



WFP HAITI SPECIAL OPERATION SO 201033

Country:	Haiti
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination in Response to the Hurricane Matthew in Haiti
Total cost (US\$):	US\$4,517,060
Duration:	05 October 2016 to 31 December 2016 (3 months)

Executive Summary

Hurricane Matthew, a category 4 storm has hit the Caribbean region and the Government of Haiti has requested for the international assistance. Whilst full extent of the damage is still unknown, Haiti has been severely affected due to storm surge, high waves and hurricane-force winds causing severe flooding, mudslides and flash floods. Damage to roads and infrastructure has been reported, especially in the departments of South, Nippes, Grande-Anse, South East and West.

A large logistics operation in coordination with different international, regional and national organizations and MINUSTAH is anticipated. Through this Special Operations WFP, in its capacity as Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster lead, aims to support the relief efforts of the humanitarian community and the Government of Haiti through its logistics and emergency telecommunications augmentation. The special operation thus provides for:

- Logistics coordination, GIS mapping and information management for the logistics response.
- Logistics augmentation including: strategic airlifts and other air and sea cargo services, temporary inter-agency storage and cargo reception facilities and assessments for emergency road and bridge repairs for access.
- Provision of emergency telecommunications required for the humanitarian community to respond to the crisis.

This special operation will have an initial duration of 3 months at a total estimated cost of **US\$ 4,517,060**.

Project Background

1. Hurricane Matthew, a powerful category 4 Atlantic hurricane, hit the south western tip of Haiti making landfall on Tuesday, 4 October 2016. Its maximum sustained wind of 250 km/h and torrential rain caused extensive damage in coastal areas, valleys and mountainous regions.

2. Casualties have been reported. The numbers of displaced and affected are not yet known, however, the total population in the southern department is more than 2 million many of who live in poorly constructed housing.

Project Justification

3. Given the scale of the disaster, WFP urgently needs to augment its logistics and emergency telecommunications capacity to ensure sufficient assets and staff are in place to support the humanitarian community.
4. The magnitude of the disaster, number of people affected and the lack of information available call for a coordinated and efficient response from the international community proportionate to the scope of the disaster to avoid bottlenecks and possible overlaps. Logistics Response Team (LRT) to assess situation and support humanitarian actors on the ground has been deployed, and additional staff has been deployed to coordinate the logistics response through Logistics Working Group.
5. The expected volumes of relief items being brought into the country, in conjunction with damaged infrastructure and limited access, will require the setting up of staging areas and logistics hubs in the affected areas.
6. The wind and rain has caused significant damage to the infrastructure, and WFP, working together with the government, MINUSTAH and other humanitarian partners, will assess the roads, and identify the key areas where emergency repair can be made to ensure transportation of relief items to otherwise inaccessible areas.
7. Additionally, as some areas are completely cut-off, this Special Operation makes provision for the delivery of vital humanitarian cargo to isolated locations with one medium-size cargo helicopter.
8. The fundamental information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure in the area of operations have been damaged. The disruption to the telecommunications infrastructure and services, particularly in remote rural areas, makes communications difficult and potentially impacts the safety, security and operational capability of a coordinated humanitarian response. It is likely that new temporary common inter-agency office facilities will be established to accommodate multiple humanitarian agencies; including WFP. This special operation will equip the offices with the requisite ICT infrastructure and related services to meet the individual requirements of the various agencies.

Project Objective(s)

9. The main objectives of this operation are to:
 - Enhance coordination, predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the emergency logistics response through Logistics Working Group.
 - Support the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected population by augmenting the logistics capacity by:

- Deployment of logistics staff;
- Coordinating strategic airlifts and other air cargo services for initial one month;
- Provision of coastal shipping services for initial two months of the response;
- Setting up of temporary forwarding hubs in Haiti consisting of storage facilities and office space;
- Provision of surface transportation for the humanitarian community;
- Carrying out assessments for emergency road and bridge repairs.
- Make available reliable and independent data and voice communications services which are recognized as a priority for a successful humanitarian response.
- Augment data and voice connectivity as the existing structure will be stretched to capacity by the surge of humanitarian personnel.

Project Implementation

10. Supporting WFP operation PRRO 200618 and the humanitarian community, this special operation accommodates the essential logistics and emergency telecommunications 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.
11. Given the rapidly evolving situation on the ground, the below implementation plan may be revised as necessary. The activities will include:

Interagency Logistics coordination

- WFP aims to provide logistics coordination and information management support, as well as facilitating the handling of the incoming cargo.
- Logistics Response Team (LRT) has been deployed to establish a logistics coordination cell in Port-au-Prince. The primary objective of the cell will be to assess the requirements, coordinate the logistics operation and facilitate access to common logistics services, and provide information management, cargo tracking, as well as GIS/mapping services.
- The cargo moved by these services will be dispatched based on the priority set by the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Establishment of a logistics staging area in Panama

- Panama UNHRD Staging Area: As Port-au-Prince airport may not be able to cope with the amount of humanitarian supplies being brought into the country, WFP will leverage on the existing UNHRD capability in Panama, a logistics staging area will be setup at the UNHRD facilities. The staging area will be established to support the air and ocean transport operations within the region, to the affected countries.

Set-up of operations and logistics hubs in country

- Once the airport is fully operational, it is expected that a large volume of humanitarian goods will be delivered through Port-au-Prince airport, thus requiring the augmentation of the storage capacity. A staging area could be set up at the airport.
- Storage capacity in Port-au-Prince, and WFP sub-offices Les Cayes, Jeremie and Jacmel (possibly Gonaive) will also be made available to support international staging areas.
- Free storage and transport services may be provided for the initial 3 months, subject to the requirement and funding availability.

Coastal services

- A coastal landing craft will be chartered with own derrick for containers and/or a roll on-roll off capabilities to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies to coastal affected areas. Vessel will operate from Port-au-Prince and/or Cabo Rojo (Dominican Republic) to affected areas, including Miragoane, Petit Goave and Jeremie. One Port Captain/Logistics Port Operations specialist will be deployed to Haiti to manage the coastal shipping operation.

Civil-Military coordination

- WFP will liaise with the National and international military entities, including the Peacekeeping mission, to coordinate on all civil military issues, focusing primarily on logistics operational and strategic coordination for the use of military assets in relief activities.

Provision of Air Passenger and Light Cargo Services In-Country

- Air support is urgently required to enable the humanitarian community to access affected locations which are cut off due to damaged bridges and blocked roads caused by severe flooding and landslides. This Special Operation caters for one medium-size helicopter for passenger and light cargo transportation for a one-month period. The air asset will be based in Port-au-Prince and serve locations west of the capital including Les Cayes, Jeremie and other affected areas as required. The deployment of the helicopter will enable movement of aid workers and light cargo such as emergency communications equipment and medicines to remote areas with limited facilities for fixed-wing operations, as well as to conduct rapid needs assessments for the humanitarian community.

The air service is expected to support various organizations including NGOs, UN agencies and donor institutions to facilitate the emergency response. Ample flexibility will be maintained to adapt the operational set-up to the changing requirements of the humanitarian response. The Aviation component will be implemented through standard WFP management structures and support systems and regularly reviewed in accordance with standard procedures in order to minimize risks and ensure operational efficiency. WFP

will coordinate with other humanitarian air service providers as necessary to ensure synergy and economies of scale.

Two Air Transport Officers will be deployed to Haiti to manage the air service and other suitable qualified operational support staff will be added to the staffing structure as may be required.

Emergency Telecommunications

In support of emergency telecommunications, following activities may be implemented;

- Augmentation of already existing capacities in regards with both technical human resources deployment to ensure full operational status of the common staging areas, as well as support the increase of connectivity and bandwidth requirements, including provision of support where required.
- Provision of Emergency Telecommunication services to the humanitarian community ensuring gaps are filled and reducing duplication of efforts. Fully operational ICT facilities and infrastructure will allow humanitarian workers to better coordinate assessments, rescue and relief operations in all affected areas.
- Enhanced coordination and provision of IT/ET related Information Management / PI and Communications activities and deliverables.
- Provide leadership to the ICT by organizing and chairing the working group meetings in order to better strategically coordinate the continuous identification of ICT problems and solutions adequate to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Provide required technical and consultative support to the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMO) – Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC) – in order to ensure operational status of their newly established digital mobile radio network (DMR), as well as enhance coordination and information sharing with the corresponding units and departments of the DPC.
- Operate in full cooperation with the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to ensure availability of security telecommunication services and infrastructure to the humanitarian and NGO communities, as well as last-mile connectivity when and if required.
- A full electrical assessment will be conducted at the locations where infrastructure equipment is being hosted, including emergency readiness and ability to operate under duress, as well as provide required support when required. Results and recommendations of the electrical assessment (if any) will be formed into a separate project.
- Under Accountability towards the Affected Population (AAP) approach, a possibility to engage in Communication with Communities projects along with

establishment of Call Centres will be explored and feasibility assessed, to provide connectivity services to the affected population either via existing Mobile Network Operators (MNO) / ISPs or through dedicated facilities.

12. The WFP Country Director in Haiti will be the Funds Manager for the Special Operation and the WFP Haiti Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager. The Country Office will appoint a Coordinator who will be responsible for the overall implementation of project activities.

Project Cost and Benefits

13. The estimated project costs is **US\$ 4,517,060**.
14. This Special Operation is intended to prevent and alleviate gaps and bottlenecks in the humanitarian logistics response and provide an uninterrupted supply of life-saving and life-sustaining goods and services to those affected.

Monitoring & Evaluation

15. The key performance indicators will be:
- Number of staging areas and logistics hubs established (1)
 - Percentage of service requests to handle, store and/or transport cargo fulfilled (85%)
 - Number of agencies and organizations utilizing transport and storage services (30)
 - 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 common services and responding to a user survey rate service satisfaction as 80% or above.
 - Number of common operational areas provided access to voice and data communications services. Target: 1
 - Number of common operational areas provided with security telecommunications network: Target 1
 - Organizations receiving services on Emergency Telecommunication and responding to a user survey rate service satisfaction of 80% or above
 - Number of Infrastructure assessments completed in support of WFP and humanitarian operations (15)
 - Completion of minor work activities in support of WFP operations (3)
16. Operational reports will be provided on a regular basis.
17. 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

18. 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.

19. Customs / transit delays for ICT equipment arrival that might delay planned work

- In regard to the importation and licensing of telecommunications equipment, discussions on clearance and licensing of required approvals will be initiated at the very onset of the response.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 5th October to 31st December 2016 at a total cost to WFP of **US\$4,517,060** is recommended for approval by the Executive Director with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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Ertharin Cousin
Executive Director