP implemented a Regional Pandemic Preparedness Planning Meeting in Johannesburg to develop Operational Action Plans (OAPs) that identify measures necessary to achieve operational readiness. WFP country offices, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as well as IFRC took part to the meeting. The meeting also provided a forum to review and validate technical recommendations resulting from the HPOC. A follow-up exercise was completed in July in Cairo, validating and refining the comprehensive OAP template. Participants included United Nations agencies, NGOs, IFRC and the Government of Egypt. Each WFP country office has since been tasked with preparing an OAP in synergy with the UNCT plan, with the objective of harmonising influenza response among humanitarian actors and national governments. Support missions from headquarters and on-line trainings have assisted the timely completion of this process. To date, over 55 country offices have completed their OAPs; progress is ongoing.

- *Civil-military coordination*: Recognising that effective civil-military coordination will be a key consideration for humanitarian operations in a pandemic environment, WFP has engaged with 24 countries on national pandemic planning for both the continuity of critical services and humanitarian coordination. WFP Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director opened high level discussions with senior national planners in May 2009 in Rome, with subsequent regional workshops taking place in Nairobi (August 2009), Nepal (September 2009), Uganda (October 2009) and Ghana (December 2009). In accordance with WFP's Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework and the set of guidelines on the use of civil military assets endorsed by the United Nations, WFP continues to effectively engage with civil and military planners to strengthen coordination for emergency response under pandemic conditions.

- *Staff Health and Safety*: As part of WFP's extensive Staff Health and Safety programme, WFP rolled out its 'training-of-trainers' initiative for WFP staff and partners in Bangkok (February 2009), Dakar (April 2009), Johannesburg (June 2009) and Nairobi (July 2009), with a video training for the Panama Regional Bureau (May 2009). In Rome, WFP conducted pandemic awareness sessions in October and November to train all headquarters staff on basic personal protective measures and address administrative and human resources concerns as colleagues prepare for the northern hemisphere's influenza season and to assess any existing gaps requiring urgent response measures.

The following most prominent outputs have been achieved since the start of the operation:

- *Participation in United Nations-wide discussions and planning events*: The WFP Influenza Task Force, led by the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, remains an active member of the Technical Working Group on Avian and Human Influenza, high level ministerial meetings and the Deputy Secretary-General's Steering Committee, an essential strategic coordination body for the humanitarian community to enable response and support during a possible pandemic event.

- *Completing a corporate preparedness framework:* A comprehensive effort has been made to prepare WFP operations for the impact of a severe pandemic on its operations. WFP has produced operational action plans for over 55 of its offices globally, addressing contingency planning at the country level – in line with United Nations Country Team and national planning guidance. Logistics corridor assessments have also been completed along key transport corridors in Africa and Asia. Tamiflu and other key medical supplies have also been dispatched to all country offices to ensure that staff are protected and can maintain critical functions.

- *Maintaining a corporate management/oversight structure and information management system:* A number of assessments and studies resulted in the implementation of a WFP headquarters operational continuity simulation in November 2009. Following this table-top exercise with senior management and executive staff, WFP is working to incorporate feedback into the draft headquarters Operations Continuity guidance. WFP is also finalising the second phase of its geospatial tool, linking real time data to the simulation software to generate pandemic scenarios based on fixed variables.

- *Continued tracking of avian and human influenza and development of analysis of its potential impact on livelihoods and food insecurity:* Under the technical direction of WHO and the United Nations System Coordinator, WFP has responded to the H1N1 pandemic by reviewing regular gap analyses and lessons learned to adapt tools and procedures appropriately based on the anticipated impact the virus may have. WFP continues to monitor the spread of the H1N1, paying particular attention to the impact it is having on country offices, and planning for the uninterrupted provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable groups.

- *Pilot Telecommuting and ICT disaster recovery in Asia:* This initiative was successfully completed. Country offices in the Asia region have basic emergency equipment to operate in the event a pandemic. Telecommuting was tested in a number of offices including the Regional Bureau in Bangkok.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

A 12-month extension-in-time of the operation until 31 December 2010 will allow WFP to further adapt and refine its tools within the original scope of the SO and mainstream activities and trainings that also contribute to broader emergency preparedness.

Priority activities for 2010, pending any new developments in the current state of the virus, will include:

1. Regional testing/validation of OAPs by region based on operational linkages and corridors. Tentatively two table-top exercises and two field level simulations are planned;
2. Specialized logistics assessments with a focus on updating corridor analyses and conducting additional assessments in regions with priority programmes;
3. Further operations continuity planning and consultation that aim to harmonize overall preparedness planning in line with UNCT and national plans, as well as mobilizing specialized emergency equipment as necessary;
4. Further development of a geospatial tool development, designed within the framework of this special operation with an aim to link data on humanitarian assets with real-time data critical to operations planning;
5. Continued staff health and safety activities, including updating of online guidance and tentatively 10 targeted trainings, funds permitting;
6. Seek to finalise the WFP Headquarters Operations Continuity Plan, in collaboration with all relevant Divisions and senior staff;
7. Update and finalise a global Logistics Concept of Operations for influenza response, together with the Logistics Cluster, which outlines responsibilities for coordinated logistics services in the event of a severe pandemic; and
8. Actively participate in and provide technical and strategic input to all interagency and international initiatives addressing the pandemic threat and specifically engage with partners through existing fora, including the Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness project, with a view to share best practices and mainstream tools for effective and coordinated pandemic preparedness.

Additionally, a 12-month extension will provide the necessary time to implement further capacity building activities that will enable WFP country offices, partner agencies and national authorities to strengthen readiness capacities for operations under pandemic conditions. This will enable country offices to make use of the tools developed under this operation and apply them within the scope of broader emergency preparedness

This extension in time until 31 December 2010 and budget increase of US\$5,943,874 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:

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ERD

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