



WFP (Somalia)
SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200344

Countries:	Somalia
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Augmentation in Response to the Humanitarian Situation in Somalia
Total cost (US\$):	US\$ 7,082,485
Duration:	6 months August 25 th 2011 – February 25 th 2012

Executive Summary

Due to worsening drought conditions in the Horn of Africa the United Nations has declared a famine in 5 areas of southern Somalia. An estimated 3.7 million people in Somalia are in need of urgent life-saving and life-sustaining food, water and shelter. The humanitarian community has scaled up its response, while at the same time access to southern Somalia has improved with the withdrawal of Al-Shabaab from 90 to 95 per cent of Mogadishu.

In order to meet the needs of those affected in southern Somalia the humanitarian community needs logistics support and emergency security and data telecommunications. Therefore this Special Operation plans to provide the following services: 1.) augmented logistics capacity in the form of sea transport, warehousing and tactical airlifts, 2.) enhanced logistics coordination and information management, 3.) emergency security telecommunication and data communication services, 4.) coordination and information management of telecommunications and data services.

Project Background

1. Severe drought in East Africa has impacted populations in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda who now no longer have access to sufficient food, water, or shelter. The failed 2010 Deyr rains and poor performance of the 2011 April-June Gu rains, has caused wide spread crop failure and a lack of adequate pastureland across Somalia. This, coupled with the protracted intra-state conflict affecting the majority of southern Somalia, which has historically limited humanitarian access, has resulted in an estimated 3.7 million Somalis urgently in need of life saving and life sustaining relief items such as food, water, and shelter.
2. On the 20th July, the United Nations, based on the findings of nutrition and mortality assessments in southern and central Somalia, declared famine¹ in two

¹ According to the Integrated Phase Classification, the following three conditions must exist as a minimum requirement for “famine” – and these outcomes must affect at least 20 percent of an area’s population: i) Food access far below 2,100 kilocalories of food per day; ii) Acute malnutrition in more

areas of southern Somalia. On 3 August, the famine threshold was passed in three new areas of southern Somalia. The harsh conditions and limited availability of aid has also driven a massive displacement of people, internally in Somalia and externally seeking relief at refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. In response the humanitarian community is scaling up its operations and mobilizing resources to respond to the food, water, and shelter needs of the affected population inside Somalia. The recent withdrawal of Al-Shabab rebel fighters from Mogadishu and perceived weaknesses within the movement are opening up opportunities for improved access to parts of southern Somalia for humanitarian actors.

Project Justification

3. As the humanitarian community is expanding its relief response, substantial amounts of life-saving relief items are needed in Somalia. In order to ensure that these life-saving and life-sustaining supplies reach the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis in a timely and efficient manner, immediate logistical augmentation, coordination and support is required.
4. The high rates of piracy and lawlessness in the waters off of Somalia have restricted the movements of regular cargo by ship into the port of Mogadishu and much cargo has been airlifted so far in response to the crisis. However, with the large quantities of humanitarian cargo needed in Somalia, the humanitarian community requires a more reliable, predictable and cost-effective alternative to airlifting cargo. Through chartering a vessel, with naval protection, the World Food Programme (WFP) will promote the delivery of large quantities of humanitarian cargo while lowering the overall costs of the humanitarian community's response.
5. Warehousing is also a problem as limited facilities exist in the port of Mogadishu, in remote areas within South Sudan and on the border areas of northern Kenya and southeastern Ethiopia close to Somalia. The lack of adequate warehousing has hampered the movements of life-saving humanitarian cargo into the worst affected areas.
6. As a preparedness measure, tactical cargo airlifts from Kenya to locations within Somalia will be made available. These will be utilized to deliver initial amounts of life-saving aid to newly accessible areas while surface deliveries of larger amounts of aid are arranged.
7. Given the magnitude of the impending crisis, including the almost complete lack of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure (voice, data, internet and electrical) in the impacted area, WFP urgently needs to augment humanitarian emergency telecommunications capacity to ensure sufficient capacity and staff are in place to meet the needs of the humanitarian community as and when access improves throughout the country.

than 30 percent of children; and iii) Crude Mortality Rate exceeds 2 per 10,000 people every day. Additional criteria can include epidemic illness; access to less than four liters of water every day; large-scale displacement of people; civil strife; and complete loss of assets and source of income

8. As security in Somalia is expected to remain a major concern, and as the humanitarian situation is expected to worsen, it is essential to provide security and vital security telecommunications facilities to allow staff to work in the field.
9. Throughout this project WFP will closely cooperate with other cluster participants, particularly the Office for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the provision of common services in refugee and IDP locations.

Project Objectives

10. 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:
 - To support and augment the logistic capacity of the humanitarian community to undertake cross-border operations.
 - To provide enhanced coordination and a timely and efficient emergency logistics response.
 - To provide essential logistics, telecommunications and common services required to support the delivery of live-saving humanitarian assistance to famine affected populations.
 - To provide cost effective common inter-agency security and data communications networks and service.

Implementation

11. This Special Operation will have a duration of six months. The operation will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional equipment and logistics common services as required.
12. 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 Clusters.
 - a) Logistics coordination and information management.
 - Reinforcement of the Logistics Cluster Cell in Nairobi, Kenya with a Logistics Cluster Officer and an Information Management Officer to assist in the coordination of the logistics response. Additional Cluster Officers would be deployed to transit hubs in border areas of Northern Kenya and Eastern Ethiopia if those hubs prove to be viable options in the Somalia supply chain.
 - Organize regular Logistics Coordination Meetings, in order to optimize the logistics resources available locally and regionally, fill gaps and avoid duplication.

- Information management with a suite of regularly produced information products shared via a dedicated web platform and mailing lists, including logistics infrastructure Geographic Information System (GIS)/mapping tools and products. Additionally, due to the complex and evolving nature of the Horn of Africa Crisis and the sensitivities involved with gaining access to famine affect populations, timely and efficient information dissemination is paramount. Humanitarian responders have expressed a need to enhance the Logistics Cluster's Somalia page in order to allow for greater and more rapid coordination and planning, as well as for a more nuanced and sensitive portal of humanitarian activities.

b) Logistics common services

- Sea transportation: In order to ensure that increased volumes of humanitarian cargo reach the affected population urgently in need of assistance; WFP, in its role as the lead of the Logistics Cluster will enhance the transport capacity for the movement of humanitarian cargo into Somalia.
- WFP will charter a vessel which will move humanitarian cargo from Mombasa, Kenya to Mogadishu, Somalia. This vessel will perform two rotations a month, providing a predictable and reliable service. To ensure the safety of the crew on board and the cargo the vessel will be escorted by naval vessel/s. Currently WFP is moving food aid on another chartered vessel between the port in Djibouti to the Somalia ports in Bossaso and Berbera. Space on that vessel will also be made available and offered to the humanitarian community. The above services will be offered at no cost to humanitarian organizations.
- Tactical Airlift will be contracted by WFP ex-Kenya using light cargo aircrafts capable of accessing remote airfields in South Central Somalia in order to deliver immediate life saving relief items to famine affected populations as soon as access is secured. This will provide vital assistance enabling affected populations to cope until larger amounts of aid can be delivered by road.
- Warehousing Capacity and Staging ground: WFP will be offering a transit storage facility at its 5,000 m² warehouse in the port of Mogadishu. WFP will also preposition a contingency stock of 20 Mobile Storage Units (10 X 32 m each) to augment storage capacity in different areas inside Somalia or in neighboring countries to facilitate cross-border operations. As access improves, WFP will stand ready to set up common staging areas at specific locations decided with participating organizations, to act as consolidation points for humanitarian cargo or to make this extra capacity available to humanitarian actors operating in areas with restricted access in South Somalia. Storage services will be provided at no cost to the humanitarian community.
- These Logistics services will include handling, liner service and will be free on truck to the users.

- These services will allow the repositioning of cargo close to the affected regions in Somalia that can be rapidly moved when needed. In the long term as logistics hubs are set up in Somalia these services will provide a critical link in an expanding logistics pipeline, while promoting a more efficient and coordinated humanitarian response.
- 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 regulatory requirements with the respective government authorities.
 - Establishment and operation of information management (IM) platform to serve the ETC community.
 - Collection and dissemination of updated information related to availability of ICT capacity, services provision per location and contact details to support staff throughout the duration of the operation.
 - Establishment and operation of emergency telecommunications and data connectivity services in four common operational areas.
 - A dedicated NGO coordinator will be deployed with the objective of ensuring the common ICT requirements of the NGO community are met.
 - Training of UN/NGO staff in efficient and appropriate use of telecommunications equipment and services.
13. The Country Director of the Somalia Country Office will be the fund manager for this Special Operation and the Somalia Finance Officer will be the Allotment Manager. The Country Office will appoint a Logistics Project Manager and ODI will appoint an ETC Coordinator who will be responsible for the implementation of the activities stated in the project.
14. Potential risks to relief efforts include access to affected areas due to a protracted internal conflict with anti-governmental elements, which have left the country without basic services or a cohesive leadership structure.
15. This Special Operation will come to an end when the famine situation has been brought under control and/or humanitarian organizations are able to access the affected population without needing the assistance of these activities.

Project Cost and Benefits

16. The total costs of the project will be US\$ 7,082,485

17. This Special Operation will enable the humanitarian community to move larger quantities of humanitarian relief items into Somalia in a more reliable and predictable way, as well as facilitate communication and coordination, while preventing overlap in the response.
18. Due to the fact that services under that Special Operation will be offered to humanitarian partners at no cost to humanitarian agencies the cost savings made by partners will allow additional investment in projects to the affected population. Coordination services will also help prevent overlap in response and identify any potential gaps.

Monitoring & Evaluation

19. Lessons Learned Mission: the Logistics Cluster will conduct a detailed lessons learned mission in order to ensure that best practices highlighted during the operation are complied and carried over to future operations. This will ultimately allow for a faster, better tailored and more cost effective response mechanisms for future emergencies
20. Key Performance Indicators for this Special Operation will be:

Logistics

- Total storage space made available (Target: 10,000 sqm).
 - Monthly space made available for humanitarian community cargo on chartered vessel. (M2/MT. Target: 1,000MT)
 - Monthly space made available for cluster participants through airlift. (Target: 20 MT)
 - No. of bulletins, maps and other Logistics information produced and shared
 - Use of inter-agency coordination and information related services provided (website, reports, surveys, maps, assessments)
 - No. of agencies and organizations using storage facilities
 - No. of bulletins, maps and other Logistics information produced and shared
21. Emergency Telecommunications: The ETC Coordinator will regularly monitor project activities against the original objectives and adjust if required based on the situation on the ground.
 - Number of common operational areas covered by common security and data telecommunication networks. (Target: 4)
 - Number of humanitarian organizations provided access to the security telecommunications network. (Target: 20)
 - Number of UN /NGO staff members trained on security telecommunications systems. (Target: 300)
 - ETC information management collaboration platform established, operational and information regularly updated throughout the emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from August 25th 2011 to February 25th 2012 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 7,082,485 is recommended for approval by the Executive Director with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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Josette Sheeran
Executive Director

Date: