



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		

Cameroon Special Operation 200895 BR No. 01

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
CD&A (US\$)	2,300,504	3,754,181	6,054,685
DSC (US\$)	314,149	285,234	599,383
ISC (US\$)	183,026	282,759	465,785
Total WFP cost (US\$)	2,797,679	4,322,174	7,119,853

TYPE OF REVISION

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

NATURE OF REVISION:

Budget Revision One (BR 01) to Special Operation 200895, 'Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Cameroon' seeks to extend the project in time for 12 months in order to ensure the continued provision of air transport services to the humanitarian community until 31 December 2016, with a subsequent total budget increase of **US\$4,322,174**. The original budget was approved for US\$2,797,679 for the period 15 August - 31 December 2015.

BACKGROUND:

1. In July 2015, WFP Aviation conducted a needs assessment survey to determine the air transport needs of humanitarian organizations in Cameroon. Respondents indicated that the establishment of UNHAS would be required to facilitate the implementation of humanitarian activities and provide capacity for evacuations of staff if required. Following a formal request from the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Special Operation 200895 was designed to start the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in mid-August 2015, for an initial period of four and a half months. However, activities could not be taken forward for three months due to administrative delays and flights only commenced on 16 November after receiving all required approvals from the Government of Cameroon.
2. The conflict that erupted in Central African Republic in December 2013 has generated significant displacements into Cameroon. In addition, the increase in violence that Nigeria has witnessed due to Boko Haram continues to displace thousands of people. Since December 2014, Boko-Haram related activities have taken on a more regional dimension with attacks in neighbouring Cameroon, among others, and threatens the humanitarian situation in the country. In particular, since 2014, following escalation of insecurity the humanitarian conditions in the northern parts have significantly deteriorated. In the country's Far North region, the number of people in need of immediate food assistance has tripled since June 2014 to reach 200,000 people¹.
3. Food insecurity and lack of access to adequate health, WASH and education services are some of the challenges the population is facing. Furthermore, in October 2015, flooding has affected more than 21,000 people in the Far North region. The current lack of reliable commercial air operators poses a major constraint to the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Access remains severely restricted due to insecurity along the Nigeria-Cameroon border and poor road conditions in Adamawa region where refugee camps are located close to the border with C.A.R.

IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:

4. Since UNHAS conducted its maiden flight on 16 November, within one month of operations, the service had transported over 260 passengers and approximately 1,500 kg of humanitarian cargo for a total of 26 organizations. Using a medium-size turboprop aircraft, UNHAS has served three domestic destinations out of Yaoundé in the country's Far North, North and Adamawa regions. Also, in order to improve humanitarian organizations' ability to scale up efforts in areas such as Logone and Chari in northern Cameroon where humanitarian needs persist, a flight connection has been provided between Maroua and N'Djamena with support from UNHAS Chad. A User Group Committee (UGC) composed of NGOs, UN agencies and donor representatives was established in Yaoundé with the first monthly meeting held on 20 November 2015. Furthermore, a Steering Committee (SC) was set up, which will meet on a quarterly basis. At its first meeting on 7 December, donors and users expressed a high level of satisfaction with the service, which they regard critical to effective humanitarian intervention in Cameroon.

¹ OCHA, Sahel. A call for humanitarian aid. Responding to the needs of people affected by crises in the Sahel in 2016, p. 5



JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

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

- a. Introduction of a Nominal Booking Fee:

Until end of December, UNHAS Cameroon relied fully on donor contributions and service was offered free of charge to the humanitarian community. In line with the recommendation from the Steering Committee, a nominal booking fee amounting to US\$100 will be introduced on 1 January 2016. Full cost recovery will be applied to unscheduled flights.

- b. Continuous Need for Humanitarian Assistance:

Cameroon is facing unprecedented security challenges, and a multi-layered and increasingly complex humanitarian situation: a vast refugee influx triggered by conflicts in both Nigeria and Central African Republic, internal displacements caused by the Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria, recurrent natural disasters such as droughts and floods, malnutrition and frequent outbreaks of water-borne epidemics. As of November, 254,115 refugees from C.A.R. and 65,109 from Nigeria were reported in Cameroon while 158,316 people were internally displaced². Out of this, 49 percent were displaced in 2015 – 87 percent due to Boko Haram-related violence and 13 percent by flooding and other natural disasters. Large population movements have put limited local resources under severe strain. It is estimated that 2.1 million people of the country's more than 23 million population require humanitarian assistance and 1.8 million are in need of the most basic assistance and protection, primarily in the Far North, North, Adamawa and East regions. Priority needs of refugees, IDPs and host communities are protection, health, WASH and education. Furthermore, the number of food insecure people has spiked and reached 1.27 million people. Aid workers' ability to reach populations in need of assistance will depend on uninterrupted access provided by UNHAS.

- c. Continued Demand

Both the UGC and the SC have unanimously acknowledged the criticality of the service and confirmed the need for the continuation of UNHAS Cameroon in 2016. In the first month of operations, 26 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions relied on UNHAS to implement and monitor humanitarian activities. With more than 70 percent of the passengers travelling between Yaoundé and Cameroon's Far North region, Maroua can be considered UNHAS' busiest destination. In addition to criminal activities along the way, poor road conditions render surface travel very time-consuming. It takes one day driving from the capital to go to Ngaoundere, and Garoua can be reached through a two-day trip. UNHAS therefore plays a vital role in ensuring rapid access to main intervention areas. The demand for air services to support the implementation and monitoring of humanitarian projects is expected to further increase over time. The operation also provides capacity for possible evacuation of humanitarian staff when required and conducts special flights upon request.

² ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, Snapshot 2-8 December 2015, p.50.



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d. Lack of Alternative Means of Transport:

The provision of assistance by aid organizations has been hampered by vast distances and poor road infrastructure to project implementation sites. In addition, the deterioration of the security situation has made access to northern parts of Cameroon, particularly the Far North extremely difficult. Some domestic airlines are available in the country, however, they do not meet international aviation safety standards. UNHAS is therefore a crucial service for the humanitarian community in Cameroon to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The volatile security situation and, consequently, the limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response in the Far North has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible. The introduction of UNHAS flights and their continuation throughout 2016 enables humanitarian organizations to scale up their response and reach more people in need.

6. In 2016, the operational fleet will consist of one fixed-wing aircraft based in Yaoundé, which has a capacity of up to 19 passenger seats and can serve unpaved airstrips. The air service will be essential to ensure a reliable link in-country between Cameroon's capital and locations in the Far North, North and Adamawa regions, namely Maroua, Garoua and Ngaoundere. Additionally, services may be expanded to other domestic locations depending on users' needs and demand. UNHAS Cameroon and UNHAS Chad will maintain the integrated schedule for two days a week to link Yaoundé and N'Djamena via Maroua.
7. In line with WFP's Strategic Results Framework, the objectives of the Special Operation 200895 for 2016 will remain as follows:
 - To provide NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions in Cameroon with safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites;
 - To transport light cargo such as medical supplies, high energy foods and information and communications technology (ICT) equipment; and
 - To provide adequate capacity for evacuations of humanitarian staff.
8. 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: 3,000)
 - Percentage of passenger bookings served (target: 95 percent);³
 - Amount of light cargo transported (target: 12,000 kg);
 - Number of organizations using the service (target: 30);
 - Number of destinations served (target: 4);
 - Response to medical and security evacuations duly requested (target: 100 percent)
9. 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 twelve months, until 31 December 2016 with a subsequent budget increase of **US\$4,322,174** is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.

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

Annex A

UNHAS Cameroon Routes as of December 2015

