



**SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200470**  
**“Logistics Augmentation and Coordination in Support of Humanitarian Operations in South Kordofan”**

Country:	Sudan
Type of project:	Special Operation (SO)
Title:	Logistics Augmentation and Coordination in Support of Humanitarian Operations in South Kordofan
Total cost (US\$):	<b>US\$336,774</b>
Duration:	3 months (1 August – 31 October 2012)

### **Executive Summary**

One year on, following the secession of South Sudan, several major issues remain unresolved between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, including sharing of oil revenue, border demarcation, the status of the Abyei region and citizenship status.

In June 2011, conflict broke out in the State of South Kordofan. WFP initially assisted some 200,000 conflict-affected persons—including those in areas held by opposition groups—with food stuffs prepositioned in strategic locations. Assistance was suspended in August 2011 as WFP was not provided access clearances to conduct assessments or to replenish its stocks, coupled with the risk of on-going fighting and land mines.

The Government of Sudan conducted some limited distribution in Government-held areas but has subsequently requested WFP to intervene. WFP maintained its position towards the Government of Sudan that prior to providing assistance WFP would need to conduct appropriate food security assessments with international staff in Government-held areas. As a result, in late May 2012 WFP gained access for international staff to conduct joint assessments with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC).

The assessments found that an estimated 170,000 people require urgent humanitarian assistance in South Kordofan with UN agencies mobilizing resources to meet the needs. Negotiations regarding access to affected populations in non-Government controlled areas are on-going.

WFP is closely collaborating with the HAC and the Sudanese Red Crescent (SRC) to conduct assessments and food distribution in South Kordofan. WFP is also taking the lead in coordinating logistics operations for UN agencies to augment common logistics capabilities and facilitate a coordinated response.

As requested by the Government of Sudan, WFP remains the sole provider of logistics services for the UN’s humanitarian response in South Kordofan. FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, SRC, all the agencies involved, have

endorsed WFP's concept of operation, which has received the full endorsement from the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan.

Under this Special Operation (SO), WFP aims to provide agencies with logistics support and to continue to lead coordination efforts for timely delivery of relief assistance in South Kordofan.

The SO is planned to operate for three months (1 August – 31 October 2012) with a total operational cost of US\$336,774. Additional requirements and a budget revision for extension in time for this SO will be prepared, if needed.

### **Project Background**

1. Ongoing conflict remains a primary concern, particularly in South Kordofan. The Government of Sudan has not allowed humanitarian organizations access to deliver assistance to many areas affected by conflict for several months, despite frequent requests from the humanitarian community.
2. In addition, access is also jeopardized by the start of the rainy season; sporadic fighting that is still active in some areas of South Kordofan; and the threat of land mines. Subsequently—with the exception of main routes to Kadugli and Abu Gebeha—commercial transporters are unwilling to operate in most locations in the state.
3. A deterioration of basic services has negatively impacted the health and sanitation situation. Fighting has also led to a severe disruption in the agricultural cycle, as many people have not been able to cultivate their lands, resulting in increasing food insecurity in the region.
4. Results of the joint WFP/HAC/SRC food security assessment in May 2012 indicate that food, shelter, water and sanitation are priority needs for the affected population, especially with the start of the rainy season.

### **Project Justification**

5. Through this SO WFP will augment its logistical capacity to ensure staffing, sufficient transport, and warehousing assets are in place to provide common logistics services to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of partners before rains render some areas in South Kordofan inaccessible.
6. Given that major bottlenecks have been identified in terms of information sharing and coordination in the area of logistics it's an essential that the logistics sector is activated to help alleviate these bottlenecks.
7. WFP's fleet of 30 6x6 MB trucks, of 25 MT capacity, will be made available immediately for interagency use to complement the capacity of the commercial transport sector -currently inadequate-primarily for movement from Kadugli to surrounding locations.

8. WFP also plans to establish a main logistics hub in El Obeid (North Kordofan) and three smaller ones in Kadugli, Abu Gebeha and Talodi to allow for efficient trans-shipment of humanitarian supplies.
9. Lastly, a DASH-8 fixed wing aircraft will be mobilized for the movement of personnel and small amounts of humanitarian cargo from Kadugli to Talodi.

### **Project Objectives**

10. Under this SO, WFP will provide UN agencies and SRC with reinforced logistical capacity and coordinate delivery of relief assistance to conflict-affected people in South Kordofan. WFP's primary objectives are as follows:
  - Support and augment the logistical capacity of key Government entities (SRC) and UN agencies in support of operations in South Kordofan;
  - Ensure delivery of emergency relief cargo to conflict-affected populations; and
  - Coordinate a timely and efficient logistical response to deliver humanitarian assistance.
  - Provide efficient air services to UN agencies and the Government Institutions (SRC) in South Kordofan as and when required.

### **Project Implementation**

11. During the initial response phase the following activities will be carried out by WFP in its capacity as logistics sector lead:
  - a) Logistics common services:
    - WFP will set up a Joint Logistics Operations Centre (JLOC) in El Obeid, which will be staffed with dedicated WFP, HAC and SRC personnel. A trans-shipment hub will be established in this centre to provide efficient handling, consolidation, storage and tracking services for humanitarian cargo received for UN agencies; these services will be undertaken at no cost to partners. Stored cargo will be handled according to the priorities set by the Humanitarian Coordinator;
    - Three hubs with less capacity (which could be expanded on needs basis) will be set up in Kadugli, Abu Gebeiha and Talodi. Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) will be erected in all locations and run by WFP national staff. An international Logistics Officer will oversee the logistics operation and conduct frequent visits to Kadugli and El Obeid;
    - Intense fighting has reduced availability of commercial transport. Under this operation, part of WFP's fleet of trucks in Sudan will be mobilized to enhance surface transport capacity for partner organizations, if and when required.
  - b) Logistics coordination and information management:
    - Establish one main Logistics Coordination Cell in Khartoum with a dedicated Logistics Coordinator and Information Management Officer. These staff will travel between Khartoum, El Obeid and Kadugli depending on operational needs;

- Organize periodic logistics coordination meetings in order to maximize the use of resources available locally, bridge operational gaps and avoid duplication of efforts; and
- Carry out required information management tasks with regularly produced outputs (e.g. situation reports) shared via a dedicated web platform and a comprehensive mailing list.

c) Provision of Air Transport

- UNHAS will make available a fixed wing aircraft (Dash-8) to provide passenger services from Kadugli to Talodi, as required. Small quantities of humanitarian cargo could also be transported if needed. This air asset will also be used for medevacs, where possible.
- Qualified aviation staff will be hired to help ensure efficiency, safety and security of the operation.

12. This operation is proposed for duration of three months. However, operational needs are to be reviewed based on the evolving situation in South Kordofan, particularly if regular access is granted to non-Government controlled areas, and as food security assessment results become available. Needs may increase requiring additional equipment and logistical common services for the humanitarian community and the Government of Sudan.

### **Project costs and benefits**

13. This SO has a total cost of **US\$336,774**. The expected outcomes of this SO include the following:

- An uninterrupted supply of emergency relief items provided to the conflict-affected people in South Kordofan;
- An improved ability of UN agencies to respond and operate in the conflict affected areas;
- Logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified and addressed through the provision of common logistics services as and where required;
- A coordinated, timely and efficient emergency logistics response; and
- Logistics information related tools, services and platforms promptly available to UN agencies thereby promoting a coordinated logistical response.

### **Project Management:**

14. The appointed Logistics Coordinator will overlook the implementation of the SO. WFP Sudan's Chief of Logistics will serve as the Project Manager.

15. The Regional Director Sudan will act as the Funds Manager for the SO while the Chief of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

16. The key performance indicators for the SO are as follows:

- Number of UN agencies using storage facilities at the trans-shipment hubs;
- Quantity (mt) of humanitarian cargo handled at the trans-shipments hubs;
- Volume (m<sup>3</sup>) of humanitarian cargo handled at the trans-shipments hubs;
- Common transport capacity made available, upon request vs. Utilization;
- Quantity (mt) of humanitarian cargo transported by road;
- Volume (m<sup>3</sup>) of humanitarian cargo transported by road;
- Number of UN agencies and Government Institutions utilizing common transport services and number of locations served;
- Number of UN agencies and Government Institutions 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" produced material;
- Quantity (mt) of humanitarian cargo transported by air;
- Volume (m<sup>3</sup>) of humanitarian cargo transported by air;
- Percentage of utilization of contracted hours and effective utilization of aircraft capacity;
- Number of UN agencies and Government Institutions utilizing the service and the number of locations served.

## **Risk Assessment and Mitigation**

17. A number of factors could impact the implementation of the SO. The main risks identified are divided into contextual, programmatic and institutional risks below, with possible mitigation measures to address the risks also taken into consideration:

### ***Contextual Risks:***

- Closure of transport corridors due to insecurity or political developments; and
- Access to certain areas of South Kordofan may deteriorate due to the onset of the rainy season or increasing insecurity, which may limit humanitarian movement.

These risks will be mitigated through:

- Maintaining standby arrangements for alternative corridors;
- Proactive build-up of security staff and equipment in order to provide a high level of protection for staff; and
- Close coordination between WFP/WFP Aviation and UNDSS to ensure timely communication of the accessibility of destinations.

### ***Programmatic Risks:***

- Demands for common services exceeds current forecasts; and
- Humanitarian agencies may move to scale up their assistance through increasing staff and expanding activities to more remote areas.

These risks will be mitigated through:

- Ability to scale up staffing through rosters and identification of surge capacity;
- Availability of adequate storage facilities; and

- Availability of prepositioned equipment to meet the needs of all UN agencies present in the area.

***Institutional Risks:***

- Politicization of UN humanitarian efforts affecting the use of UN assets and access; and
- Lack of adequate funding for the SO to ensure viability throughout implementation period.

These risks will be mitigated through:

- Utilization of local and regional commercial assets as much as possible.
- Joint WFP/WFP Aviation advocacy efforts will continue to ensure uninterrupted services for the humanitarian community. All fundraising strategies will include steps to be taken to address shortfalls.

**RECOMMENDATION**

18. The SO, operating from 1 August-31 October 2012, at a total cost of **US\$336,774** to WFP, is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director, Operations with the budget provided.

**APPROVAL**

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**Ramiro Lopes da Silva**

Deputy Executive Director, Operations