



**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 Cairo Regional Director	RBC		

**Syria SO 200788**  
***Logistics and Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination***  
***to Support Humanitarian Operations in Syria***  
**BR No.2**

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>Previous Budget</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>New Budget</b>
CD&A	US\$ 22,089,718	US\$ 11,957,336	US\$ 34,047,054
DSC	US\$ 745,544	US\$ 312,095	US\$ 1,057,639
ISC	US\$ 1,598,468	US\$ 858,860	US\$ 2,457,329
<b>Total WFP cost (US\$)</b>	<b>US\$ 24,433,731</b>	<b>US\$ 13,128,292</b>	<b>US\$ 37,562,022</b>

**TYPE OF REVISION**

Additional DSC       Additional CD&A       Extension in time       Other



### **NATURE OF REVISION:**

1. This Budget Revision caters for an extension in time of one year from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 and adjusts the budget plan in accordance with the increased Logistics Operational needs identified in the 2017 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and as indicated by the humanitarian community.
2. The components budgeted under CD&A will be a) airlifts (48% of total CD&A); b) cross-border operations (16% of total CD&A); c) Storage (10% of total CD&A); d) Coordination, Information Management and trainings (10% of total CD&A); e) Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys (6% of total CD&A); Fuel (4% of total CD&A); Emergency Telecommunication Cluster activities (6% of total CD&A).

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

3. Now entering its sixth year, the conflict in Syria continues to take a drastic toll on the lives of the Syrian people and to drive an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Some 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Since 2011, over half of Syria's population has been displaced, often multiple times. Ongoing fighting and widespread insecurity continue to fuel large-scale displacements and increase vulnerabilities, while access and security constraints remain the largest impediments faced by the humanitarian community in reaching vulnerable population with life-saving relief supplies inside Syria. The operating environment remains volatile, negatively affecting the provision of services to the humanitarian community.

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION:**

4. The humanitarian community continues to face a number of critical challenges including damaged road and telecommunications infrastructure and lack of access to many parts of the country. These challenges have continued to affect the humanitarian community over the course of 2016. Therefore and in line with the Syria 2017 HNO, the Logistics Cluster and the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) are extending their activities until the end of 2017. With its Cluster partners, WFP will continue to monitor the situation to adjust its activities in line with any changes in the operational context.
5. To overcome the above mentioned logistics constraints, WFP<sup>1</sup> on behalf of the Logistics Cluster will continue and possibly expand the air operations, cross-line and cross-border operations, storage provision inside Syria and provision of emergency fuel to humanitarian organisations. In light of the increased focus on preparedness and ability to promptly and effectively support the humanitarian community responding to sudden population movements (including possible influxes from Iraq), flexibility in deploying the most appropriate modes of transportation and coordination support is key. This has been reflected in the budget for the staffing that allows for staff deployment as and when needed in response to changes on the ground and the emergence of new emergency hotspots. Logistical support will be assessed and provided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the situation on the ground.
6. The need for an increase in logistical trainings has emerged from various meeting with partners across the whole of Syria. In order to maintain high standards of expertise and enhance partners' logistical capacity, relevant, identified trainings and workshops will be organised in Syria and its neighbouring countries.
7. The telecommunications infrastructure in Syria has suffered significant damage due to the protracted crisis in the country. Lack of reliable telecommunications services hampers the ability of the humanitarian community to perform work in the field. While the ETC's ability to operate has improved during 2016, and with the newly obtained permissions it will be able to expand services in the operational hubs, adding voice and data networks for the UN agencies. Coordination and delivery of common telecommunications services at hubs in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey is vital to ensure the response community can perform essential lifesaving work whilst maintaining the safety of staff and assets in the field.

<sup>1</sup> WFP as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster acts as a service provider of last resort



### **Planned Activities:**

8. Logistics Cluster activities: The activities outlined below meet the key needs identified in the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview:

#### **Common Logistics Services:**

- Despite the high costs associated to air operations, the complete impossibility to reach certain areas of the country by land results in an increasing need for emergency airlifts, that can be considered by the Logistics Cluster on a case by case basis as an emergency last resort solution, when no other mean is available to access areas of Syria cut-off from humanitarian assistance. Emergency airlift operations to reach the most isolated locations in the country will continue and might need to be scaled up, depending on the prevailing security and access situation. Charter flights will be used, with the option to airlift cargo from within Syria and from regional countries into Syria as required. The Logistics Cluster will coordinate the air delivery of life-saving cargo while WFP Aviation, on behalf of the Logistics Cluster, will contract and mobilize sufficient air assets to ensure that the humanitarian community has access to hard to reach/besieged locations.
- WFP, as the Logistics Cluster lead agency, acts as a 'provider of last resort' by offering common logistics transport services on a cost-recovery basis to and from secure and accessible locations inside Syria.
- The need for common storage facilities remains as there is a significant warehousing gap in Syria. WFP on behalf of the Logistics Cluster will continue to augment common storage capacity for the humanitarian community on a free-to-user basis<sup>2</sup> in Tartous, Lattakia, Qamishly, Rural Damascus, and Homs (common warehouse space will be augmented in additional locations if needed).
- Scarcity and rising costs of fuel require the maintenance of contingency emergency fuel reserves (planned at approximately 50,000 liters in 2017), which will be especially critical during the winter months (January-March and then November-December 2017) for emergency cooking and heating. WFP will procure, import into Syria and store fuel on behalf of Cluster partners. While fuel is provided to humanitarian organisations on a cost recovery basis, the costs related to fuel infrastructure, in particular storage capacity, are covered by the Logistics Cluster under this Special Operation Project. The Logistics Cluster covers 15% of the costs of the WFP warehouses across Syria, including the fuel depot at Kiswe (Rural Damascus).

#### **Information Management and Coordination:**

- A logistics coordination and information platform will be maintained in 2017, with regular meetings organized across the region (Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria). Dedicated Logistics Cluster staff are deployed in Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, to provide both coordination and information management services, and to facilitate partners' access to services funded by this Special Operation. Relevant and up-to-date logistics information products will continue to be produced and shared, including snapshots, regularly updated Operation Overview, meeting minutes and infographics. The critical activity of organizing humanitarian convoys both cross-border and within Syria to besieged/hard-to-reach areas will remain a key focus in 2017, in order to deliver life-saving cargo.
- Support for cross-border operations into Syria from Jordan and Turkey will continue. Enhanced coordination with neighbouring cluster operations (i.e. Iraq) is required to prepare for different crisis scenarios and finalise contingency response plans and be able to promptly and effectively respond to sudden onset emergency or population influxes.
- In line with partners' needs to enhance logistics capacity, dedicated logistics training will be continued in 2017 in Syria and in neighbouring countries, focusing on more diverse areas within logistics (including warehouse management, fleet management, and shipping).

<sup>2</sup> Some of the services funded by this Special Operation are provided on free to user basis

9. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC): As humanitarian organisations scale up their response to the deteriorating situation in Syria, the ETC will expand the provision of vital communication services to support humanitarian efforts. The specifics of the implementation of this project will be constantly reviewed and tailored according to the changing realities on the ground and the needs of the humanitarian community. 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 priority activities in each of the relevant countries in consultation with the response community on the ground that will be pursued in 2017:

#### *Syria*

- In Syria, the ETC will expand the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio network coverage in common operational areas focusing on Aleppo, Qamishli, Tartous and Homs. Expansion of the radio network in Tartous is still subject to the Government of Syria approval.
- The ETC will deploy radio operators at inter-agency Communications Centres (COMCENs) in common operational areas in coordination with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). In recognition of the integral role played by the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the ETC plans to launch a targeted initiative to assist local NGOs with their communication needs.
- Inter-agency training will be conducted by the ETC to enhance the ICT skills of the partners deployed on the ground.

#### *Turkey*

- In Turkey, the ETC will continue to provide support with dedicated ICT helpdesk support personnel at the inter-agency hub in Gaziantep, and further strengthen the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radio network coverage to assist humanitarian missions in south-eastern Turkey.
- ETC will strengthen the communication services at the logistic hub in Rayhanli which is vital for cross-border operations.

#### *Jordan*

- In Jordan, the ETC will continue to provide radio operators at the inter-agency COMCENS in Za'atari and Azraq camps.
- Under livelihood initiatives, the ETC plans to provide Internet services to communities to build new skills in Jordan.

#### *Lebanon*

- In Lebanon, the ETC will support and continue to upgrade old telecommunications infrastructure to maintain the operational effectiveness of the VHF radio network in the north of Lebanon.
- The ETC is maintaining storage facilities in Lebanon to continue to provide service as corridor for shipment of ETC equipment to Syria. Telecommunications and IT equipment is prepositioned and shipped to Syria by road as soon as permits are granted by the Syrian authorities.

### **Risk Management:**

10. Ongoing fighting and widespread insecurity continue to constrain humanitarian access in several parts of the country, while shifting conflict lines result in continuously modified access patterns in the southern and northern governorates of the country, particularly with the advent of new parties to the conflict.
11. In order to mitigate the negative effects of the constantly evolving situation on the ground, the Logistics Cluster has adopted a flexible staffing structure that allows for the prompt deployment of the most appropriate modes of logistical coordination and support as and when required.



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### Recommendation

12. In light of the above, this budget revision for an extension in time for one year with a budget increase of **US\$ 13,128,292** is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff.



**Annex:**

**IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:**

Logistics Cluster:

1. WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, provided a range of services across Syria and from neighbouring countries into Syria, in support of the humanitarian response. Key achievements of the Logistics Cluster in 2016 (as of end of October) include the following:
2. In the framework of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys, Logistics Cluster facilitated the free-to user transport of over 57,205 m<sup>3</sup> of relief items on behalf of partners across Syria. This includes health kits, blankets, winter clothing, medicines, water purification kits, school books, hygiene kits, protection items and many other response item categories. In this way, the WFP on behalf of 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.
3. Through a WFP-Aviation contracted aircraft, the Logistics Cluster facilitated a free-to-user airlift operation that began on 09 July 2016. Over 10,861 m<sup>3</sup> of Food, WASH, Health and Education supplies were airlifted from Damascus to Qamishli on behalf of eight humanitarian organizations (ACF, GOPA, ICRC, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP) between the beginning of the operation on 09 July 2016 and the end of October.
4. WFP on behalf of the logistics cluster stored over 12,417 m<sup>3</sup> of aid cargo in common warehousing facilities across the country, in Sahnaya and Kisweh (Rural Damascus), Tartous (coastal area), Lattakia (coastal area), Homs (central Syria), and Qamishly (north-eastern Syria).
5. The Logistics Cluster supported 100% of the requests for 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.
6. The Logistics Cluster, in close coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and OCHA organized 102 Joint Humanitarian Convoys (an average of 10 per month) 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.
7. The purchase of ten VOLVO trucks that were donated to SARC was funded by this SO. The trucks are now being used in the framework of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian convoys. This latest donation brings to 45 the total number of trucks donated to SARC: 20 trucks were donated in 2013, 15 trucks were donated in 2014 and additional 10 in 2016.
8. WFP on behalf of the Logistics Cluster has provided 5,000 litres of diesel as a donation for shelters and community centers while 35,500 litres of diesel were provided to three organisations on a cost-recovery for operational purposes.
9. 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.
10. Produced and shared over 40 logistics information management products including maps, capacity assessments, logistics snapshots, infographics, progress reports, meeting minutes, and real-time updates via its dedicated cluster webpage.
11. Conducted logistics trainings in Damascus (Syria) and Beirut (Lebanon), enhancing the logistics capacity of over 50 humanitarian personnel across the region.



### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

12. In line with the Whole of Syria approach, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) delivered services to humanitarian partners in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Key achievements of the ETC in 2016 (as of mid-October) include the following:
13. The ETC conducted two radio training sessions in Damascus for the Inter-Agency community to strengthen security telecommunications capacity of the staff in Syria. 28 staff from United Nations (UN) agencies, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) attended the training.
14. Relocated the Communications Centre (COMCEN) in Damascus to the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) premises and added a new channel and a repeater to expand the security communications network to cover Damascus. The ETC worked closely with UNDSS for the provision of security telecommunications services across the country.
15. Upgraded and relocated the inter-agency COMCEN at the Tartous hub. The ETC supplied locally procured furniture, emergency power supply, computer, printer and other items for the COMCEN.
16. Fully operational COMCENs were established in Aleppo and Homs with High Frequency (HF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) networks. In Aleppo, the ETC now provides radio coverage for 57 km.
17. Deployed radio maintenance missions to Homs, Damascus and Tartous, as required.
18. Obtained permission from the government to install repeaters in Homs, Aleppo and Qamishli. This means that ETC will be able to operate COMCENs in each of these places increasing the existing security telecommunications systems.
19. Obtained permission to import and install a satellite system in Aleppo to provide Data/Voice services for UN agencies.
20. The ETC provided radio programming services to the partners across Syria, Turkey and Jordan.
21. The ETC provided coordination services through local and global ETC coordination meetings held regularly with ETC partners and humanitarians in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.
22. The ETC provided services to the Logistic hubs in Rayhanli and Killis in Turkey for cross-border operations.
23. In Turkey, the ETC provided services at the UN hub in Gaziantep including IT helpdesk support.
24. In both Zaatari and Azraq camps in Jordan, the ETC provided the UN community with communications services.
25. In Lebanon, ETC maintained storage facilities to continue to provide service as corridor for shipment of ETC equipment to Syria. Telecommunications and IT equipment is prepositioned and shipped to Syria by road as soon as permits are granted by the Syrian authorities.