



WFP Haiti
SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200109

Country:	Haiti
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in response to the Earthquake in Haiti
Total cost (US\$):	11,570,404.70
Duration:	15 January – 15 April 2010

Executive Summary

This WFP /United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) special operation is established to facilitate the earthquake response through air transportation of humanitarian personnel, food, medicines and other relief items on behalf of the humanitarian community, to the areas rendered inaccessible by surface transport.

Through this operation, WFP will manage six aircraft; four fixed-wing aircraft and two heavy-lift helicopters based either in Haiti or in Dominican Republic. A staging area will be established in Dominican Republic to circumvent congestion in Port-au-Prince airport and to ensure organized flow of supplies according to priorities.

The Special Operation is for duration of 3 months, from 15 January to 15 April 2010 at a total cost of US\$ 11,570,404.70

1. Project Background

An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti on 12 January at 16:53 local time (21:53:09 UTC). The epicenter was located 9 km (6 miles) SSW of Carrefour, Ouest; 16 km (10 miles) SW of Port-au-Prince. Soon after, more than 20 aftershocks were reported, ranging from magnitude 4.2 to 5.9 on the Richter scale. It is estimated that two thirds of the population in Port-au-Prince have been affected. Populations are also affected in the cities of Carrefour and Jacmel.

There has been extensive damage to infrastructure. The airport of Port-au-Prince has suffered damage and is currently only open for humanitarian flights. The port has also been severely affected. Various governmental buildings, many offices of the United Nations and other humanitarian actors have also been damaged.

In addition, electricity outages, inaccessible roads and lack of telecommunications are also hampering the rescue and relief efforts.

The UN Country Team requested WFP to mobilize the aircraft assets for an initial three-month period to establish the immediate response capacity. The aircraft will facilitate needs assessments and travel of relief workers, deliver urgent relief supplies and assist with evacuation of the victims.

2. Project Justification

The population of the area affected by the earthquake is in urgent need of the basic supplies, such as food, water, medicines and other relief items. Road and communication infrastructure are badly damaged, and the the earthquake affected areas are expected to remain inaccessible for several weeks.

WFP/UNHAS will provide the air transport services to the humanitarian community, assisting in life saving activities.

3. Project Objective(s)

The objectives of this operation are to:

- to provide aircraft support to enable the humanitarian community to implement emergency relief activities into areas inaccessible by surface means;
- to transport passengers and humanitarian relief cargo, such as medical supplies, high energy foods and ICT equipment;
- to ensure an organized supply-chain is in place through the main airport and the staging area;
- to provide capacity for timely assessments and medical evacuations.

4. Project Implementation

Based upon the request and from the UN Country Team, WFP will mobilize two heavy-lift helicopters and four fixed-wing aircraft (two MI-171 helicopters; two passenger aircraft; a 12-seat Cessna 208; a 36-seat Dash-8; and two cargo aircraft, one 4-metric tonnes capacity DHC-4 Caribou and a 16-mt capacity AN-12) for an initial three-month period to establish the immediate response capacity. The fleet will be based in Haiti and in Dominican Republic and will operate in the affected areas.

Qualified aviation staff will be deployed to support the helicopter operation and ensure efficiency, safety and security of the operation.

5. Project Management

The project will be functioning using the WFP management structures and support system already in place:

- Passenger and cargo booking are to be made through the WFP air cell.
- The Aviation service, ODLA, based in Rome, is responsible for the contracting and provision of aircraft and crew for the operation.
- The Chief Air Transport Officer (CATO) will be managing the operation locally; CATO will provide operational reports to ODLA as well as to the Funds Manager.
- The CATO will ensure timely tasking of the helicopters and movement control. He/she will liaise with the WFP Logistics officers coordinating to ensure cargo prioritization. Considering the limited size and duration of the operation a user group is not deemed necessary, but mechanism for efficient coordination with all other relief agencies will be set up.

- The Country Director will act as the Funds Manager for the SO and the WFP Finance Officer will be the Allotment Administrator for the SO. The Aviation Unit will provide operational and administrative support and will be responsible for oversight of the operational activities.

6. Project Cost & Benefits

Operating costs are detailed in the budget attached as Annex 1. They amount to US\$11,570,404.70 and cover the chartering of the aircraft fleet for 3 months, aviation fees, airport charges as well as the costs for fuel, handling and office support.

Air transport will facilitate the humanitarian community in its endeavors to save lives and provide support to vulnerable people in the affected areas and will allow the movement of key humanitarian personnel for assessments, monitoring and evaluation.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

Key performance indicators will be reported at the end of the project and will include the following:

- The number of metric tons (food or non-food items) transported;
- 100% utilization of contracted hours and effective utilization of aircraft capacity;
- The number of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations utilizing the service and number of locations served;
- 100% response to medical and security evacuations.

The Chief Air Transport Officer will provide the operational reports to the OMLA, Funds Manager as well as all relevant and interested parties.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 15 January to 15 April 2010 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 11,570,404.70 is recommended for approval by the Executive Director with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

.....
 Josette Sheeran
 Executive Director