

Syria SO No. 200477

Logistics & Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination to Support Humanitarian Operations in Syria

B/R No.: 03

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➤ 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
<u>CLEARANCE</u>				
Regional Director,
Project Budget & Programming Officer, RMBP
Chief, RMBP
Chief, OSLT
Director, OSL
Director, RMB
Director, OST (<i>ICT operations only</i>)
<u>APPROVAL</u>				
Deputy Executive Director and COO

PROJECT				
Start Date: 20 Jul 2012	End Date: 31 Dec 2013	Extension Period: 12 months	New End Date: 31 Dec 2014	
	Previous Budget		Revision	New Budget
CD&A (ODOC)	US\$ 8,200,247	US\$	12,869,906	US\$ 21,070,153
DSC	US\$ 7,015,588	US\$	703,176	US\$ 7,718,764
ISC	US\$ 1,065,108	US\$	950,116	US\$ 2,015,224
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$ 16,280,943	US\$	14,523,198	US\$ 30,804,141

TYPE OF REVISION

Additional DSC
 Additional CD&A
 Extension in time
 Other

NATURE OF REVISION:

- Extension in time of the project to include the period 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2014.
- An increase in Capacity Development and Augmentation (CD&A, previously ODOC) and DSC to support the extension of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster’s activities, and addition of 3 new components (capacity building of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, airlifts, and Inter-Agency Office and accommodations in Tartous) to support a change in delivery modality, as detailed below.

BACKGROUND:

1. The violence in Syria has escalated since March 2011, spreading throughout the country and severely affecting the main cities of Homs, Hama, Idleb, Dara'a, Deir-es-Zor, Albu Kamal, Qamishli, Hasakh, and Aleppo as well as the capital, Damascus. Populations living in these areas are affected by the impact of a prolonged military siege, as well as the lack of access to basic necessities like food, water, medical supplies, electricity, and fuel.
2. To date, it is estimated by the United Nations that over 110,000 people have died due to the conflict and that 6.8 million people have been directly affected by the crisis and need urgent humanitarian assistance. Directly affected populations include those injured; and families forced to flee their home areas. Currently, there are over 2,100,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt.
3. Furthermore, the conflict is hindering the effective importation and movement of goods as well as the continuation of normal levels of trade within Syria. Insecurity is further hampering the ability of humanitarian actors to provide humanitarian assistance.
4. Similarly, humanitarian emergency responders rely on technology services for all aspects of their operations from reporting, coordinating, and communicating, to ensuring the security and safety of staff in the field. There is an increasing need for humanitarian aid within Syria. However, the volatile security situation means access is a persistent challenge.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

1. WFP is launching a revised SO for the extension of the provision of Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications support to the humanitarian community. The situation in Syria is worsening and humanitarian organizations are scaling up. Therefore, service provision is needed for another year in support of the humanitarian community. WFP Syria is also working on a BR to extend its EMOP 200339 for another 6 months.
2. A large percentage of the resources requested in this Budget Revision are for continued support and coordination to be provided through the Clusters (Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications) to both the humanitarian community at large, and to support the immediate needs for a new inter-agency office and accommodations at Tartous.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

1. The ETC scope will not change and will remain as described in BR No.2. The project will continue to provide services in 3 locations in Syria as well as coordinate activities and providing services as needed in the surrounding countries. The extension will require an additional budget of US\$1,422,504.
2. Common IT and telecoms services provided by the ETC to the humanitarian community include:
 - Installation and programming of VHF/HF radios,
 - Vehicle tracking assistance,
 - Assessment of telecoms infrastructure in common operational areas,
 - Liaison with government authorities on behalf of the humanitarian community to license and import telecoms equipment
 - Coordination of regular inter-agency meetings and collaboration with existing groups
3. As global ETC lead, WFP is working in close collaboration with partner agencies including UNHCR, UNDSS, and OCHA. as well as many others. Regular Syria ETC teleconferences ensure coordination and information-sharing on a global level, and working group meetings are held at a local level.
4. IT and telecoms equipment is being procured both regionally and internationally. Stocks are currently prepositioned in Dubai and Beirut, waiting for access into Syria and any deployment requirements in surrounding countries.

Logistics Cluster

5. The Logistics Cluster support will extend into 2014 to maintain the following activities: coordination, information management (including GIS), maintenance of fuel depots, and provision of common services (land transport, convoys, and storage).

6. The Logistics Cluster is also adding two new components to the SO to take advantage of opportunities to enhance support provided to the humanitarian community. These are in line with the original intent of the SO to support the humanitarian community in Syria, but reflect a change in implementation modality.
 - A. Air transport: As a last resort to access areas not reachable by road (e.g. Qamishli in northeast Syria), the Logistics Cluster, through WFP, has been providing strategic airlifts to the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster will make available air transport services for cargo to prevent interruptions to the delivery of life-saving items. The Logistics Cluster expects to support an average of one airlift per month and is budgeting US\$ 896,132 to provide air transport services for the duration of the SO.
 - B. Capacity building of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC): SARC is a main implementing partner for all humanitarian actors in Syria. WFP is procuring and delivering 20 trucks to SARC to increase its capacity for overland transport of humanitarian goods, as other options such as commercial trucks, are unavailable. SARC will be responsible for all maintenance and running costs of the trucks upon receipt in Damascus. The budget for the procurement and delivery of the trucks is of US\$2,030,287.

Construction of an Inter-Agency hub in Tartous

7. WFP has been asked by the UNCT to support the construction of an Inter-Agency prefabricated office and accommodation hub in the outskirts of the city of Tartous, capable of hosting 120-150 staff. This construction project is expecting to start at the end of 2013 and last three months.
8. WFP will be responsible for the construction of the hub only, as the maintenance and management of the hub will be administrated by UNDP on behalf of UN agencies on a cost-shared basis. The budget for the construction component of the project is US\$1.5 million.
9. An IT component has been added to the Tartous hub element of the SO, to ensure the availability of IT service and facilities in the Tartous compound. Other components will be utilized under the scope of the ETC to provide common services. The total funds required to support the setup and running of IT services at Tartous throughout 2014 is budgeted at US\$837,400.

MANAGEMENT:

10. The WFP Syria Country Director will be the Fund Manager for this Special Operation, and the WFP Syria Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.
11. The two sub-funded Clusters will be managed as follows:
 - A. Emergency Telecommunications augmentation will be managed by the Regional IT / ETC Coordinator.
 - B. Logistics augmentation and coordination will be managed by the WFP Syria Head of Logistics.

In light of the above, this budget revision for the extension in time of the SO for 12 months until 31 December 2014 with a budget increase of US\$ 14,523,198 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and COO.

<u>DISTRIBUTION:</u>		
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Chief, OSLT	Director, OSZ	Director, RMB
Chief, RMBP, OSZP, OSZR	Regional Director	Director, PGG
Country Director	Bgt/Prgramming Officer, RMBP	RB Programme Advisor
OM Registry	Programming Assistant, RMBP	RB Programme Assistant
Liaison Officer, OM @	<i>Director, OST (ICT operations <u>only</u>)</i>	Director, OME