
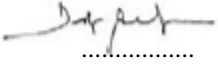


Syria SO No. 200477

Logistics & Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination to Support Humanitarian Operations in Syria
B/R No.: 01

➤ BUDGET REVISION FOR SOs FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE DED, COO

	<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		03/01/2013	03/01/2013
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Mr. Daly Belgasmi Regional Director		03/01/2013	03/01/2013
Ms. Michelle Barrett Project Budget and Programming Officer, RMBP
Mr. Laurent Bukera Chief, RMBP
Mr. Adrian van der Knaap Chief, ODLT
Mr. Wolfgang Herbinger Director, ODL
Mr. Sean O'Brien Director and Deputy CFO, RMB
Mr. Jakob Kern Director, ODI (ICT operations only)
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
Mr. Amir Abdulla Deputy Executive Director & COO

PROJECT: Syria SO 200477			
Start Date: 20 July 2012 End Date: 31 December 2012 Extension Period: 12 Months			
New End Date: 31 December 2013			
	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
	US\$	US\$	US\$
ODOC	4,582,955	870,400	5,453,355
DSC	2,040,688	2,672,786	4,713,474
ISC	463,655	248,023	711,678
Total WFP cost	7,087,298	3,791,209	10,878,507

<u>TYPE OF REVISION</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional DSC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional ODOC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other

- NATURE OF REVISION:**
1. The budget revision has been undertaken to:
 - a. Extend the operation in time for an additional 12 months;
 - b. Increase the ODOC, DSC and ISC to support the activities detailed below which will take place during the extension of the operation

BACKGROUND:

2. The initial project was for duration of six months at a total of US\$ 7,087,298
3. WFP, in its role as the lead of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors, launched this special operation in order to augment security, logistics and emergency telecommunications activities in support of WFP Emergency Operation in Syria as well as to provide the humanitarian community with adequate logistics and ICT capabilities and enhanced coordination mechanisms to deliver relief items to the affected population in Syria.
4. The worsening situation in Syria has led to extensive displacement of people, damage to infrastructure and general insecurity. The UN estimates that 2.5 million people are now in need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian needs in Syria are also expected to increase with the arrival of winter.
5. WFP, through its on-going emergency operation (EMOP) no. 200339, is providing emergency food assistance to a portion of the affected population in Syria, while remaining ready to scale-up and respond to further humanitarian needs.
6. The UN humanitarian agencies, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and a limited number of NGOs are increasing their assistance programmes and presence throughout Syria and in neighbouring countries. Reviewing the planned pipelines for some agencies such as UNHCR, FAO and DRC, the 2013 figures in term of transport and warehousing, it exceeds 18,000MT (equivalent to 55,000 cubic meters).
7. The increased presence of humanitarian organizations in Syria and in neighbouring countries coupled with the deteriorating security and economic situation is posing a number of challenges to the humanitarian response including greater complexities in coordination and information management.
8. Lack of fuel and increases in its costs are being cited throughout the country. While at the same time the security situation is making access to the affected population by humanitarian workers more challenging and hazardous. During the last few weeks of November 2012, the diesel prices went from 25SYP/Litter to over SYP 60/litters (i.e. by 240%).
9. The fragile nature of the Syrian telecommunications network is also making effective delivery of humanitarian assistance more difficult, whilst access to commercial logistics services, including warehousing and transport, is also becoming very much unpredictable.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

10. Logistics Coordination and Information Management:

To improve inter-agency logistics coordination for the humanitarian community undertaking activities in response to the events in Syria, WFP has established logistics coordination forums in Damascus, Beirut and Amman. Meetings have been held in all three locations every two weeks with over 20 organisations (UN agencies, NGO, donors) in regular attendance.

In order to support operational decision making, relevant logistics information products, including maps, have been distributed to the humanitarian community through a restricted mailing list and a dedicated web based shared folder. This includes information on logistics infrastructure such as access entry points, customs information and transporters/suppliers lists.

To date over 30 logistics information management products have been distributed through a restricted mailing list, of which over 190 stakeholders are members. To ease the access to the logistics information produced, which is not meant for public distribution and cannot be posted on unrestricted websites, a web based shared folder has been created and can be accessed by humanitarian participants.

11. Provision of Logistics Services:

WFP has been providing free logistics services inclusive of surface transportation, storage and handling to humanitarian organisations responding to the current events in Syria. To date, WFP has provided handling services, storage and transportation of approximately 8,500 m³/1,700 MT of food and non-food items on behalf of UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, WHO, DRC and Première Urgence.

Storage Services: WFP's existing storage capacity was expanded through the rental of an additional four warehouses in order to meet the increased storage requirements for both food aid and humanitarian relief items. Thus far, WFP has stored around 4,000 m³ of relief and mission support items for partner organizations. In addition, WFP established a storage facility for use by the humanitarian community in Irbid, Jordan to facilitate the flow of life saving relief items to affected communities.

Transport services: WFP has been providing free transport services inside Syria to the humanitarian community. To this point, WFP has assisted 6 organisations with transport of over 4,700 m³ / 1,000 MT of humanitarian relief items.

12. Establishment of a Fuel Depot:

WFP has established a fuel depot in Damascus intended to serve the WFP light vehicle fleet and, if needed, to be utilised on a cost recovery basis by other UN agencies, implementing partners, and commercial transporters.

13. Support to Inter-agency Emergency Telecommunications Coordination:

An Emergency Telecommunications Coordinator has been deployed to Damascus and, to ensure inter-agency cooperation in ICT, a local emergency telecommunications working group for humanitarian actors has been established in the Syrian capital and meetings are being held on a monthly basis.

14. Enhancement of safety and security:

To mitigate security risks, one armoured vehicle has been procured. However, security upgrades to logistics hubs in the field has not been possible due to limited access.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

15. The growing severity of the conflict in Syria, its spread across a greater geographical area, and the variety of armed groups and actors involved means that the humanitarian crisis is anticipated to continue and to intensify over the coming months.
16. WFP's caseload in Syria has been steadily increasing from 50,000 to the current 1.5 million beneficiaries. WFP will continue to provide assistance to the IDPs in Syria, considering the continuous worsening of the food security situation of the population in movement. UN Agencies and a select number of NGOs have increased their assistance programmes throughout the country. During the year 2013, the interagency workload in terms of NFIs to be served is going to be scaled up to reach 55,000 cubic meters in comparison to 8,000CM done in 2012. In order to enable organisations to respond effectively on the ground, further logistics capacity augmentation is needed to facilitate efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian relief inside the country, and a possible scale up of common logistics and coordination activities in the region.
17. The latest figure, as stated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, estimates that 2.5 million people are now in need of humanitarian assistance. With the fighting intensifying and the winter months approaching the humanitarian situation is likely to continue to deteriorate. As such, and in order to

continue to reinforce the logistics foundation for a comprehensive humanitarian response, an extension in time and an increase in budget to SO 200447 is required.

18. Logistics Coordination:

Further augmentation of logistics coordination structures will be needed in several locations once further access to the affected population in Syria is possible. To ensure a timely and efficient emergency logistics response the coordination mechanism should be enhanced across the region to support cross-border operations.

19. Common Services:

Additional staff (both local and international) will need to be recruited, as it is envisioned that the number of requests for transportation will increase steadily, both in country and across borders. In addition, more warehouse space, and possibly more warehouse locations, will need to be secured on behalf of the humanitarian community, both in Syria and in neighbouring countries.

20. Fuel:

Recent lack of fuel and dramatic increases in the fuel costs are likely to be escalated further and funds will be needed to maintain the already established fuel depot and make it fully operational.

21. Emergency Telecommunications:

Given the volatile situation, telecommunications continue to be a challenge for humanitarian operations. With the continuing insecurity throughout the country, emergency telecommunications are essential to support the safety of staff in the field and effective operations for all actors in the emergency. The Emergency Telecommunications Sector will continue to support these needs by coordinating efforts to obtain government permission for importation and use of communication equipment for humanitarian operations.

22. Security:

To continue mitigation against security risks, WFP will procure one additional armoured vehicles, personal protective equipment, and trauma kits. Moreover, should access permit enhanced security upgrades at key logistics hubs will be undertaken.

23. The unresolved situation and the on-going fighting are making the situation in Syria highly volatile. In light of the above elements, it is clear that there is a critical need for emergency telecommunications and logistics support and coordination to the humanitarian community for the foreseeable future. WFP will continue to monitor the situation and the logistical, safety and telecommunications needs and gaps will continuously be discussed. This budget revision will adjust this special operation to the most immediate needs, however as the situation develops more budget revisions might be needed.

24. With an overall budget increase of **US\$ 3,791,209** and a 12 months extension in time until 31 December 2013 which makes the overall budget for this project for the years 2012 and 2013 USD 10,878,507, this budget revision is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director, COO.

DISTRIBUTION:

DED	Deputy AED	Director, ODL
Chief, ODLT	Director, ODX	Director and Dep. CFO, RMB
Chief, RMBP, ODXP, ODXR	Regional Director	Director, ERD
Country Director	Bgt/Programming Officer, RMBP	RB Programme Advisor
OD Registry	Programming Assistant, RMBP	RB Programme Assistant
Liaison Officer, OD Cairo	<i>Director, ODI (ICT operations <u>only</u>)</i>	Director, ODE