



**World Food
Programme**

BUDGET REVISION OF SO FOR APPROVAL BY THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

5) To:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Jakob KERN Country Director				
4) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Carl Paulsson, Senior Programme Policy Officer, RBC				
3) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Mr. Carlos Melendez, Logistics Officer, RBC				
2) Through:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Ms. Lindita Bare, Budget & Programming Officer, RBC				
1) From:	Initials	In Date	Out Date	Reason for Delay
Regional Bureau on behalf of Country Office				

Syrian Arab Republic Special Operation 200950
WFP Air Deliveries to Provide Humanitarian Support to Besieged and Hard to Reach Areas
in Syria
BR No. 02

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
	US\$	US\$	US\$
CD&A (US\$)	34,450,040	-	34,450,040
DSC (US\$)	33,432	-	33,432
ISC (US\$)	2,413,843	-	2,413,843
Total WFP cost (US\$)	36,897,315	-	36,897,315

TYPE OF REVISION

☐ Additional DSC
 ☐ Additional CD&A
 ☒ Extension in time
 ☐ Other



NATURE OF REVISION:

Budget Revision Two (BR 02) to Special Operation 200950 'WFP Air Deliveries to Provide Humanitarian Support to Besieged and Hard to Reach Areas in Syria' seeks to extend the project in time for three months until 31 October 2016 in order to complete the airdrops planned under Budget Revision One, without a corresponding budget increase. The original budget was approved for US\$18,154,268 for the period 20 February – 19 May 2016, followed by a project extension until 31 July 2016 with an additional budget of US\$18,743,047. Due to various factors detailed in the following sections the airdrops could not be completed in the scheduled timeframe. The project can be sustained under the original approved budget. The operation is fully donor-funded and designed to enable WFP to carry out delivery of food and other relief items to support affected populations in the Deir Ezzor region of Syria.

BACKGROUND:

1. The humanitarian crisis in Syria grows increasingly dire each day. Since the outbreak of conflict in March 2011, over a quarter of a million people have been killed and more than one million injured¹. There are currently 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the country, out of which 6.5 million are internally displaced. A further 4.8 million Syrians have been forced to flee their homes and are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries².
2. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance living in hard-to-reach and besieged areas has increased from 4.56 million in January 2016 to 5.47 million, including some 590,000 across the 18 areas classified as 'besieged locations' inside Syria. This corresponds to a rise in 110,000 people in besieged areas and 800,000 in hard-to-reach locations since February 2016.³
3. In a briefing to the UN Security Council at the end of June 2016, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien warned that progress made in Syria to date was "but a trickle compared to the level of protection concerns, needs and suffering in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. It is therefore vital that the stuttering momentum sustained on humanitarian access over the past few months continues and improves, and is significantly expanded into the second half of the year."
4. Delivery of assistance to populations in need remains significantly restricted by the lack of access for humanitarian organizations. Road access has been impossible to the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, where 110,000 people have been besieged and airdrops remain the only viable means to quickly reach those affected.

¹ OCHA: Syrian Arab Republic. About the Crisis. Available at <http://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/syria-country-profile/about-crisis>. Accessed on 7 July 2016.

² OCHA: Syria Crisis. Bi-Weekly Situation Report No. 7, 20 June 2016

³ Ibid.



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IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:

5. On 24 February, WFP attempted its first ever high-altitude parachute airdrop, dropping 21 metric tons of food assistance to Deir Ezzor. Following some technical difficulties at the initial attempt, WFP conducted a series of trial drops in Jordan to ensure the accuracy and precision of the drops.
6. Between 10 April and 19 July 2016, WFP carried out 74 airdrops with an Ilyushin (IL-76) aircraft, dropping more than 1,336 metric tons of urgently needed relief items, including UNICEF high-energy biscuits, date bars, salt, beans, chickpeas, rice, sugar, bulgur, oil, lentils and water purification tablets to meet the immediate needs of 110,000 people in the besieged city of Deir Ezzor. WFP works closely with its partner on the ground, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), which collects the relief items at the drop zone and organizes distribution to beneficiaries. By the forty-fifth rotation, which took place on 1 June 2016, sufficient quantities had been delivered to provide each of the 18,000 SARC-registered households with sufficient food commodities. Since then, ongoing airdrops are being conducted in order to provide every household a second monthly food ration. WFP will keep delivering food and other humanitarian supplies by appropriate air means to the besieged areas, in coordination with the humanitarian community, while negotiations continue for improved road access.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

7. This budget revision to provide aid deliveries by air to besieged and hard-to-reach locations inside Syria is deemed necessary due to the following factors:

a. Continuous Need for Humanitarian Assistance:

In June 2016, the UN had reached all 18 besieged areas in Syria with humanitarian assistance, including Zamalka and Arbeen where assistance was provided for the first time since November 2012. According to OCHA, around 34 percent of people living in besieged areas and some 14 percent in need in hard-to-reach locations are accessed on average every month. Humanitarian needs are immense and range from food, protection and healthcare to NFIs, adequate shelter and access to water and sanitation. Whilst airdrops have considerably improved the food security situation in the city of Deir Ezzor, water and sanitation conditions are reported to have deteriorated, and an acute fuel shortage is further worsening the humanitarian crisis. Although being explored, airlifts are impracticable given the security context on ground.

b. Non-completion of airdrops planned under the previous BR

Budget Revision One planned for a total of 144 high-altitude airdrops in order to provide people in need with food commodities, nutritious products and water sanitation material. There has been no change in this requirement. However, the one IL-76 cargo aircraft available for this service carries less tonnage per flight than estimated during project design due to volume and cargo configuration. Furthermore, some operational challenges were encountered which led to the cancellation of some rotations. These include bureaucratic delays to obtain operating permits from relevant authorities, inclement weather and the



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prevailing security situation within Syria. In addition, only one commercial air operator is willing to carry out such a specialized operation. It has not been possible to introduce a second aircraft planned under the project as it was eventually used to replace the first aircraft, which had to be withdrawn for mandatory maintenance. In view of the foregoing, a budget revision is required in order to complete airdrops as planned. Operations are expected to continue until such a time that humanitarian access to people in need is gained through means other than air and the most urgent humanitarian needs among the population are met.

RECOMMENDATION:

In light of the above, this budget revision for a no-cost extension in time for three months until 31 October 2016 is recommended for approval by the Country Director, with the original budget provided.



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Annex A

Map

