


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	
Mr. Muhannad Hadi Regional Director	RBC		

Syrian Arab Republic Special Operation 200950
WFP Air Deliveries to Provide Humanitarian Support to Besieged and Hard to Reach Areas
in Syria
BR No. 03

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
CD&A (US\$)	34,450,040	8,376,220	42,826,260
DSC (US\$)	33,432	(3,425)	30,007
ISC (US\$)	2,413,843	586,096	2,999,939
Total WFP cost (US\$)	36,897,315	8,958,890	45,856,206

TYPE OF REVISION

Additional DSC
 Additional CD&A
 Extension in time
 Other

NATURE OF REVISION:

Budget Revision Three (BR 03) 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 two months until 31 December 2016 in order to ensure the continued delivery of food and other relief items by air to support affected populations in the Deir Ezzor region of Syria with a subsequent total budget increase of **US\$8,958,890**. The original budget was approved for US\$18,154,268 for the period 20 February – 19 May 2016, followed by two project extensions: the first until 31 July 2016 with an additional budget of US\$18,743,047 and a second revision until 31 October 2016 with no corresponding budget increase.



BACKGROUND:

1. The humanitarian crisis in Syria remains complex and critical. In 2016 alone, an estimated 13.5 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance with a further 4.8 million Syrians having fled to neighbouring countries as refugees since March 2011.¹
2. There are currently more than 5.4 million people who live in hard-to-reach places throughout the country and require humanitarian support, a staggering increase of approximately 1 million people since January 2016.² Close to 600,000 live in besieged areas such as Deir Ezzor. This corresponds to a rise in 110,000 people in besieged areas and 900,000 in hard-to-reach locations since February 2016.
3. In a recent speech to the UN Security Council, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien reiterated the continuous need for humanitarian assistance in Syria when he stated: "We need to urgently regain the momentum on protection and access. The momentum created in the first half of the year, and since the creation of the ISSG Humanitarian Task Force, must be the platform for a step change in the protection and access situation for civilians into the second half of the year".³
4. Humanitarian access to people in need remains severely hampered by ongoing conflict, shifting frontlines, administrative and bureaucratic bottlenecks, violence along access routes and general safety and security issues. While the cessation of hostilities, since 27 February 2016, has slightly improved the situation and allowed for the delivery of temporary aid, people living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas need regular and sustained assistance which, at the moment, is only possible by air.

IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:

5. Following initial unsuccessful attempts at WFP's first ever high-altitude parachute airdrop in February 2016, a series of trial drops were conducted in Jordan to ensure the accuracy of the airdrops to the besieged city of Deir Ezzor, which resumed on 10 April. With rotation 93 that took place on 11 August, sufficient quantities had been airdropped to provide two full monthly food rations to each of the 18,000 SARC-registered households. Since then, further airdrops are being carried out to provide food for a third round of distributions.
6. By 29 September, WFP had carried out 127 airdrops with an Ilyushin (IL-76) aircraft, dispatching 2,331 metric tons of urgently needed relief items to meet the immediate needs of 110,000 people. Cargo dropped includes commodities such as date bars, salt, beans, chickpeas, rice, sugar, bulgur, oil, lentils and water purification tablets; UNICEF high-energy biscuits and Plumpy Doz; canned tomatoes, canned ghee and operational support equipment for ICRC; and emergency health kits for WHO.

¹ OCHA: Syrian Arab Republic. About the Crisis; available at <http://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/syria-country-profile/about-crisis>. Accessed on 29 September 2016.

² Ibid.

³ OCHA: Syria: "Crisis must end with a political solution, not a military victory" 25 July 2016; available at <http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-crisis-must-end-political-solution-not-military-victory-says-un-humani>; accessed on 22 August 2016.



World Food Programme

7. Close collaboration is ongoing with WFP's partner on the ground, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), to have relief items collected at the drop zone and distributed to beneficiaries. As long as surface access to Deir Ezzor remains hampered, WFP will keep delivering food and other humanitarian supplies by appropriate air means, in coordination with the humanitarian community. For the time being the project focuses on Deir Ezzor as it is the only place WFP is able to reach by air, however, it may be expanded should WFP gain such access elsewhere.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

8. This budget revision to ensure the continued delivery of food and other relief items 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:

Key areas of thematic priorities for humanitarian assistance remain to be protection with 13.5 million Syrians still in need; WASH with 12.1 million people lacking regular access to clean drinking water; and health with 11.5 million unable to reach adequate healthcare. Also, about 2.5 million people are food insecure, while more than 1.5 million are in need of shelter and household goods.⁴ These high figures connote the critical need for continuous humanitarian response in Syria.

Access is a continual concern for humanitarians as constantly shifting frontlines make aid delivery extremely difficult if not impossible. Siege tactics are enforced by all parties to the conflict, completely blocking off large numbers of the population from humanitarian assistance. Public infrastructure, such as water supply and electricity, is targeted by all factions. Fuel shortages render the humanitarian situation even more severe, forcing local bakeries and hospitals to cease operating. Since May 2016 the price of fuel in parts of the country, including Deir Ezzor, has increased sharply due to escalation of fighting. Air delivery has proven to be the only feasible way for relief items to reach people in need.

- b. Need for additional airdrops:

Through this budget revision, WFP seeks to facilitate the provision of necessary life-saving assistance to affected populations during the months of November and December, when inclement weather conditions further affect the lives of the most vulnerable. Syrian winter can be very harsh with extended periods of freezing temperatures and snow. WFP partners with organizations such as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to address all the needs of vulnerable populations. Subject to the prevailing security conditions and availability of equipment to conduct the airdrops, 50 additional high-altitude airdrops are planned to enable the delivery of approximately 900 metric tons of food commodities, nutritious products and other relief cargo.

⁴ OCHA: Syrian Arab Republic. About the Crisis, available at <http://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/syria-country-profile/about-crisis>. Accessed on 29 September 2016.



**World Food
Programme**

RECOMMENDATION:

In light of the above, this budget revision for extension in time for two months, until 31 December 2016 with a subsequent budget increase of **US\$ 8,958,890** is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.



World Food Programme

Annex A

Map

