Iraq Special Operation 200746
Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Support in Iraq
B/R No.: 2

BUDGET REVISION OF SO FOR THE APPROVAL OF REGIONAL DIRECTOR

	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason For Delay
ORIGINATOR				
Country Office or Regional Bureau on behalf of Country Office	....	....	…………..	………….
CLEARANCE				
Ms. Piyamon Arayaprayoon Project Budget & Programming Officer, RMBP	....	....	…………….	……………
Mr. Ally-Raza Qureshi Chief, RMBP	....	....	………………..	…………..
Mr. Adrian van der Knaap Chief, OSLT	....	....	……………	…………..
Mr. Wolfgang Herbinger Director, OSL	....	....	……………	…………..
Mr. Jakob Kern Director, OST (*ICT operations only*)	....	....	……………	…………..
APPROVAL				
☒ Mr. Mohamed Diab Regional Director	....	....	……………….	……………

PROJECT: Iraq SO 200746

Start date: 01 July 2014 **End date:** 31 December 2014 **Extension period:** 12 Months **New end date:** 31 December 2015

Cost (United States dollars)

	Current Budget US$	Increase US$	Revised Budget US$
Food Related Costs	-	-	-
Cash and Vouchers and Related Costs	-	-	-
Capacity Development & Augmentation	4,707,384	2,723,367	7,430,752
DSC	203,015	34,967	237,982
ISC	343,728	193,083	536,811
Total cost to WFP	**5,254,127**	**2,951,417**	**8,205,545**

TYPE OF REVISION

☒ **Additional DSC**   ☒ **Additional CD&A**   ☒ **Extension in time**   ☐ **Change in project orientation**
☐ **Other**

DISTRIBUTION:

DED & COO	Director, OSL	
Chief, OSLT	Director, OSZ	
Chief, RMBP, OSZR, OSZP	Regional Director	Director, PGG
Country Director	Programme Officer, RMBP	RB Programme Advisor
Registry	Programming Assistant, RMBP	RB Programme Assistant
Director, OST (ICT operations only)	Liaison Officer, OM Cairo	

NATURE OF REVISION:

- Extension in time to cover the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 to permit continuation of services in response to the evolving crisis.

- An increase in both the DSC and CD&A to cover extension and enhancement of current Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster support activities due to increased operational requirements, additional components, and equipment. These are essential to provide secure telecoms to the UN and NGOs, ongoing requirements for radio network maintenance, enhancing Civil Military Liaison, establishing an Inter-agency Bus Service, enhancing GIS capacity, and revising the Logistics Capacity Assessment.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

Achievements
1. Within the first week of offering storage and warehousing facilities to the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster received over 287.65mt, 1522.88m^3 of WASH, nutrition, and shelter materials from five agencies. Receipt and dispatch of items are ongoing from storage facilities located in Dohuk and Erbil. Mobile Storage Units have also been made available to humanitarian agencies as requested for areas where storage facilities are limited or non-existent.

2. The Logistics Cluster Information unit has published over 45 updates and information management products including maps for storage facilities and logistical road constraints, bottlenecks and conditions, and has held 22 meetings in Erbil and Dohuk, providing logistical services and information. A dedicated operations page for Iraq is activated on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate these information products to the humanitarian community.

3. Since the 14th August humanitarian organizations in Iraq have received 22 Unsolicited Bilateral Donation (UBD) flights from European donor governments which stretched the logistics capacities of these organizations. The Logistics Cluster, in partnership with WFP, has provided guidance and clearance assistance to UBD consignee organizations with limited capacity and continues to provide this service to allow for increased capacity during the initial scale up of operations (as above) as well as to allow for assistance to be provided for current winterization programs, as anticipated and requested by partners.

4. As requested by the SMT the Logistics Cluster has provided 16 airport security clearances since 28th September and continues to provide this service to UN agencies as a coordination activity.

5. The Emergency Telecommunications Support project has provided services in operational areas as well as coordinated activities among stakeholders. Common IT and Telecoms Services provided by the ETC to the humanitarian community have included:
   - Deployment of Operational 24/7 COMCEN in Erbil.
   - Upgrade of the operational COMCENs in Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk to support the extension of these services to the camps areas within these two governorates.
   - Deployment of Data services in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.
   - Liaison with government authorities on behalf of the humanitarian community to license and import telecoms equipment.
   - Conducted regular coordination meetings to ensure coordination and information sharing on a global and local level.
   - Provision of continuous radio training, programming and radio operators.

Extension in time owing to an evolving crisis
6. With the recent expansion of areas controlled by Other Armed Groups (OAGs) and the resulting displacement that has occurred, the humanitarian needs remain and the time-horizon has been stretched. According to OCHA, 4 million Iraqis are living in areas where insecurity has blocked humanitarian access, 2.2 million of whom are in need of humanitarian assistance. The total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is now 5.2 million (including IDPs, refugees, host families, vulnerable others, and those in areas under the control of ISIL and OAGs. In areas remaining under the control of the Government of Iraq, the authorities face financial strain owing to the influx of IDPs, and, the central government's delayed budget approval and subsequent disbursement of funds to provinces. This has meant that in some provinces many civil servants have not been paid for months.[1]

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[1] The latest Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) September 2014 (OCHA). states key factors that might substantially change the needs in this humanitarian crisis include:
I.   The release of the Federal Budget;
II.   The restoration of payments of salaries for government employees;
III. The dispatching of medical supplies through the central system;
IV.   The resumption of the (Public Distribution System) PDS for food;

7. Due to the rapidly deteriorating security situation, access to affected areas and people in need is extremely unpredictable and remains a challenge. The required funding for the 2014-2015 Strategic Response Plan is indicative of the scope of this crisis, with the total requirement for 2014 of US$ 1.2 billion (of which US$ 608 million has been received) and the estimated requirement for 2015 at US$ 1 billion.

8. Despite humanitarian partners ramping up activities, these estimated funding requirements are predicated on the key factors above. Hence, the key components of the SO 200746 have to be flexible, scalable and adaptable, to both the evolving security-related access constraints and the pending economic impacts should disbursements to provinces and restoration of subsidies not occur.

Increased operational requirements

9. Owing to heightened security requirements over the past three months UN personnel are not permitted to use local taxis, and hence each agency has engaged various methods for the movement of personnel: locally hired cars and drivers, and minivans. However, given the peak time demand for transit between offices and workplaces, the current individual agency arrangement are underutilized during non-peak times and over pressured in peak time. As the lead agency for Logistics, WFP has been asked to offer a more efficient means of interagency transport for the inter-agency personnel in Erbil. To alleviate the current array of individual agency's local transport arrangements WFP has agreed to provide a common bus service that permits the commute of UN personnel on a scheduled service both during work hours and outside of office hours. The schedule and routing includes all current main office bases, as well as all major places of accommodation.

10. In concurrence with the evolving crisis involving OAGs in Iraq, and the UN HCT's development of a framework for the interaction and decision-making among humanitarian actors with military actors, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as the focal point for Civil-Military Coordination (CMCOORD) will develop coordination mechanisms based on a strategy of co-existence. The framework notes…*there is a need for a smaller forum, a Civil-Military Working Group of humanitarian and military actors to interact and discuss sensitive issues that would not be addressed through other coordination mechanisms. This group, which would report to the HCT, would consist of: OCHA, UNAMI-SSI, NGOs, Logistics Cluster, Protection Cluster and the Coalition Joint Operations Centre (CJOC). It has been proposed that this group will meet on a weekly basis and share relevant information concerning relief and humanitarian activities with relevance to all actors and on threats to the safety and security of humanitarian actors and the civilian population.*[2]

11. The additional influx of newly internally displaced Iraqis is increasing the demand on logistics capacities. Depending on distances, routing, and the security situation, the cost of providing transport and storage range from US$ 20 to US$ 240 per mt. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties in collecting information on the condition of logistics infrastructure due to the worsening security situation. The Logistics Cluster has identified a Logistics Capacity Assessment Officer (LCA) and recruitment is underway, the incumbent will be the focal point for collating updates and these will be shared via the Digital LCA on the cluster website.

12. This revised SO budget and timeline will support the upgrade to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) Communications Centre (COMCEN) resulting in more effective tracking of personnel and vehicles (logistics and security) enhancing inter-agency efficiency and safety. Furthermore, the Communications Centre will be better equipped to provide comprehensive coverage of contextual and situational changes for the wider humanitarian response community.

13. Within the Framework for Civil Military Coordination (CMCOORD) in Iraq is the establishment of a Civil Military Working Group (CMWG) and stipulates the role of the Logistics Cluster as being to: collect and transmit information requests from humanitarian partners; and, facilitate the transfer of information between CMWG and logistics cluster's partners when relevant for the organization of humanitarian convoys[3]. Thus the Logistics Cluster includes the recruitment of a suitably qualified international Civil-Military logistics officer for a period of 6 months, subject to extension should further CM logistics liaison be required.

14. While GIS services have been provided in the past six months, enhanced capacity to monitor, map and regularly update logistical accessibility and road conditions has been identified by partners as a gap in the current spectrum of information products for the humanitarian community. Hence a dedicated GIS Officer is being deployed from a stand-by partner for three months and will leverage on established sources of data and systemize data collection for

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V.   A further wave of displacement caused by a negative shift in the security environment; and;
VI.   An (sic) improvement in (sic) conditions allowing for families to begin returning home.

[2] United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (UN HCT) Paper November 2014, Framework for Civil-Military Coordination, p2.
[3] Ibid p7.

logistical mapping on a regular basis. During this period a national GIS junior officer will be recruited to continue to provide mapping services and products through 2015.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Logistics Cluster Response

15. During this extended response phase, beginning in the fourth quarter of 2014, the following logistics activities will be carried out, and scaled-up according to need

    a. Emergency and or Strategic airlift
    As with the previous budget revision this activity will facilitate immediate strategic airlifts of support equipment, winterization NFIs, or in the case of a sudden increase in IDPs or major road supply network disruption. This Special Operations makes the provision for strategic airlifts from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), or elsewhere, to Erbil or elsewhere. Alternatively, utilization of commercial air cargo carriers is currently recommended to partners if the cargo is urgent and or fragile and or time or temperature sensitive, and only in cases where overland supply routes would be unsuitable. In the event of the closure of a major supply route, WFP can, on behalf of, and at the request of LC partners, organize the consolidation of cargoes with commercial suppliers.

    b. Temporary storage facilities and emergency transport in affected regions as and when required using a stock of moveable storage units (MSUs) and or commercially available facilities. The MSUs can be loaned to partners or used to replenish WFP storage capacity should restricted access result in geographically confined accessible areas. Facilities will be located to cater for cargo consolidation areas. Ancillary requirements – such as pallets and tarpaulins will be available should the need arise.

    c. Negotiated humanitarian corridors or escorted convoys may become important components of this operation. The Logistics Cluster will support the organization of convoys to access affected populations through the Framework for Civil-Military Coordination (CMCOORD) under the auspices of UN OCHA. A CM Liaison Officer will be recruited for the logistics cluster.

    d. A common bus service for UN agencies plying a standard daily routing during day and evening time to better serve the needs of humanitarian responders will reduce waiting times make more effective use of transportation available than the existing transportation arrangements. The day to day management of the service, scheduling, driver tasking, rosters, maintenance, provision of fuel vouchers etc. will be undertaken by the Iraq CO Administration Unit.

Logistics Cluster Coordination and Information Management

16. As lead agency for the Logistics Cluster, WFP has established coordination cells in Erbil and Dohuk, with a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer. This revision includes the addition of a GIS Officer, a CM Liaison Officer and a LCA focal point.

    a. The priority GIS products are the Road Access and Constraints Maps to be updated weekly or as feasible, and, the Warehouse/Storage Capacity and Sharing: which both require partner organizations to feed data to the GIS focal point. This will enable weekly updated (or as feasible) Access Constraints Map (ACM), indicating the logistical accessibility of the road network to reach affected persons. These products will be disseminated in both hardcopy and electronically.

    b. To support the updating of the Iraq Digital Logistics Capacity Assessment (D-LCA) to capture the changes during the last three years, the Logistics Cluster is in the process of recruiting a focal point to be the designated person to seek and receive the updated status of logistics infrastructure, road conditions, bridges, ports, and logistics service providers, to be made available via the cluster website.

17. These additional components – CM Liaison, GIS enhancement, D-LCA - are in line with the original intent of the SO to support the humanitarian community in Iraq but reflect a change in implementation modality due to requirements and the changing situation. Similarly, with the common bus service for the UN partner agencies, although the operational management of the service will be carried by the Iraq CO Administration Unit.

Logistics Cluster Exit Strategy

18. When partner organizations have concluded that the Logistics Cluster is no longer required, the transition phase will transfer existing assets to partner agencies that have a continuing presence serving the humanitarian community in Iraq. For GIS, that will be WFP and/or VAM. For CM Logs, that will be OCHA, UNAMI and/or regional WFP as and when appropriate. For the inter-agency bus service, that will be WFP CO. Other legacy issues will be addressed in accord with the needs and capacity of other partner organizations.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Response

19. 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 the humanitarian community to respond to the crisis. Specifically, this revision caters for the following:

    a. Augmentation of current interagency emergency telecommunications systems and establishment of communication centers (COMCEN) in operational hubs in 2015.

    b. Fully equipped operational Communications Centers (COMCENs) provided with both data/Internet service and common security communications services to the humanitarian community in Dohuk and Sulaimaniya;

    c. The ETC's role in the Erbil COMCEN, in coordination with UNAMI, will setup data connectivity for the UN agencies and NGO's in Erbil International Hotel. Also in close collaboration with UNAMI, ETC is upgrading the radio network to digital services for the use of all humanitarian organizations operating across Iraq.

    d. ETC continues to provide ongoing radio training and programming and has four radio operators in Erbil.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Coordination and Information Management

20. As a Cluster lead, WFP will continue providing cluster coordination in Erbil to ensure coordination with all partners such as UNAMI, UNDSS, OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR. The ETC will also ensure local and global coordination meetings are taking place and information sharing is facilitated between all partners.

ETC Exit Strategy

21. When activities are completed, ETC will ensure it hands over long-term services to UNAMI or another UN agency with on-going presence in the various locations that is best able to sustain it.

MANAGEMENT:

22. The WFP Iraq Country Director will be the Fund Manager for this project. The WFP Head of Finance will be Allotment Manager. The two sub-funded clusters will be managed as follows:

    A. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster will be managed by the ETC Cluster Coordinator

    B. Logistics Cluster will be managed by the Logistics Cluster Coordinator.

In light of the above, this budget revision for the extension in time of the SO for 12 months until 31 December 2015 with a budget increase of US $2,951,417 is recommended for approval by Regional Director.