



WFP IRAQ
SPECIAL OPERATION SO 200746

Country:	Iraq
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Support in Iraq
Total cost (US\$):	US\$ 2,963,848
Duration:	6 months (1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014)

Executive Summary

1. Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs) including Baathists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq's provinces of Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawijah, Riyadh, Falluha, and Saqlawiyah are currently under control of insurgents. Since January much of Anbar has been under ISIL control¹. ISIL continues to advance towards Baghdad.
2. In addition to 584,000 newly displaced persons from Ninewa, another 623,000 Iraqis have been displaced since the beginning of the year as a result of the conflict. Ongoing fighting continues to displace large segments of the local population. Countrywide, 1.2 million are currently displaced, with 1.5 million in need of immediate humanitarian assistance². The numbers of affected persons are spread and difficult to count, with many still on the move. Some IDPs are currently relying on their own means of support or on host communities. However, additional waves of displacement are expected to occur as the conflict continues.
3. Due to rapidly deteriorating security situation, access to affected areas and people in need is extremely unpredictable and remains a challenge. Based on the revised 2014 Strategic Response Plan³ with the total requirement of US\$ 312 million, humanitarian actors are scaling up activities to support additional IDPs and host communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and other conflict areas of the country.
4. Through this Special Operation, WFP in its capacity as the lead agency for the Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population by providing information management and coordination services to the humanitarian community under the cluster approach.
5. Additionally, WFP in its capacity as the lead agency for the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster aims to augment the emergency telecommunication capacity of the humanitarian

¹ Iraq Humanitarian Country Team. "2014 Strategic Response Plan Revision." June 2014.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Revision_2014_Iraq_SRP.pdf>.

² World Food Programme. "Iraq Crisis Situation Report #2." 28 June 2014.

<<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP%20Iraq%20Situation%20Report%20%2302%2C%2028%20June%202014.pdf>>.

³ Ibid 1.

community through MoSS compliant telecommunications, data, and voice connectivity in the affected areas in support of the ongoing emergency operation and ensure proper coordination among the various partners.

6. This Special Operation will have a duration of 6 months from 1 July to 31 December 2014 and a total cost of **US\$ 2,963,848**.

Project Background

7. Following insurgent groups' capture of Mosul, the security situation in Northern Iraq rapidly deteriorated, resulting in more than 300,000 people being displaced to KR-I. The region is already hosting over 250,000 Syrian refugees escaping the ongoing violence in Syria. The additional influx of newly internally displaced Iraqis is increasing the demand on remaining logistics capacities that are already overextended by the scale of response activities. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties in collecting information on the condition of logistics infrastructure due to the worsening security.
8. Humanitarian access to the affected areas remains one of the main operational challenges due to the unpredictability and high volatility of the situation. Violence and damaged infrastructure are a significant constraint on the ability of responding organizations to meet the basic needs of the affected population. Assessments of humanitarian needs are ongoing, however assessment teams are unable to access widely dispersed, affected communities, limiting the ability of responding organizations to efficiently evaluate and gauge the logistics needs required to support the humanitarian response.
9. Given the scale of the emergency and the scope of humanitarian needs, WFP seeks to augment its logistics and emergency telecommunications capacities and provide logistics and emergency telecommunications support to the wider humanitarian community in order to ensure that sufficient staff and equipment are in place to support relief operations in Iraq.
10. At time of writing, cell phone connectivity is adequate, although in some locations on the road and in remote desert locations reception is poor or nonexistent. Should commercial telecommunication networks collapse due to the conflict, ETC activities will be a priority, as the availability of reliable and independent data and voice communications services is critical for a successful humanitarian response to this crisis.

Project Justification

11. Given the scale and complexity of the evolving humanitarian crisis, a coordinated logistics response and augmentation of emergency telecommunications capability is required in order to ensure efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population.
12. The main logistics augmentation needs identified by Logistics Cluster partners are temporary storage capacity and logistics and information management, logistics and emergency telecommunications coordination, MoSS/MoSS compliance, and civil military coordination of convoys and de-conflicting. Specifically, partners requested a temporary storage solution in Dahuk. As it is on the road from the Turkish border, it is the main entry point of relief supplies and a strategic location for storage facilities. Depending on the development of operational needs, storage facilities might be requested in other locations.

13. As lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, WFP will address possible bottlenecks in the delivery of relief assistance by providing logistics coordination and information management to the humanitarian community.
14. As lead agency of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, WFP will address possible gaps in ICT services by providing ETC coordination and information management to the humanitarian community. In addition, ETC will conduct needs assessment missions and ICT augmentation up to two locations, if deemed necessary.

Project Objectives

15. The main objectives of this operation are to:
 - Ensure uninterrupted delivery of emergency relief items to the affected populations through the augmentation of WFP's transport, storage, and telecommunications capacity as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster;
 - Support an effective humanitarian logistics response by providing logistics coordination and information management services to the humanitarian community; and
 - Facilitate the efficient emergency telecommunication coordination and information management and provide coordinated, predictable, timely, and efficient standard data and security communications services.
16. The objectives of this Special Operation are linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 1 "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies."

Project Implementation

17. This Special Operation will have an initial duration of 6 months, with two major components: logistics cluster and emergency telecommunications cluster response. This SO will ensure the delivery of relief to affected populations by augmenting the capacities of the wider humanitarian community through logistics and emergency telecommunications information management, coordination support, and common services necessary to respond to the crisis.
18. Given the rapidly evolving situation, the below implementation plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary, including the possible provision of additional logistics and telecommunications services and coordination as required by WFP, the humanitarian community, and the host government. Details of the two SO components are as follows:
19. **Logistics Response** - During the initial response phase, the following logistics activities will be carried:

A. Strategic airlift:

In order to facilitate immediate deployment of the support equipment for the startup of the operations, this Special Operations makes the provision for one strategic airlift from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network to Erbil.

B. Temporary Storage Facilities in affected regions:

The Special Operation caters for the set-up of temporary storage facilities, including cargo consolidation areas as well as office facilities required for both WFP and the humanitarian community. The operation also provides for necessary operations support equipment, including generators, pallets, tarpaulins, etc.

In case of activation of support to the population in unsecured areas like Mosul or Kirkuk, negotiated humanitarian corridors or escorted convoys may become important components of the operation.

C. Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management:

As lead agency for the Logistics Cluster, WFP will set up coordination cells in Erbil, with a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer. These staff will move between locations depending on operational needs. Regular logistics coordination meetings will be organized, in order to optimize the logistics resources available, identify gaps, and avoid duplication. The Logistics Cluster may also support the organization of convoys to access affected populations through civil-military coordination.

An Information Management Officer will regularly produce information products designed to provide operational relevant and timely logistics information for the humanitarian community. In addition, the Logistics Cluster will provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) snapshots, mapping tools, and products. A dedicated operation page is activated on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate these information products to the humanitarian community. Updates on Logistics Capacity Assessments will be provided and shared online.

20. *Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Response* - WFP, as lead agency for the ETC, will provide essential telecommunications requirements and the necessary ETC information management and coordination support and services to WFP and humanitarian community to respond to the crisis. Specifically, this SO caters for the following:

a. *Augmentation of current interagency emergency telecommunications systems and establishment of communication centers (COMCEN) in operational hubs*

Fully operational COMCENs will provide both data/Internet service and common security communications services to the humanitarian community in Dahuk and Suliymanieh;

b. *Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Coordination and Information Management*

As a Cluster lead, WFP will setup a cluster cell in Erbil to ensure coordination with all partners including UNAMI, UNDSS, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and others. The ET Cluster will also ensure coordination meetings are taking place and information sharing is facilitated between all partners.

21. Project Management

The WFP Iraq Country Director will be the fund manager for this Special Operation and the Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.

- a. The two sub-funded clusters will be managed as follows:
 - i. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator has been appointed as project manager and will be leading Logistics Cluster activities.
 - ii. The IT Emergency Coordinator will be managing emergency telecommunications services.

Project Cost and Benefits

22. This Special Operation has a total cost of **US\$ 2,963,848**. This is expected to provide the necessary Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications support emergency humanitarian operations in Iraq.

Monitoring & Evaluation

23. The key performance indicators for the logistics cluster response component of this SO are as follows:
 - Organizations receiving services from the ETC and Logistics Cluster and responding to a survey rate service satisfaction as 80% or above.
 - On coordination, the ETC and Logistics Cluster will host a minimum of two coordination meetings per month for the first 90 days.
 - On information management, the ETC and the Logistics Cluster will create one dedicated webpage, and will update this with a minimum of 2 IM products per week for the first 30 days, and a minimum of one IM product per week for the subsequent 60 days.
 - Number of operational areas covered by common security telecommunications network. Target: 2.
 - Number of operational areas covered by data communications services. Target: 2.
24. A compliance and cost-effectiveness mission will be conducted by the end of the operation. Operational reports will be provided on a regular basis.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation 200746 covering the period from 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014 at a total cost to WFP of **US\$ 2,963,848** is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

.....
Amir Abdulla
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer