



World Food Programme

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.1

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
Total WFP cost (US\$)	US\$18,154,268	US\$18,743,047	US\$ 36,897,315

TYPE OF REVISION

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

NATURE OF REVISION:

This Budget Revision of Special Operation 200950 'WFP Air Deliveries to Provide Humanitarian Support to Besieged and Hard-to-Reach Areas in Syria' seeks to achieve the following:

- ❖ align the project to the evolving context and the country response plan;
- ❖ review the specific implementation arrangements for the operation by revising the operational fleet and increasing capacity in response to increased needs.
- ❖ extend the project in time until 31 July 2016 in order to ensure the continued provision of air delivery services with a subsequent total budget increase of US\$18,743,047.

BACKGROUND:

Five years of conflict have resulted in large-scale population displacement with more than half of Syria's population forced to leave their homes. An estimated 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, require various forms of humanitarian assistance. Of particular concern is the plight of 4.5 million people - over a third of the population in need - who are estimated to live in besieged and hard-to-reach areas of the



country, and are cut off from regular humanitarian assistance. The statement made by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) on 12 February 2016 gives renewed impetus for a nationwide cessation of hostilities. Subsequently, the Government of Syria gave approval to deliver humanitarian aid to fifteen besieged locations. Deliveries to locations accessible by land commenced on 17 February 2016 and are ongoing. However, access to Deir Ezzor city by road remains impossible because the entire city is besieged by ISIS. Recognizing the urgent needs and having agreed with relevant stakeholders that airdrops are the only viable option, WFP launched Special Operation 200950 to conduct high-altitude parachute airdrops into Deir Ezzor city.

IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:

On 24 February, WFP attempted its first high-altitude airdrop ever, dropping 21 metric tons of food assistance to Deir Ezzor. There were some technical problems with this airdrop, and as such, WFP has spent six weeks conducting trial high-altitude airdrops in Jordan in a comparable environment to increase the accuracy and precision of the drops. High-altitude drops require a different technique to low-level drops and carry greater risk. Security and weather conditions are important factors in the success of airdrops.

Beginning on 10 April 2016, WFP has successfully airdropped urgently needed food assistance – rice, chickpeas and beans – to meet the immediate needs of just over 100,000 people, the entire remaining population of Deir Ezzor city. The food was dropped from high altitude aboard pallets with parachutes attached and was collected on the ground by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), WFP's partner, which is organizing the distributions. WFP will continue to send food and other humanitarian supplies by air in the next few weeks.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:

The budget revision to continue the provision of air delivery services in order to facilitate humanitarian operations in besieged and hard-to-reach locations of Syria is deemed necessary due to the following factors:

Continuous Need for Humanitarian Assistance:

Over 100,000 people are believed to remain under siege in Deir Ezzor since March 2014 and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Critical food shortages have been reported and other forms of humanitarian assistance are urgently needed. Under SO 200950, WFP has airdropped more than 340 metric tons of food items over Deir Ezzor city between 10 April and 2 May 2016 enough to provide 17 kilograms of food per family. As more airdrops continue, WFP plans to increase the ration, diversify food commodities to add lentils, vegetable oil, bulgur wheat, sugar and salt and ultimately increase the number of people receiving assistance. This budget revision plans for 144 air drop operations. This number of drops is sufficient to provide 20,000 families with full food rations for two months, plus health requirements, and lifesaving nutrition and water sanitation materials. There is therefore an urgent need to augment air capacity to meet these humanitarian needs.

Fleet Revision:

Since the start of operations in February, one Ilyushin (IL-76) cargo aircraft, capable of conducting high altitude airdrops has been utilized with an initial plan to conduct one to two airdrops per day over Deir Ezzor. However, due to the volume and cargo configuration, the aircraft has only been able to carry 18 mt per flight and not 26 mt as estimated at the design stage of the project. Based on technical investigations and the successful air drop trials, there is need to augment the aircraft capacity. Under this budget revision, an Antonov An-12 aircraft will be added with capacity for an average payload of 11 mt per flight which will allow additional deliveries in line with anticipated demands outlined above.

Changing implementation arrangements:

To ensure safe and successful operations, special equipment, including platforms and parachuting systems are prerequisites for high altitude airdrops and have been positioned at the operational base as appropriate. Following the trials, it became necessary to change the type of parachutes used for more effective service. New suppliers based in the United States of America and Canada have since been engaged to ensure



continuous supply of the required equipment. It is to be noted that the parachutes are not always in stock, and are produced upon receipt of an order. Three suppliers are supporting the operation with parachutes, honeycombs, nets, as well as providing the associated rigging services and mission planning. In a bid to improve operational planning of safe air drop operations, the project enlisted weather – related information services from the United Kingdom’s Meteorological Office. Due to the nature of the emergency, there has been a need to augment the aviation staff levels to ensure adequate operational staffing to cater for the long operational days, with early starts for early morning drops.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above, this budget revision, for a budget increase of US\$18,743,047 is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.

2 May 2016 /SG/JK