SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200261
"Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination in response to the crisis in Libya"

Country:	Libya
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	"Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination in response to the crisis in Libya"
Total cost (US$):	**US$ 4,069,715**
Duration:	3 Months (4 March 2011- 4 June 2011)

Executive Summary

1. Following recent revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt and protests across the Arab world, the Libyan population started protesting against President Colonel Muammar Gadaffi on 17 February. Severe military retaliations against the public and the anti-government protests have taken place since, and as a result, Libya is currently experiencing an unprecedented level of turmoil and violence.

2. Thousands of people are fleeing Libya to neighboring countries on a daily basis, as the situation is expected to worsen in the coming days. The humanitarian community is mobilizing resources to the North Africa region to respond to the need of the affected population.

3. WFP, in its role as the lead of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) Sectors, will augment the logistics and common ICT capacity and coordinate the response of these two sectors.

4. Through this Special Operation, WFP aims to provide the humanitarian community with adequate logistics and ICT capabilities and continued coordination mechanisms to deliver relief aid to the beneficiaries. WFP will set up four coordination cells (in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia) and two trans-shipment hubs with temporary storage capacity, necessary emergency/operation support equipment and dedicated staff at strategic locations on the Libyan and Egyptian/Tunisian borders.

5. The operation will have a duration of three months at a total cost to WFP of **US$4,069,715.**

Project Background

6. Libya is undergoing an unprecedented level of upheaval and violence since anti-government protests began on 17 February 2011. The current outlook for the country - with effects on its neighboring countries, Egypt, Tunisia and to a lesser extent Niger - is that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate.

7. Extensive military attacks, with aerial bombing and regular use of live ammunition against the civilian population, are causing a high number of casualties, leaving

thousands dead and even more injured. While much of the country is now under the control of the opposition, Tripoli remains under government control, with intense clashes and blockades stopping all movement either into or out of the capital.

8. While precise statistics on the number of immigrants living in Libya are unavailable, the country is estimated to host some 1.5 million migrants. As a result of the violence, a massive number of people are already fleeing Libya, therefore causing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. According to initial reports from the Egyptian and Tunisian authorities, over 150,000 people had crossed the border to Egypt and Tunisia as of 1 March. It was estimated that some 3,000 people have also fled to neighboring Niger.

9. A United Nations joint rapid assessment mission has been into eastern Libya and Benghazi to assess humanitarian needs. In addition, a WFP Programme and Logistics mission was in Djerba and at the Libyan border. Preliminary findings indicate that for the time being food, water and shelter support are being provided by the local population and civic organizations. However, the thousands of people fleeing Libya are stretching the capacity of the Tunisian and Egyptian border authorities to the limit, and are leading to a situation where migrants are sometimes not allowed to cross or where movement is delayed, causing further congestions at the borders. This is also being compounded by the deteriorating health and sanitation situation, due to the lack of proper infrastructure at the crossing points.

Project Justification

10. Results of these assessments indicate that major bottlenecks currently exist in the areas of information sharing and coordination for both Logistics and ETC sectors.

11. As a large number of humanitarian organizations start mobilizing resources into the region, a coordinated logistics and emergency telecommunications response is required in order to ensure an efficient and effective humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

12. Reports also indicate that commercial trucks operated by Tunisian and Egyptian companies are not permitted to cross into Libya. Therefore, there is an urgent need to establish transshipment hubs at the main border crossing points to allow for the efficient transshipment of humanitarian supplies onto Libyan trucks to be able to assist the affected population.

13. Given the magnitude of the impending crisis, WFP urgently needs to augment its logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity to ensure sufficient assets and staff are in place to meet logistical and telecommunications requirements to support the humanitarian community.

14. Security in Libya is also a major concern as a result of the fighting and the aerial bombings. As the situation is expected to worsen, it is essential to provide security telecommunications facilities to allow staff to work in the field.

Project Objective(s)

15. Through this Special Operation, WFP aims to provide the humanitarian community with adequate logistics and ICT capabilities and coordination mechanisms to deliver relief aid to the beneficiaries. Based on the current gaps and bottlenecks identified, WFP's objectives will include:

- Support and augment the logistic capacity of key regional governments and of the humanitarian community to respond and operate in, as well as to support cross-border operations.
- To ensure uninterrupted delivery of emergency relief items to the affected populations.
- To provide enhanced coordination and a timely and efficient emergency logistics response.
- To provide cost effective common inter-agency security and data communications networks and services.

Project Implementation

16. This Special Operation will have duration of three months. The Operation will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessments results become available, including the possible provision of additional equipment and logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community and regional governments.

17. During the initial response phase, the following activities will be carried out by WFP in its role as lead of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors.

   a) Logistics coordination and information management

- Establish four Logistics Coordination Cells (Cairo, Benghazi, Tripoli and Djerba or Tunis) with a dedicated Logistics Coordinator and Information Management Officer in each, to coordinate the regional logistics response. These staff will move between locations depending on operational needs.
- Organize regular Logistics Coordination Meetings, in order to optimize the logistics resources available locally and regionally, fill gaps and avoid duplication.
- Information management with suite of regularly produced information products shared via dedicated web platform and mailing lists;
- Provide logistics infrastructure Geographic Information System/mapping tools and products.
- Border crossing and customs facilitation at locations such as Ras Adjir in Tunisia, Saloum in Egypt and at additional entry points inside Libya once the situation stabilizes.

   b) Logistics common services

- Set up two trans-shipment hubs with temporary storage capacity, necessary emergency/operation support equipment and dedicated logistics staff at strategic locations such as Ras Adjir in Tunisia, Saloum in Egypt to ensure the flow of life-saving relief items to the affected populations, for use by the humanitarian community.
- Provide handling, consolidation, storage and tracking services for humanitarian cargo received at the trans-shipment hubs/entry points for the humanitarian community at no cost; Cargo consolidated and stored will be handled as per the priorities set by the Humanitarian Coordinator.

c) Emergency telecommunications coordination, information management and common services

- Establishment of a local ETC coordination group (with representatives from UN, NGO and other humanitarian actors) covering the impacted countries to ensure inter-agency cooperation in ICT.
- Coordination of inter-agency regulatory requirements with the respective government authorities.
- Establishment of inter-agency/intra-cluster information management facilities to serve the humanitarian community.
- Establishment and operation of emergency telecommunications and data connectivity services in four operational areas (Tripoli, Benghazi and the sites of the two logistics transshipment hubs).
- Training of UN/NGO staff in efficient and appropriate use of telecommunications equipment and services.

18. The framework of this Special Operation has been developed based on the current situation and can be augmented should the needs and the gaps on the ground demand a more comprehensive response. WFP will ensure that an appropriate exit strategy, in line with the overall Logistics and ETC response is developed in order to phase out the project as necessary.

19. In order to facilitate the immediate deployment of the support equipment required for the start-up of operations at the two transshipment hubs, this Special Operation makes provision for strategic airlifts from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot network.

Project Cost and Benefits

20. This project has a total cost of **US$ 4,069,715**. The expected outcomes of the operation include:

- Uninterrupted supply of emergency relief items to the affected population for all humanitarian actors.
- Improved ability of the humanitarian community to respond and operate in the affected areas.
- Logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified and addressed through the provision of logistics services where required.
- Coordinated, predictable, timely and efficient emergency logistics response.

- Logistics information related tools, services and platforms available to the humanitarian community thereby promoting a coordinated logistical response.
- Surge capacity and support equipment immediately mobilized.
- Expanded and comprehensive emergency telecommunications and data connectivity networks and services to the humanitarian community.
- UN/NGO Staff trained in efficient and appropriate use of telecommunications equipment and services.
- Improved security environment, increased control and discipline on HF/VHF radio networks, reduced misuse.

Project Management:

21. The appointed Regional Logistics Coordinator will provide oversight regarding the implementation of the Special Operation. Additionally, the Regional Logistics Coordinator and Regional IT Officer will serve as the Project Managers.

22. The Regional Director will act as the funds' managers for this Special Operation while the Regional Finance Officer will be the Allotment Manager.

Monitoring & Evaluation

23. A compliance and cost effectiveness mission with support from the WFP Logistics and Transport branch shall take place during the project implementation to ensure a proper application of WFP standard rules and practices.

24. The key performance indicators for this Special Operation will be:

Logistics Augmentation and Coordination:

- Number of agencies and organizations using storage facilities at the transshipment hubs.
- Quantity (mt) of humanitarian cargo handled at the transshipments hubs.
- Volume (m3) of humanitarian cargo handled at the transshipments hubs.
- Number of agencies and organizations using Logistics coordination services.
- Number of bulletins, maps and other logistics information produced and shared.
- Number of humanitarian information-sharing platforms (web-based) that "pick up" Logistics Cluster produced material.

Emergency Telecommunications:

- Number of UN operational areas covered by common security telecommunication network.
- Number of UN agencies and NGOs provided access to the security telecommunications network.
- Number of UN agency/NGO staff members trained.
- Number of inter-agency/intra-cluster information management facilities established.

- Number of regular meetings held by the local ETC Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 4 March 2011 to 4 June 2011 at a total cost to WFP of **US$ 4,069,715** is recommended for approval by the Executive Director with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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Josette Sheeran
Executive Director