



**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	
Ms. Denise Brown Regional Director	RBD		

### Central African Republic Special Operation 200804 BR No. 01

PROJECT	Previous Budget	Revision	New Budget
CD&A (US\$)	13,724,429	13,191,140	26,915,569
DSC (US\$)	776,305	686,493	1,462,798
ISC (US\$)	1,015,051	971,434	1,986,486
<b>Total WFP cost (US\$)</b>	<b>15,515,785</b>	<b>14,849,067</b>	<b>30,364,853</b>

### TYPE OF REVISION

☒ Additional DSC orientation
 ☒ Additional CD&A
 ☒ Extension in time
 ☐ Change in project

☐ Other

### NATURE OF REVISION:

Budget Revision One (BR 01) to Special Operation 200804, 'Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Central African Republic' seeks to extend the project in time for 12 months in order to ensure the continued provision of air transport services to the humanitarian community until 31 December 2016, with a subsequent total budget increase of **US\$14,849,067**. The original budget was approved for US\$15,515,785 for the period 01 January - 31 December 2015.



## **BACKGROUND:**

1. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has been present in Central African Republic (C.A.R.) since 2006 to provide a link from the capital Bangui to distant project sites in all parts of the country. With large numbers of people requiring assistance due to continued violence, looting and displacement, humanitarian activities have considerably been scaled up since December 2013, further necessitating the need for UNHAS to provide access to remote locations.
2. In late 2013, inter-communal violence surged across C.A.R. By the end of 2014, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance had risen to approximately 2.7 million – nearly 60 percent of the country’s entire population. Humanitarian operations scaled up and so did UNHAS’ activities. On 13 May 2015, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian System-Wide Level 3 Response for C.A.R. was deactivated. Consequently, on 2 June 2015, the WFP Level 3 Emergency Response was deactivated and Level 2 Emergency was activated in the country. The cluster coordination mechanisms are active, in which WFP serves as the lead for Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication clusters.
3. After months of relative calm, renewed violence in the capital Bangui in September 2015 left at least 79 people dead and 414 seriously injured.<sup>1</sup> The recent violent events have resulted in a deterioration of the security situation across the country, with more people being displaced and the already dire situation compounded further. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O’Brien, during his visit to C.A.R. in October 2015, stated that the ‘humanitarian situation remains devastating’ and ‘the ongoing crisis has been deepened by the recent violence, elevating the suffering of CAR’s population to unprecedented levels. It is also increasingly difficult for humanitarians to reach people in need of life-saving assistance and protection’.
4. As of 30 September 2015, more than 64,700 displaced people were sheltering at 32 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sites in Bangui. These new displacements have resulted in increased humanitarian needs in the country, where millions of people were already in need of immediate assistance. Humanitarian operations are already overstretched. There are currently over 399,000 IDPs in C.A.R., with 44,400 living in Bangui alone and 442,100 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.<sup>2</sup>
5. The violence in Bangui has increased inter-community tensions in other areas of C.A.R., resulting in protests and attacks on authorities and civilians in areas such as Kaga-Bandoro (Nana-Grébizi), Bouar (Nana Mambéré), Boali (Ombella M’Poko), and Bambari (Ouaka). Furthermore, armed clashes have reportedly displaced thousands of people to Dekoa and surrounding areas in Kemo. As a result, seven provinces including Kemo, Ombella M’Poko, Nana Grebizi, Nana Mambere, Ouaka, Ouham and Ouham Pende, have been identified as the most affected areas requiring a scaled up logistic capacity for an immediate response. The ability of aid organizations to continue responding effectively to the needs of the affected population will depend on undisrupted access, hence the need for a reliable air service.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin Central African Republic, October 2015, p.2.

<sup>2</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin Central African Republic, October 2015, p.1-2.

### **IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE:**

6. In 2015, UNHAS provided equal access to some 96 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions. Between January and October, the service transported 13,771 passengers and 284 mt of light cargo. It also carried out 21 medical evacuations and security relocations for 307 people out of various locations. In 2015, UNHAS held three User Group Committee (UGC) and two Steering Group Committee (SGC) meetings. On 1 February, the operation introduced the prepayment system under its partial cost recovery scheme. This has resulted in better management of receivables and also gives users better overview of their staff travels. In addition, following improvements in JET A1 fuel supplies into the country, in May UNHAS discontinued the procurement of drummed fuel from Cameroon. This will allow the operation to continue to generate considerable cost-savings in 2016.

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

7. This budget revision to continue the provision of air services in order to facilitate humanitarian staff travel to various locations in C.A.R. is deemed necessary due to the following factors:

- a. Continuous Need for Humanitarian Assistance:

Over the past two years, C.A.R. has experienced a major political crisis, which has resulted in a violent conflict that has had unprecedented humanitarian consequences, leaving over half of the population in dire need of humanitarian assistance. As of mid-October 2015, over 399,000 IDPs are estimated to be in Central African Republic while more than 476,000 have fled into neighbouring countries, mainly Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and the Republic of the Congo.<sup>3</sup> Protection, health, WASH and food are priority needs as continued violence, looting and displacement have caused further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country. Shelter conditions are insufficient in most IDP sites, only 55 percent of the health facilities are functioning and less than 25 percent of the population is reported to have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. Furthermore, some 1.28 million people are reported to be food insecure. Aid workers' ability to reach populations in need of assistance will rely on common air services provided by UNHAS.

- b. Continued Demand

As of the end of October, 96 user organizations comprising NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions relied on UNHAS to implement and monitor humanitarian activities in numerous life-saving thematic areas. At its meeting held on 6 November the UGC confirmed the need for the continuation of UNHAS C.A.R. in 2016. Following a further increase in the number of user organizations registered with UNHAS from 104 to 116 since December 2015, the demand for air services is expected to remain high in 2016. For the period January to October 2015, the monthly average passenger load increased to 1,377 from 1,108 recorded during the same period in 2014, corresponding to an increase of 24 percent. This is mainly linked to the fact that UNHAS stopped serving

<sup>3</sup> ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, Snapshot 11-17 November 2015, p.5.



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destinations in Cameroon, and could consequently increase its frequency of flights from once a week to bi-weekly for most of its destinations within Central African Republic. With a monthly average of 28,400 kg of cargo transported in 2015, the demand for cargo movement remains steadily high. The service also remains a vital means for security relocations of humanitarian staff, as demonstrated during the recent events in September and October 2015. Following renewed violence and attacks on humanitarian premises in the capital, Bangui, forcing some humanitarian staff to relocate for their own safety, UNHAS evacuated 192 people from Bangui to Yaoundé, Cameroon for 39 organizations, comprised of NGOs and donors.

### c. Lack of Alternative Means of Transport:

Access by surface means to people in need is impracticable, time-consuming and dangerous due to limited infrastructure and a challenging security situation. Outside of the capital Bangui roads are often controlled by armed groups, and UN and NGO vehicles are becoming regular targets. Kidnapping of aid workers is also frequent. Since January 2014, 306 acts of direct violence against humanitarian actors have been recorded.<sup>4</sup> During the violence of end-September a number of humanitarian organizations' offices in Bangui and in Kaga-Bandoro, one of UNHAS' regular destinations were looted.

UNHAS plays a vital role in the overall humanitarian effort by providing access to vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach locations. Complimentary air services are provided by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), mainly for their own staff. Aviation Sans Frontières France (ASF-F) has been present in C.A.R. since March 2015 but was unable to commence regular activities due to lack of funding. Taking also into consideration that there are currently no commercial air service providers in the country that meet international aviation safety standards, UNHAS remains essential for humanitarian organizations to access project sites.

8. In 2016, the operational fleet is planned to consist of three fixed-wing aircraft based in Bangui. Of this, two have a capacity of up to 19 seats and the third one has a capacity of up to 37 passenger seats. The aircraft are easily configurable into combi or all-cargo providing flexibility to respond to the humanitarian community's needs. The three aircraft have short take-off and landing capabilities and can serve all required destinations. The bigger aircraft is essential to provide adequate capacity for evacuations and relocations of relief workers if required.
9. In line with WFP's Strategic Results Framework, the objectives of the Special Operation 200804 for 2016 will remain as follows:
  - To provide NGOs, UN agencies, donor organizations and diplomatic missions in C.A.R. with safe, effective and efficient access to beneficiaries and project implementation sites;
  - To transport light cargo such as medical supplies, high energy foods and information and communications technology (ICT) equipment; and
  - To provide adequate capacity for evacuations of humanitarian staff.

<sup>4</sup> ACAPS, Global Emergency Overview, Snapshot 11-17 November 2015, p.6.



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10. The project's key performance indicators have been slightly revised and will include the following targets for 2016:

- Number of Needs Assessments carried out (target: 4);
- Number of passengers transported (target: 18,000)
- Percentage of passenger bookings served (target: 95 percent);<sup>5</sup>
- Amount of light cargo transported (target: 360,000 kg);
- Number of organizations using the service (target: 100);
- Number of destinations served (target: 22);
- Response to medical and security evacuations duly requested (target: 100 percent)

11. 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:**

In light of the above, this budget revision for extension in time for twelve months, until 31 December 2016 with a subsequent budget increase of **US\$14,849,067** is recommended for approval by the Chief of Staff, with the budget provided.

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<sup>5</sup> This does not include unserved bookings due to flight cancellations resulting from bad weather or insecurity.

## Annex A

## UNHAS C.A.R. Routes as of 2015

