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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	RB - Cairo		

**Syria SO 200788
BR No. 1**

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
CD&A	\$ 10,071,336	\$ 12,018,383	\$ 22,089,719
DSC	\$ 317,772	\$ 427,772	\$ 745,544
ISC	\$ 727,238	\$ 871,231	\$ 1,598,468
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$ 11,116,346	US\$ 13,317,385	US\$ 24,433,731
<u>TYPE OF REVISION</u>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional DSC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional CD&A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension in time <input type="checkbox"/> Other			

NATURE OF REVISION:

This Budget Revision caters for an extension in time of one year from 01 January to 31 December 2016 and adjusts the budget plan in accordance with the increased Logistics Operational needs identified in the 2016 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and as indicated by the humanitarian community.

An increase in CD&A and DSC will cater for the extension of the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster's existing operations, and augmentation of existing components including the expansion of the Bab Al Hawa hub, increased logistics trainings to build partners' capacity, maintaining and expanding common ETC services in operational hubs, expanding VHF coverage, deployment of radio operators, and purchase of logistics equipment to build capacity of local partners such as the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).



IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:

Logistics Cluster

1. WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, delivered a range of services across Syria and from neighboring countries into Syria, in support of the humanitarian response. Key achievements of the Logistics Cluster in 2015 include the following:
 - Transported over 21,000 m³ of relief items on behalf of partners across Syria. This includes health kits, blankets, tarpaulins, winter clothing, medicines, water purification kits, school books, hygiene kits, protection items and many other response item categories. In this way, the Logistics Cluster filled sectoral logistics gaps faced by the programmatic sectors in the Syria response, enabling them to implement sectoral response plans and reach people in need across the country.
 - Stored over 17,000 m³ of aid cargo in common warehousing facilities across the country, including Sahnaya and Kisweh (Rural Damascus), Tartous (coastal area), Lattakia (coastal area), Homs (central Syria), and Qamishly (northeastern Syria).
 - Supported 100% of the UN's cross-border operations into Syria from the Security Council Resolution (SCR)-mandated border crossings of Bab Al Hawa and Bab Al Salaam in Turkey, and Ramtha crossing in Jordan, via logistics coordination and/or cargo transshipment activities.
 - Organized over 30 Joint Humanitarian Convoys to the most difficult-to-reach areas in Syria. These convoys allowed sectors to access besieged and hard-to-reach areas with life-saving aid items. These convoys are increasingly used as a mechanism to increase trust between parties responding to the humanitarian need and related authorities, build operational momentum, and ultimately increase access to cut-off locations.
 - Delivered 100,000 liters of fuel to IDP shelters in Damascus, Hama, and Homs, for emergency cooking and heating, as part of the UN's Joint Winterization Programme in Syria.
 - Maintained a robust coordination and information management platform, with over 40 meetings held across the region, including Gaziantep (Turkey), Amman (Jordan) and Damascus (Syria), allowing partners to discuss logistics bottlenecks and come up with common solutions.
 - Produced and shared over 35 logistics information management products including maps, capacity assessments, logistics snapshots, infographics, progress reports, meeting minutes, and real-time updates via its dedicated cluster webpage.
 - Conducted logistics trainings in Tartous (Syria) and Amman (Jordan), enhancing the logistics capacity of over 80 humanitarian personnel across the region.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

2. In line with the Whole of Syria approach, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster continued to deliver services to humanitarian partners in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. In 2015, the ETC:



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- Expanded the UN radio network in south-eastern Turkey, close to the Syrian border. The ETC deployed telecommunications repeater infrastructure in Gaziantep, Kilis and Hatay to strengthen the emergency communication system for humanitarian personnel.
- Established a new inter-agency radio room at the UN hub in Gaziantep in collaboration with UNDSS Turkey.
- Deployed a radio training mission to Turkey, where close to 100 humanitarian personnel in Ankara and Gaziantep were trained on the use of radio handheld devices to communicate over the UN radio network. Advanced technical training was delivered to radio room operators working at the inter-agency radio rooms in Ankara and Gaziantep.
- Replaced the radio antenna on channel 3 at the inter-agency radio room in Damascus to improve the signal strength on the channel for emergency communications.
- Upgraded the inter-agency radio room at the Qamishli hub. The ETC supplied locally procured furniture, emergency power supply, computer, printer and other items in the newly established radio room in the UN hub in Qamishli.
- Deployed a high speed internet data service at the UN hub in Qamishli for use by humanitarian partners based at the hub. In addition, the ETC provided support to maintain the shared UNICEF VSAT at the Qamishli hub.
- Upgraded the inter-agency radio room at the hub in Aleppo. The ETC supplied locally procured furniture, emergency power supply, computer, printer and other items at the radio room in the Aleppo hub.
- Upgraded the wireless data network and deployed a fixed line telephone system at the hub in Aleppo. The upgrade included installation of high speed cabling, access points and network switches to improve the IT network for humanitarian partners working at the hub.
- Relocated radio equipment at the inter-agency radio room in Homs due to a relocation of the radio room.
- Provided radio programming services to humanitarian partners in Syria, Turkey and Jordan.
- Across the region the ETC provided coordination services through local and global ETC coordination meetings.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

3. For 2016, the key needs for the Logistics Cluster identified in the overall Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016 in consultations with partners include coordination and information management services, common transport (cost-recovery), joint humanitarian convoys, and common warehousing across Syria, in order to provide a predictable and secure logistics supply chain in the midst of severe access and security constraints.
 - A logistics coordination and information platform will be maintained in 2016, with meetings organized across the region (Turkey, Jordan, and Syria).
 - Information products including maps, snapshots, situation updates, meeting minutes, and capacity assessments will continue to be produced and shared on the Cluster webpage.



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- Common transport services will continue to be offered on a cost-recovery basis in 2016, with free-to-user common warehousing continuing in Tartous, Lattakia, Qamishly, Rural Damascus, and Homs (common warehouse space will be augmented in additional locations if needed).
 - The critical activity of organizing humanitarian convoys within Syria to besieged/hard-to-reach areas will remain a key focus in 2016, in order to deliver life-saving cargo.
 - The increasing trend of cross-border operations into Syria from Jordan and Turkey necessitates the extension of coordination activities and expansion of logistics hubs where required (including the expansion of the Bab Al Hawa transshipment hub in Turkey, to respond to the increasing caseload).
 - Scarcity and rising costs of fuel require the maintenance of contingency fuel reserves (approximately 200,000 liters in 2016), which will be especially critical during the winter months for emergency cooking and heating.
 - Emergency airlifts (six budgeted for, with additional flights on a cost-recovery basis) will remain an option to reach the most isolated locations in the country.
 - Charter flights will be used, with the option to airlift cargo from within Syria and from regional countries into Syria as required.
 - In line with partners' needs to enhance logistics capacity, dedicated logistics training will be continued in 2016 in Syria and in neighbouring countries, focusing on more diverse areas within logistics (including warehouse management, customs, fleet management, and shipping).
 - Required logistics equipment will be purchased to bolster partners' response capacity, including procurement of 10 trucks for Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC).
4. Telecommunications infrastructure in Syria has suffered significant damage due to the protracted crisis in Syria. In addition to damaged infrastructure, regular power outages and tight governmental controls serve to add to the downtime of communication systems in Syria. Lack of reliable telecoms services hampers the ability of the humanitarian community to perform work in the field. Coordination and delivery of common telecommunication services at hubs in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey is vital to ensuring that the humanitarian community can perform essential lifesaving work whilst maintaining the safety of staff and assets in the field.
- In addition to the maintenance and expansion of common ETC services at common operational hubs, and training, coordination and information sharing amongst humanitarian partners, the ETC has identified a number of focus areas by country that will be pursued in 2016. The Syria ETC follows the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach to ensure a unified response to the crisis across Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. The ETC project has activities in all WoS countries as described below.
 - In Syria, the ETC will expand VHF radio network coverage in common operational areas focusing on Aleppo, Qamishli, Tartous and Homs. Expansion of radio networks is subject to the importation of telecommunications equipment into Syria and Government of Syria approvals.
 - In addition, the ETC will deploy radio operators at inter-agency radio rooms in common operational areas in coordination with UNDSS. In recognition of the integral role played by NGOs, the ETC plans to launch a targeted initiative to assist local NGOs with their communication needs.



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- In Turkey, the ETC will deploy dedicated ICT helpdesk support personnel at the inter-agency hub in Gaziantep as well as further strengthen UHF radio network coverage to assist humanitarian missions in south-eastern Turkey.
 - In Jordan, the ETC will deploy radio operators at the inter-agency radio rooms in Za'atari and Azraq camps. Subject to consultation with UNHCR, an ETC2020 pilot project to provide communications services direct-to-beneficiary will also be trialed.
 - In Lebanon, the ETC will upgrade old telecommunications infrastructure to maintain the operational effectiveness of the VHF radio network in the north of Lebanon.
5. The situation in Syria is worsening and humanitarian organizations are scaling up, and this budget revision caters for the increasing in the operational budget and extension in time of one year. The specifics of the implementation of this project will be constantly reviewed and tailored to changing realities on the ground according to the needs of the humanitarian community.

RECOMMENDATION

6. In light of the above, this budget revision seeks to maintain and increase logistics and emergency telecommunications services as part of the humanitarian response in Syria. Therefore, a budget increase of **US\$ 13,317,385** and an extension in time until 31st December 2016, is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.