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BUDGET REVISION OF SO FOR APPROVAL BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

5) To:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Chris Nikoi Regional Director, RBJ				
4) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Ms. Sarah Longford Programme Adviser, RBJ				
3) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Morris Oduor Logistic Officer, RBJ				
2) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Ms. Aline Samu Resource Management Analyst, RBJ				
1) From:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Claude Jibidar Country Director				

**Democratic Republic of the Congo Special Operation 200661
BR04**

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$ 3,714,507	US\$ 1,376,020	US\$ 5,090,527

TYPE OF REVISION

- Additional DSC
 Additional CD&A
 Extension in time
 Change in project orientation
 Other

NATURE OF REVISION:

1. This fourth budget revision to Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Special Operation 200661 (“Strengthening Food Security Cluster Coordination in the DRC”) extends the operation by a period of twelve months, from July 2016 to July 2017. This extension will enable WFP to continue efforts to strengthen the functioning of the Food Security Cluster in DRC, where ongoing volatility in the political and food security context necessitates strong humanitarian response coordination. Specific activities to be undertaken include: support for food security analysis and market monitoring; information management; capacity strengthening; and provincial-level cluster coordination.
2. During the period of extension, the development of a new Special Operation to follow and build upon the achievements of this project will be considered.



3. The budget for the operation will increase by US\$ 1,376,020 to a total US\$ 5,090,527.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

4. The humanitarian situation in DRC remains precarious and fragile. Ongoing violence, armed conflict, epidemics, environmental shocks, and high levels of poverty, food insecurity and undernutrition, amount to a complex and protracted crisis in the country. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) estimates that 7.5 million people nationwide are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2016.
5. The 13th Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) round (September 2015 to March 2016) revealed that 4.5 million people are facing acute food security and livelihood crisis conditions (IPC levels 3 and 4). A chronic IPC analysis conducted for the first time in DRC in March 2016 found that chronic food insecurity is widespread, affecting all 26 provinces of the country.
6. Political tensions are mounting and there is fear of generalized violence if elections are not held in November 2016 as required by the DRC constitution. This could result in further deterioration of the food security situation in affected areas.
7. In this volatile context, the Food Security Cluster jointly assesses and analyzes food security needs, and disseminates information to relevant stakeholders, in order to facilitate appropriate response planning. The Food Security Cluster is co-led by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and all activities are jointly implemented by both agencies and in partnership with the Cluster's membership.
8. This Special Operation 200661 was approved in March 2014 to strengthen the coordination of the Food Security Cluster, with a focus on parts of the country affected by ongoing conflict and population movement. The overarching objective is to revitalize the functioning of the Cluster and thereby improve joint responses to food security needs. Three previous budget revisions made minor technical adjustments to the budget and extended the operation to June 2016.
9. Numerous results have been achieved during the life of the operation thus far. Regular Cluster coordination meetings have been held and membership has increased at both national and provincial levels. IPC analysis workshops have been held twice a year, an information management system has been enhanced, and a workshop held to provide the Government and Cluster members with harmonized tools and methodologies to monitor food security and market indicators, including through the use of innovative technology such as mVAM.
10. Nonetheless, the Food Security Cluster still faces a number of challenges, and gains made thus far are not yet sustainable. These challenges include the following:
 - Limited Government presence and inadequate staff fielded as co-leads at the provincial level. This continues to problematize planned hand over of the coordination of food security activities in the country to a Government counterpart;
 - Weak food security and market monitoring systems, which inhibit the Food Security Cluster from providing accurate and timely information to decision makers (assessments are still not undertaken on a regular basis); and



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- A lack of updated data to feed the IPC analysis. In 2015, provinces and territories in western parts of the country were excluded from the IPC analysis owing to a lack of reliable data.

11. As a result, WFP, in collaboration with FAO, will continue to implement this Special Operation over the next twelve months, to address some of these challenges and continue efforts to improve joint humanitarian response planning through the Food Security Cluster. During this period, the establishment of a new Special Operation will be considered, depending upon progress made at that stage and any change in support needs.

12. Through this budget revision, the following activities will be carried out by the Food Security Cluster:

Information Management

13. Information on individual Cluster members' activities and projects has been collected in North Kivu and the former Katanga province. Collection is ongoing in South Kivu, Maniema and the former Orientale province. Once completed, the information management system will be used to create a variety of mapping and other useful products. An online Information Tool platform has been established and is ready to be used. Partners have been trained on its use for reporting in Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, Punia, Bukavu, Uvira and Bunia. To further these efforts, one Information Management position will be established in Bukavu, to work directly with a greater array of Cluster partners operating in the field.

Acute, Chronic and Nutrition IPC

14. The 13th IPC analysis was carried out in DRC during August and September 2015. Provincial workshops were organised in Matadi, Lubumbashi, Goma, Bukavu, Bunia, Gbadolite and Punia, including local government and humanitarian actors with an in-depth knowledge of the local situation. A national workshop in Kinshasa synthesized provincial analyses and elaborated a revised DRC map of food insecurity levels. A large part of the country was not included in the analysis due to an absence of information for these areas at that stage. Over the next twelve months, the Food Security Cluster will support two national and provincial level IPC rounds.

15. During 2016 and 2017, the Food Security Cluster will conduct chronic and malnutrition IPC studies, in order to determine some underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, and inform appropriate responses by the government and humanitarian partners.

Provincial-level Cluster Coordination

16. In 2015, provincial Food Security Clusters efficiently mobilized stakeholders and collected data. During 2016, these Clusters will continue to facilitate emergency response planning and coordination, providing new products including monthly updated maps.

17. Two provincial level Cluster Coordinators will be maintained in Katanga and North Kivu (the latter will cover North and South Kivu, Maniema, Ituri, Haut and Bas Uele and Tshopo provinces).

18. Support to local government is central to the Cluster's work at the provincial level. Joint coordination plans will be developed with provincial governments and relevant staff will be trained in coordination mechanisms and food security analysis.

Capacity Building and Harmonization

19. Capacity building will remain a core activity of the Food Security Cluster. Over the next twelve months, some 400 partner staff will be trained in areas such as: Food Consumption Score, the Information Management tool, IPC, protection mainstreaming, needs assessment, and project design and management. The Food Security Cluster will increase local government and NGO involvement in field visits, in order to verify if knowledge acquired through capacity building activities is implemented.

Food Security and Market Monitoring

20. In 2016, humanitarian actors in DRC are preparing to scale up market-based interventions. The use of cash as a transfer modality is progressively well accepted by different stakeholders, including donors, Government and beneficiaries. However, food security and market information systems remain weak; many actors are collecting basic commodity prices, but using varying methodologies which limits comparability and generalization. Furthermore, market information is not routinely collected at the territorial level, where vulnerable rural populations are affected. Delays in the transmission of information has also been a common constraint to market monitoring.
21. Through this Special Operation, the Food Security Cluster will improve and extend the national market monitoring system through the use of mVAM. On a monthly basis, call centre operators will place live calls to households and key informants in different market locations at the territorial level. It is expected that approximately 3,000 households and 400 key informants will be surveyed each month. In addition to food commodity prices, information relating to food supply, daily labour wages, fuel and taxes will be collected. At the household level, key indicators monitored include the food consumption score and coping strategy index. Collected information will be analysed and disseminated through three channels: bulletins, SMS and online dataset. To make this system work, the private sector, notably mobile phone companies, will play a key role.
22. Government leadership is central. The Government will manage the database, as well as produce and disseminate information bulletins. The Food Security Cluster will provide necessary technical support, and will work to ensure that humanitarian partners and donors are engaged and contributing to the system. NGO Cluster members with a strong field presence will support in triangulating the information collected through key informants.