



WFP (Ecuador)
SPECIAL OPERATION SO (200972)

Country:	Ecuador
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics Augmentation and Coordination in Response to the Earthquake in Ecuador
Total cost (US\$):	US\$2,038,330
Duration:	20 April – 20 July 2016 (3 months)

Executive Summary

1. On 16 April 2016 at 06:58 pm local time, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the northern coast of Ecuador. A state of emergency has been declared in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos and Santa Elena. Government reports indicate hundreds of people killed, thousands injured and many more displaced.
2. The Government of Ecuador, through the Secretariat for Risk Management has appealed to the international community for support on 19 April 2016. International relief efforts are ongoing, including the deployment of an UNDAC Team, with whom WFP is working closely with on Logistics coordination. Several National Sectors were activated by the Government of Ecuador comprising relevant Government Ministries and departments, UN Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations. The sectors will be responsible for identification of needs within the sectors and ensuring that the needs are addressed. Through this Special Operation, WFP, as global lead agency for the Logistics Cluster, will support the logistics coordination and information management for the earthquake response under the leadership of the Government of Ecuador.
3. Through this special operation WFP will support the relief efforts of the Humanitarian Community and of the Government of Ecuador. The special operation provides for:
 - Logistics coordination, GIS mapping and information management for the logistics response.
 - Logistics augmentation including: strategic airlifts and temporary inter-agency storage and cargo reception facilities.
4. This special operation will have an initial duration of 3 months at a total estimated cost of US\$2,038,330.

Project Background

5. On 16 April 2016, a 7.8 (Richter scale) magnitude earthquake 10 km deep, took place off the Pacific coast of Ecuador. It was followed by another 5.4 (Richter scale) magnitude quake and hundreds of after-shocks. On 19 April, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake 15 km deep also took place off the Pacific coast. While thorough assessments on the ground are still in progress, an initial situation assessment indicates that the level of devastation and disruption of livelihoods caused by the earthquakes requires substantive humanitarian response efforts. International support has been requested due to the scale of the needs.
6. The authorities immediately activated emergency protocols as well as the national Emergency Operations Center, the military and police have been deployed to assist in the response. Government efforts are concentrated in the affected area and include health services, search and rescue teams, police and army.
7. Logistics infrastructure has been severely hampered by the earthquake and aftershocks. Airports are closed and roads blocked, limiting accessibility.

Project Justification

8. Given the scale of the disaster, WFP urgently needs to augment the logistics capacity of the government and humanitarian community to ensure sufficient assets and staff are in place to support the humanitarian community, including in Logistics coordination and information management. This is needed to prevent duplication of efforts, enhance utilization of available logistics assets.
9. The urgency of relief items and equipment needed at the beginning of the operation will require coordinated strategic airlifts from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) network.
10. The expected volumes of relief items being brought into the country, in conjunction with damaged infrastructure, will require the setting up of forward logistics bases to support efficient cargo handling. These logistics hubs would be set up in strategic locations including Esmeraldas and Manta.

Project Objective(s)

11. The main objectives of this operation are to:
 - Enhance coordination, predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the emergency logistics response under the Sectoral approach lead by the Government of Ecuador.

- Support the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected population by augmenting the logistics capacity by:
 - Deployment of logistics staff;
 - Coordinating strategic airlifts;
 - Setting up of temporary forwarding hubs consisting of storage facilities and office space;

Project Implementation

12. This special operation accommodates the essential logistics requirements to ensure the delivery of key relief items to the affected population and the necessary operational support to the humanitarian community for its crisis response.
13. Given the rapidly evolving situation on the ground, the below implementation plan may be revised as necessary. The activities will include:

Logistics Sector Coordination

14. In order to facilitate a unified response effort on behalf of the humanitarian community, the following coordination services will be provided to minimise duplication of logistics activities during the response: Regular Logistics Sector Coordination meetings will be held with partners for the purpose of briefing on, updating, and revising operational plans as needed; information sharing; and analysis of existing and emerging logistics gaps and bottlenecks.
15. The following Information Management (IM) activities will be undertaken by the WFP in the interest of promoting and facilitating the sharing of logistics information among all organisations conducting response operations. To ensure an efficient and effective response by the humanitarian community, WFP as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster will collect, consolidate, and share information, including GIS, related to on-going activities, key infrastructure, important procedures, such as customs, access constraints, and available storage and transport capacity in the affected areas.

Strategic airlifts

16. In order to facilitate the immediate deployment of the support equipment required for the start-up of operations, this Special Operation makes provision for strategic airlifts from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot network to Ecuador. The first airlift from UNHRD in Panama arrived in Quito on 22 April 2016. This airlift included humanitarian supplies for partners including UNICEF, WHO, Action Contre la Faim, the White Helmets of Argentina as well as WFP mobile storage units which will be set up as forward logistics bases as detailed below. Another airlift will take place in the coming days with High-Energy-Biscuits from UNHRD Dubai.

Set-up of logistics operations and hubs in country

17. Forward Logistics Bases will be established to avoid congestion at the main entry points of affected areas and ease the flow of life-saving commodities, where large-scale relief activities are being undertaken. The Logistics Emergency Team is already on the ground in Ecuador and will be further augmented in the coming days. UNHRD's has deployed a Rapid Response Team to support in the receipt and securing of arriving cargo at the airport, setting up mobile storage units and operating handling equipment on the tarmac.

Project Management

18. The WFP Ecuador Country Director will be the Funds Manager for this SO and the WFP Ecuador Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.
19. The WFP Ecuador Logistics Emergency Coordinator will be the overall Project Manager for this SO and responsible for the implementation in coordination with the Global Logistics Cluster and UNHRD.
20. Logistics Sector Coordination Meetings will be held with UN Agencies, NGOs, and donors in different locations in Ecuador, in order to identify and monitor logistics gaps and reach common solutions.

Project Cost and Benefits

21. This special operation has a total cost of US\$2,038,329 and is expected to provide the necessary logistics support to life saving emergency operations in Ecuador.
22. This Special Operation intends to prevent and alleviate gaps and bottlenecks in the humanitarian logistics response and facilitate an uninterrupted supply of life-saving and life-sustaining goods and services to those affected by the earthquake in Ecuador. It will enable the humanitarian community to move relief items into the affected area in a more reliable and predictable way, while preventing overlaps in the response.

Monitoring & Evaluation

23. The key performance indicators will be:
 - Number of staging areas and logistics hubs established (3)
 - Percentage of service requests to handle, store and/or transport cargo fulfilled (85%)

- Number of agencies and organizations utilizing transport and storage services (15)
- Number of bulletins, maps, and other logistics information products produced and shared (40)
- Meet with the partners on a weekly basis and accordingly meet with the governmental counterparts in order to coordinate frequency management procedures.
- Organizations receiving services from the Logistics Sector and responding to a user survey rate service satisfaction as 80% or above.

24. Operational reports will be provided on a regular basis

25. The humanitarian situation will be monitored and assessed on a regular basis in order to capture any necessary changes in a budget revision in due time should this be deemed necessary.

Risk Analysis and Contingency Planning

26. Demands for storage and transportation exceed current forecasts

This risk will be mitigated through:

- Continued assessment of availability of adequate commercial transportation and storage facilities; and
- Availability of prepositioned equipment in UNHRDs to meet the needs of the humanitarian community.

27. Lack of funding

This risk will be mitigated through:

- Actively provide inputs in ongoing appeals and donor outreach materials.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation 200972 covering the period from 20 April 2016 to 20 July 2016 at a total cost to WFP of US\$2,038,330 is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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 Jim Harvey
 Chief of Staff

