



**WFP Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
SPECIAL OPERATION SO (201075)**

Country:	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Logistics Cluster and WFP logistics augmentation in support of the Government of DRC and the Humanitarian Community
Total cost (US\$):	\$1,161,367
Duration:	1 July – 31 December 2017

**Project Background**

1. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the world due to numerous factors: continued armed conflicts with a multitude of simultaneous emergencies; high vulnerability of the population combined with limited state capacity to meet the needs of affected people; and challenging humanitarian accesses due to poor infrastructure and insecurity.
2. The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan and Needs Overview estimates that 7.5 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, an increase from 7 million the previous year. The regions most affected are the southern and eastern provinces, due to instability and violence. Currently, the humanitarian crisis in DRC is classified as an L2 emergency; however, funding for the humanitarian response is scarce.
3. WFP, as the global lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has been working with the Government of DRC and the humanitarian community to identify logistics bottlenecks, propose mitigating activities for overcoming gaps, and provide support to the Government and humanitarian community to ensure an efficient and effective logistics response.
4. This Special Operation (SO) 201075 succeeds SO 200747 (December 2014 - June 2017) and will run for six months (July – December 2017). The total estimated cost is USD 1,161,367 of which 73 percent is dedicated to capacity development & augmentation (CD&A), 21 percent to direct support costs (DSC) and 7 percent to indirect support costs (ISC).
5. This SO will ensure the continuation of Logistics Cluster activities until the start of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) in January 2018, at which point activities will be integrated into the ICSP.

**Project Justification**

6. The logistics infrastructure of DRC poses great challenges for the design and implementation of effective and efficient humanitarian responses. The most

vulnerable communities live in very remote areas, which are often either completely isolated or have limited connection to the rest of the country. Technical logistics support and collaboration among humanitarian actors are prerequisites to reach the people in need of assistance; lacking these, challenges are particularly taxing in terms of feasibility and cost.

7. Increasing humanitarian needs have put an additional strain on existing logistics infrastructure and human resources making it more challenging for the humanitarian community to deliver an effective and efficient response.
8. Following the outbreak of unrest in Kasai in August 2016, incoming aid for the region and other provinces affected by the ongoing conflict has been putting an additional strain on the existing logistics capacity of humanitarian actors. Due to the current response operations, there has been a significant increase in requirements for commodity storage at various levels of the supply chain. In certain areas, insecurity is restricting the number of transporters willing to travel to certain locations, obstructing ongoing deliveries and increasing transportation costs for transporters that will deliver in areas of insecurity.
9. This SO is an essential means of supporting the humanitarian response by strengthening mobile logistics capacity and logistics technical support among key actors. SO 201075 will facilitate Logistics Cluster activities by:
  - a) Seconding logistics experts to assist the Government (the National Civil Protection Department and the Ministry of Social, Humanitarian Affairs and Solidarity) and humanitarian actors in expanding key responses;
  - b) Augmenting logistics capacities through free-to-user provision of common storage facilities and road transportation provided in key locations based on needs.
10. Since the launch of preceding SO 200747 in December 2014 WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has been supporting and strengthening the capacity of the Government of the DRC and humanitarian actors operating within the country. In partnership with the Logistics Cluster, the Government and partners have identified logistics gaps and bottlenecks in delivering life-saving assistance to populations. In turn, the Logistics Cluster has proposed a set of mitigating measures and augmented logistics technical support, including operational coordination. Through SO 200747, WFP worked to augment the logistics capacity of humanitarian responders and other humanitarian actors in the country.
11. The Logistics Cluster has also supported the Government and humanitarian community with information management activities, making available essential information management products<sup>1</sup> to support operational decision-making and thus improve the efficiency of the logistics response in the country.
12. WFP has also strengthened the Government's capacity in contingency planning activities through the establishment of information technology tools and systems to support an effective and efficient response to disasters. Efforts are mainly

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<sup>1</sup> A wide range of information management products and mapping services are available on the dedicated logistics cluster DRC webpage <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/drc>.

focused on supporting the National Civil Protection Department (NCPD) and the Ministry of Social, Humanitarian Affairs and Solidarity (MSHAS).

### **Logistics Cluster planned activities**

13. A Lessons Learned Mission undertaken in early 2016, as well as a recent Logistics Cluster partner survey (February 2017), highlighted that the main components of the SO should be to:

- Provide logistics technical support to the humanitarian actors to enable the timely and effective identification and resolution of logistics supply chain bottlenecks; and
- Ensure uninterrupted and timely sharing of relevant logistics information to avoid duplication of efforts; multiple uncoordinated logistics assessments; and support an efficient and effective emergency response.

14. The project activities will focus on the following:

- The Logistics Cluster will deploy logistics staff to run the Logistics Cluster operation in Kinshasa and in the provincial capitals of Kananga, Bukavu, Goma, Bunia and Kalémie. Deployment will also consider possible participation of partners through logistics focal points, who will be working for the project in strategic areas where the Logistics Cluster is not present. This will support the logistics response to the ongoing crisis and will facilitate the access of the humanitarian actors to existing logistics services.
- The teams based at field level will also work with partners to:
  - Carry out logistics supply chain assessments, including road assessments and monitoring of points of congestion and gaps;
  - Share up-to-date information on humanitarian actors' pipelines, possible bottlenecks and alternative solutions;
  - Advocate on behalf of the Logistics Cluster community for resolution of logistics bottlenecks;
  - Maximize the existing transport and storage capacity and to improve the utilization of trucks and warehouses;
  - Facilitate the access of partners to existing WFP Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) through possible loan arrangements.<sup>2</sup>
- To respond to some of the logistics challenges and bottlenecks identified by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate the provision of common road transport and storage facilities in Kasai provinces. These assets will be provided by WFP in its role as provider of 'last resort', when the available local logistics capacity is not sufficient to respond to the operational logistics needs of humanitarian actors, and where access and security is possible.

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<sup>2</sup> The MSUs were purchased under the previous SO.

- Develop and maintain a clear communication between actors to facilitate humanitarian access on location (Kasai provinces) where there is a heavy presence of state and non-state military.
- Technical logistics-related information (road access and constraints, partners' logistics activities, partners' logistics capacity, market prices, suppliers contact details, etc.) will continue to be collected, and shared with partners through different Information Management (IM) products. Information on available service providers will be updated on a regular basis and shared through the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA).<sup>3</sup>
- Liaison Officers will be deployed in Kasai and common operational areas as required to maintain a clear communication channel between OCHA, humanitarian partners and state and non-state military actors.
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mapping tools and products will also be made available, and shared.
- Training of partners in data collection and analysis will remain a focus area. The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide training on gathering and hosting of GIS database. Information from the database will be shared with partners as appropriate.
- The Logistics Cluster will continue to work with NCPD, MSHAS, and the humanitarian community to build long-term national and local capacity, which will play a key role in humanitarian preparedness and response coordination. Activities will focus on augmenting the capacity of local staff, through knowledge sharing and skills' transfer.

**15. Logistics Cluster Transition Strategy.** In accordance with the goal set in the Logistics Cluster Strategy (2016-2018)<sup>4</sup> to strengthen the immediate response capacity of national actors in disaster-prone countries, and IASC Cluster Reference Module (2015), the Logistics Cluster will support national response and preparedness capacity. At an appropriate point of transition, this support can be facilitated in part through the existing Government / WFP project, a capacity building initiative that aims to improve the overall supply chain efficiency and effectiveness of DRC.

**16. Outputs and indicators:**

- Number of requests for storage/loan of MSUs fulfilled by the Logistics Cluster (100% of approved requests)
- Number of requests for road transport fulfilled by the Logistics Cluster (100% of approved requests)
- Number of IM and GIS products made available (50)
- Number of Logistics Gaps Assessments carried out (6)
- Number of trainings provided by the Logistics Cluster (3)

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<sup>3</sup> <http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Democratic+Republic+of+Congo>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.logcluster.org/sites/default/files/lc\\_strategy\\_2016\\_2018\\_1.pdf](http://www.logcluster.org/sites/default/files/lc_strategy_2016_2018_1.pdf)

- Number of agencies/NGOs using common Logistics Cluster platform services (40)
- Rating of Logistics Cluster overall performance in user survey, target 90% either good or very good.

A six-month SO (1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017) will allow WFP to carry out these activities.

### **Recommendation**

This Special Operation, covering the period from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017, at a total cost to WFP of USD 1,161,367 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director, under the Executive Director's delegated authority with the budget provided.

### **APPROVAL**

Amir Abdulla  
Deputy Executive Director