

Yemen Project No. 200130
Air Passenger Service and Logistics Cluster Coordination in Support of the Humanitarian
Response in Sa'adah
B/R No.: 2 @.....

BUDGET REVISION OF SO 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 Office or Regional Bureau on behalf of Country Office
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Project Budget & Programming Officer, RMBP
Chief, RMBP
Chief, ODLT
Director, ODL
Director, ODI (<i>ICT operations only</i>)
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Director

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
ODOC (US\$)	490,041	382,492	872,533
DSC (US\$)	390,964	214,495	605,459
ISC (US\$)	61,670	41,789	103,459
Total WFP cost (US\$)	942,675	638,776	1,581,451

TYPE OF REVISION

Additional DSC
 Additional ODOC
 Extension in time
 Change in project orientation
 Other

NATURE OF REVISION:

- Extension in time of the project until 31st December 2011
- An increase in ODOC and DSC to support the activities detailed below.

BACKGROUND:

1. The security situation in the Yemen continues to deteriorate with the secessionist movement in the South, tribal fighting in the North, reported Al Qaeda operations and now, like many other countries in the region, increasing opposition to the current regime and consequent political unrest.
2. At the same time, the seven-year intermittent civil conflict in northern Yemen has led to extensive displacements of people, damage to infrastructure, and general insecurity. While access to areas outside of Sa'adah town has improved since the UN office was opened in June 2007, more than one year after the February 2010 cease-fire, access to beneficiaries is still a major challenge for the growing number of humanitarian actors in Sa'adah town, limiting their ability to provide regular assistance and hampering needs assessments in Sa'adah, Al Jawf and Amran governorates. Landmines, unexploded ordnances, and damage to transport routes present further challenges to access.
3. In February 2010 the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) requested the formal activation of the Logistics Cluster and the establishment of UNHAS in Yemen. In response, WFP launched Special Operation 200130 "Air Passenger Service and Logistics Cluster Coordination in Support of the Humanitarian Response in Sa'adah". The Humanitarian Country Team has stressed the necessity to continue and maintain coordinated and cohesive logistics systems to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items within Yemen.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

4. The following activities have been implemented to date:
 - **Logistics Cluster Coordination:** WFP established a Logistics Cluster Coordination cell in Sana'a with a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator and support staff. Regular logistics coordination meetings are taking place in order to support operational decision making, relevant logistics information products, (including maps) are distributed to the humanitarian community through a dedicated Yemen operations page on the Logistics Cluster website and a moderated mailing list.
 - **Mobile Storage:** WFP purchased two mobile storages with the capacity 350 Metric Tones each, in order to address gaps for storage. One of the mobile storage has been allocated to Mazrak IDP camp for common services.
 - **Air Operations:** From May 2010 to March 2011, WFP facilitated 47 flights for the humanitarian community between Sana'a and Sa'adah town. A total 525 passengers flew from 15 agencies. The WFP/UNHAS operates based on cost recovery, where each passenger is charged 150 USD for a one-way flight. During the period that WFP/UNHAS has operated in Yemen, a total of 137,208 USD has been recovered from the agencies, and utilized by WFP/UNHAS operation to cover additional costs. The flights have had a 78 percent utilization rate of the average target capacity.
 - **Global Customs Agreement:** Logistics Cluster facilitated with Yemen customs authorities the Global Customs Model agreement for the facilitation and speedy clearance of humanitarian relief items in the country.
 - **Contingency plan:** A contingency plan based on the possible deterioration of the current situation has been put in place, including the use of in country Logistics assets.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

5. Since the launch of the SO, the Humanitarian Country Team has stressed the necessity to continue and maintain coordinated and cohesive logistics systems to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items within Yemen. This is particularly relevant given the recent security developments with the civil unrest.
6. In line with the continued HCT request, this special operation was revised and extended until end May 2011. Now the HCT has requested that the UNHAS air operation be extended once more, this time till the end of December 2011. The extension in time for this BR will provide the humanitarian community with continued secure access for staff and light cargo to Sa'adah town until the volatility is reduced and road travel can be authorized.
7. The extension of the SO is in line with the UNHCT request given the importance attached to both the logistic activities and the UNHAS operation. The latter is seen as particularly relevant given the recent security developments related to the civil unrest and the need to provide the humanitarian community with continued secure access for staff and light cargo to Sa'adah town until the volatility is reduced and road travel can again be authorized.

Air Operations

8. **Sa'adah Governorate in the North:** No travel authorization is currently issued by United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) for UN staff to travel by road from Sana'a to Sa'adah, or most areas of the country that are under the control of the opposition or tribes. Land routes from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into Sa'adah governorate are also currently off-limits. Kidnappings and car hijackings have been frequently reported on the main road connecting Sana'a and Sa'adah through the conflict area of Harf Sufyan, and tribal checkpoints. A secondary road running through Al Jawf governorate is considered equally unsafe, as the entire governorate of Al Jawf is a "no-go" area for UN and many I/NGOs. A third side road through western Sa'adah governorate travels through conflict-prone Al Houthi territory. Landmines and unexploded ordnances provide further obstacles to its use.
9. Based on the current situation, it is not anticipated that authorization for road travel will be given to any UN staff, or most I/NGO staff, in the foreseeable future.
10. The air operation will continue to be based on partial cost recovery for passenger air services as per the attached SOP. Funds raised will continue to be utilized during the project period to meet the additional costs encountered by the aviation activities.

Medical and Security Evacuation:

11. The UNHAS operation will provide provision for air passenger services in case of medical or security evacuations.
12. Aviation staff will continue to be deployed in Sana'a until the end of December 2011 in order to support these activities, including flight planning for UNHAS, liaison between UNHAS and the User Group and to manage the overall air operation.

Logistics Cluster

13. One of the serious obstacles to the effective and timely provision of assistance that humanitarian actors are facing across Yemen is the clearance and customs control of relief items. Though a model agreement for the facilitation and speedy clearance (fast track) of humanitarian goods has been presented to the Government, further coordination and support is required towards the development of structured government systems and procedures. The Logistics Cluster will install two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) which include floor slabs, drainage and security fencing to be used free of charges as common services at IDP camps at Mazrak (North East/Haradh District). The humanitarian community has stressed the need to continue to maintain coordinated and cohesive logistics systems through the Logistics Cluster approach with more coordination, shared information and provision of GIS support to the humanitarian actors. This will ensure the uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items and balance the overlap assistance within Yemen.

In light of the above, this budget revision for the extension in time of the project until 31 December 2011 and overall budget increase of US\$ 638,776 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and COO.

DISTRIBUTION:

DED and COO

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OD Registry

Director, ODI (ICT operations only)

Director, ODL

Director, ODX

Regional Director

Programme Officer, RMBP

Programming Assistant, RMBP

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RB Programme Advisor

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