



**World Food Programme**

## BUDGET REVISION OF SO FOR APPROVAL BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF

5) To:	Division	Room	Approval and Date
Mr. Jim Harvey Chief of Staff	OED	6G36	
4) Through:	Division	Room	Signature and Date
Ms. Elisabeth Rasmusson Assistant Executive Director	PG	6G72	
3) Through:	Division	Room	Signature and Date
Mr. Manoj Juneja Assistant Executive Director	RM	6G00	
2) Through:	Division	Room	Signature and Date
Mr. Ramiro Lopes da Silva Assistant Executive Director	OS	6G62	
1) From:	Regional Bureau	Signature and Date	
Ms. Denise Brown Regional Director	RBD		

### Nigeria Special Operation 200834 BR No. 02

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
CD&A (US\$)	2,889,604	3,433,509	6,323,113
DSC (US\$)	451,145	421,831	872,976
ISC (US\$)	233,852	269,874	503,726
<b>Total WFP cost (US\$)</b>	<b>3,574,602</b>	<b>4,125,213</b>	<b>7,699,815</b>

### TYPE OF REVISION

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

☐ Other

### NATURE OF REVISION:

Budget Revision Two (BR 02) to Special Operation 200834, 'Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Nigeria' seeks to extend the project in time for 6 months in order to ensure the continued provision of air transport services to the humanitarian community until 30 June 2016, with a subsequent total budget increase of **US\$4,125,213**. The original budget was approved for US\$3,574,602 for the period 01 May - 31 October 2015, followed by a no-cost extension for a further two months until 31 December 2015.

## **BACKGROUND:**

1. The overall humanitarian situation in Nigeria has deteriorated rapidly as a result of increasing conflict, particularly in the north-east due to the Boko Haram insurgency. Attacks have caused massive displacements, disrupted food supply, restricted movement and seriously hindered access to basic services for the affected population. Since the end of 2014, the Boko-Haram related violence has also taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger – countries where the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is providing air services.
2. It is estimated that 4.6 million people are in need of humanitarian aid, including 2.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) according to IOM<sup>1</sup>. This corresponds to an increase of 56 percent from 1.4 million IDPs in June 2015, and shows that the humanitarian conditions in the country are fluid and changing rapidly. As access remains difficult, host communities receive very little assistance. Humanitarian activities in remote areas that are or were formerly controlled by Boko Haram are very limited, and the complex humanitarian crisis remains precarious as the dynamic of insurgency and counter-insurgency activities, combined with inter-communal violence, is further increasing displacements and humanitarian needs.
3. As insecurity continues to hamper the humanitarian community's access to the most vulnerable, a humanitarian air operation is crucial to facilitate staff movement to Nigeria's north-east. Following a request from the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Special Operation 200834 was initially designed to start air operations in May 2015 with a six-month duration. However, due to administrative delays, activities could not be taken forward for three months. Flights commenced on 17 August 2015 after having received all required approvals from the Government of Nigeria. The operational base is in Nigeria's capital Abuja, with flights to the north-eastern cities of Yola, Bauchi, Gombe and Maiduguri.
4. Food, shelter, protection and access to health services and education have been reported as priority needs. Against the backdrop of a deteriorating humanitarian crisis, it is expected that aid organizations will continue activities in 2016. However, given the unpredictable security situation, long distances, poor road conditions and the lack of commercial air service providers meeting international aviation safety standards, relief workers rely on UNHAS to access beneficiaries and project implementation sites.

## **IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:**

5. Since UNHAS Nigeria operated its maiden flight on 17 August 2015, until 31 October 2015, the service transported 735 passengers and 2,660 kg of humanitarian cargo for a total of 26 organizations. Utilising a twin-engine turboprop aircraft with a capacity of up to 30 seats, UNHAS served four regular destinations out of Abuja in the country's north-east region. A monthly User Group Committee (UGC) composed of NGOs, UN agencies and donor representatives was established in Abuja with the first meeting held on 11 September 2015.

<sup>1</sup> ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, Snapshot 21-27 October 2015, p. 21



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Feedback received from users on the destinations served and the frequency of flights has been very positive. In addition to the regular UGC meetings, a Provision of Access Satisfaction Survey (PASS) was conducted to gain further feedback from users regarding their current and projected requirements. The project has been constantly reviewed and the service adapted as required in order to meet the demands of the humanitarian community as the situation evolves.

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:**

6. This budget revision to continue the provision of air services in order to facilitate humanitarian staff travel to various locations in Nigeria is deemed necessary due to the following factors:

- a. Continuous Need for Humanitarian Assistance:

The level of humanitarian need is high in Nigeria's Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno and Gombe states, among others, and humanitarian assistance will be urgently required in 2016. Insecurity and conflict combined with chronic underdevelopment and high vulnerability to natural hazards have severely impacted on the country's humanitarian situation. As of September 2015, an estimated 4.6 million Nigerians were food insecure, including 3.5 million severely food insecure who are in need of emergency food assistance. Assistance is required in all areas of humanitarian intervention. It is estimated that 3.5 million people need health support, 2.2 million Nigerians are in need of WASH support and protection respectively and 1 million people are in need of shelter and non-food items (NFIs).<sup>2</sup> Aid organizations' ability to reach beneficiaries will depend on uninterrupted air services provided by UNHAS.

- b. Increased Demand

As of the end of October, 26 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions relied on UNHAS to implement and monitor their activities in Nigeria. This shows that the demand for humanitarian air services increased considerably compared to end-September when UNHAS had enabled access to beneficiaries for 19 organizations. Also outputs for passenger and cargo movement observed a significant increment. Whilst at the end of September UNHAS had transported a total of 276 passengers and over 1,200 kg of cargo, at the end of October 2015, the transportation of humanitarian staff and cargo rose to 735 and 2,660 kg respectively. With more than 500 passengers travelling between Abuja and Borno state, Maiduguri can be considered UNHAS' busiest destination. Based on the aforementioned performance trends, the demand for air services to support the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian projects is expected to further increase.

- c. Lack of Alternative Means of Transport:

Insecurity and vast distances seriously impede access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites. All states served by UNHAS have poor road conditions and networks, which compromises access to the affected locations, especially during the rainy season. Furthermore, there are currently no commercial air service providers in the country that

<sup>2</sup> ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, Snapshot 21-27 October 2015, p. 21



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meet international aviation safety standards. This renders the assessment of humanitarian needs even more difficult, and consequently deteriorates the already severe situation into a major humanitarian crisis. Since commencement of operations, UNHAS has proven to be a crucial service for the humanitarian community in Nigeria to facilitate the delivery of much needed assistance. Taking into consideration that it takes two days driving from the capital, Abuja, to reach Maiduguri in Borno State, the introduction of UNHAS flights has significantly reduced travelling times and, consequently, the inherent security risks previously encountered by humanitarian actors when moving personnel and cargo by road to the north-east. UNHAS flights have enabled these organizations to overcome logistical bottlenecks and increase significantly the scale of their response, thus reaching larger parts of the affected population.

7. In 2016, the operational fleet will comprise of one fixed wing aircraft certified for 30 passenger seats. The asset will be positioned strategically at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja and tasked appropriately to effectively respond to humanitarian needs in the country's north-east region.
8. In line with WFP's Strategic Results Framework, the objectives of the Special Operation 200834 for 2016 will remain as follows:
  - To provide NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions in Nigeria with safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites;
  - To transport life-saving cargo such as medical supplies;
  - To provide adequate capacity for evacuations of humanitarian staff.
9. The project's key performance indicators have been slightly revised and will include the following targets for 2016:
  - Number of Needs Assessments carried out (target: 4);
  - Number of passengers transported (target: 2,100)
  - Percentage of passenger bookings served (target: 95 percent);<sup>3</sup>
  - Amount of light cargo transported (target: 6,000 kg);
  - Number of organizations using the service (target: 30);
  - Number of destinations served (target: 5);
  - Response to medical and security evacuations duly requested (target: 100 percent)
10. The specifics of the implementation of this project will be constantly reviewed and tailored to changing realities on the ground according to the needs of the humanitarian community.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

In light of the above, this budget revision for extension in time for six months, until 30 June 2016 with a subsequent budget increase of **US\$4,125,213** is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.

<sup>3</sup> This does not include unserved bookings due to flight cancellations resulting from bad weather or insecurity.

Annex A  
UNHAS Nigeria Routes (as of September 2015)

