



WFP Libya
SPECIAL OPERATION SO 201140

Country:	Libya
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	To establish and maintain common logistics and emergency telecommunications services in support of the humanitarian community in Libya
Total cost (US\$):	881,978
Duration:	3 months (1 October – 31 December 2018)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Special Operation (SO) is established to provide logistics and emergency telecommunication services to the humanitarian community in Libya. The activation of both Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors has been endorsed by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Libya after the request from the Humanitarian Country Team, due to the challenges faced within the operational context.

Due to the ongoing crisis, frequent clashes and extremely volatile situation across Libya, the Logistics Sector, through WFP as lead agency will provide logistics coordination and information management support as well as facilitate access to common logistics services to ensure the humanitarian community has the ability to deliver relief items in an effective and efficient manner. Based on the need identified by humanitarian organizations, common logistics services will include reliable common storage services in the main hubs in Libya to cover the western, eastern and southern parts of the country.

Furthermore, WFP was requested to lead the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response, providing vital communications services and addressing critical communications and data connectivity gaps for humanitarian organizations currently to support implementation of humanitarian relief efforts.

With a budgeted cost of **US\$ 881,978** Special Operation 201140 will be managed by WFP Libya Country Office from 01 October 2018 to 31 December 2018.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

1. Within the framework of the Humanitarian Project Cycle under finalization for Libya, the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview highlights that an estimated 1.6 million people are affected by the ongoing political instability, conflict and insecurity, combined with a deteriorating public sector and a dysfunctional economy. They are living in unsafe conditions with little or no access to health care, essential medicines, food, safe drinking water, shelter or education. Amongst these, almost 800,000 people are prioritized for humanitarian assistance throughout next year, including refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees, non-displaced affected people and host communities across different parts of the country.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

2. Following the lifting of the evacuation status for UN organizations in Libya in February 2018, there has been a surge of humanitarian organizations in the country. Most agencies are establishing bases in Tripoli, however access and presence in the East and South are a priority and remain a challenge.
3. The situation inside the country remains extremely volatile, with recurrent clashes and shifts in areas of control. Security and access issues are a cause for major concern to responding organizations, especially around Tripoli, in the eastern and the southern parts, compounded with poor or damaged infrastructure, multiple price inflations, including for fuel, and lack of liquidity that have led to severe shortages of basic resources and cause further access constraints.
4. Additionally, limited availability of logistics information, especially regarding the status of bridges, roads, ports and airports, as well as the availability of warehousing, makes logistics planning more difficult. Information gaps also extend to humanitarian customs procedures through the different entry points and other administrative processes which could cause significant delays in the clearing process as the volume of cargo increases. These key logistics gaps and bottlenecks were already identified after a joint WFP Regional Supply Chain and Global Logistics Cluster mission conducted in April 2018.
5. An ICT assessment mission and a needs assessment survey were conducted in late May 2018. Results showed the need for reliable security communications and data connectivity to be established in the common operational hubs, starting with Benghazi, but also to enhance current ICT services in Tripoli for humanitarian organizations currently operating in Libya and for those who plan to return.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

6. The objectives of this Special Operation are:

Logistics

- To establish a centralized logistics support and coordination platform that can collect, analyze and share logistics information, in order to avoid duplication of efforts, and support the humanitarian community with a more effective and efficient humanitarian logistics response;
- To map conditions of critical entry points to support operational decision making and ensure the most efficient use of local capacities and existing logistics infrastructure, especially the Benghazi port as a vital point of entry;
- To update the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) with relevant information and guidance;
- To provide access to common storage facilities in strategic locations including as Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha, to cover the West, East and South respectively;
- To regularly monitor fuel availability and explore possibilities for fuel provision services on a cost recovery basis within the humanitarian community.

Emergency Telecommunications

- To coordinate ICT emergency response activities;
- To establish and maintain a dedicated operational information-sharing platform to enhance coordination and decision-making among local partners, and support advocacy efforts;
- To facilitate security telecommunications availability for the humanitarian community in common operational areas;
- To provide reliable Internet connectivity services for humanitarians in common operational areas;
- To support inter-sector initiatives aimed at improving affected communities' access to vital information and communication services

The objectives above are linked to WFP's Corporate Results Framework (CRF) and contribute to the Strategic Goal 2: Partner for the implementation of the SDGs (SDG 17.16, Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology to strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs) of Libya ICSP.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Logistics Sector Operations

7. Sector Coordination: A Logistics sector coordinator will be deployed to Tripoli to facilitate the logistics coordination mechanism among humanitarian organizations, participate in the inter-sector and inter-agency coordination fora, and ensure information sharing.
8. Common Storage in 3 logistics hubs: Storage gaps will be identified based on consultation with responding organizations. Based on needs, common storage facilities will be made available in key locations in the west, east and south. 3,000 sqm of storage capacity is envisaged in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sabha.
9. Benghazi Port Assessment: A port captain will be mobilized to liaise with local authorities and initiate an assessment of the Benghazi port, and other critical infrastructure, in order to share this information with the partners and to identify rehabilitation needs.
10. Fuel Provision Service: Based on the needs expressed by humanitarian agencies working in Tripoli, options will be explored for WFP to set up a common fuel provision service based on a cost recovery mechanism.

Emergency Telecommunications Sector

11. Sector Coordination: An ET Sector coordinator will be deployed to Tripoli to coordinate the implementation of ICT services in common operational areas and support the humanitarian community by consolidating and sharing operational information and addressing issues on emergency telecommunications operations, as well as participating in existing coordination fora where required.
12. Dedicated staff and equipment will be deployed and/or hired and procured locally to ensure reliable communications services are established and maintained in common operational areas, guarantee timely user support, conduct technical training activities and support the humanitarian community with reliable information sharing mechanisms
13. ICT Working Group: Dedicated staff and equipment will be deployed and/or hired and procured locally to ensure reliable communications services are established and maintained in common operational areas, guarantee timely user support, conduct technical training activities and support the humanitarian community with reliable information sharing mechanisms
14. An ICT working Group (or “local ETS Working Group”) will be activated and maintained to ensure coordination and information sharing functions.

Security

15. Activities will be implemented in accessible areas, as per United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the humanitarian community requirements, and expand depending on need, accessibility and funding.

Staffing

16. Staff will be deployed and based in Tripoli and Benghazi, or other locations according to the operational needs, pending security situation on the ground, or relocated to Tunis if conditions require.
17. The proposed activities are expected to continue throughout 2019 and expanded or tailored based on the humanitarian community requests, and will be implemented in the framework of the Libya ICSP that will be rolled out as of January 2019.

Project Cost and Benefits

18. The total project cost for this Special Operation is US\$ 881,978.
19. The project is predominantly reliant on donor contributions to kick-start the operation. In addition to donor contributions, continuity of the service will be sustained by implementing either partial or full cost recovery as may be deemed necessary by the user community.
20. The benefits envisaged under this Special Operation in Libya are as follows:
 - Humanitarian community is better coordinated and informed on the operational context, possible logistics and telecommunication gaps and bottlenecks, and is able to maximize resources and avoid duplication.
 - Humanitarian organizations have access to reliable logistics services that facilitate the operational planning and supply chain functions.
 - Rehabilitation needs for strategic infrastructure are analyzed in collaboration with relevant government counterparts, so to facilitate the identification of the technical and funding requirements.
 - The humanitarian community has access to reliable secure telecommunications and internet connectivity services.
21. Efforts will be made to contain costs and ensure value-for-money throughout the project cycle.

Monitoring & Evaluation

22. Key Performance Indicators will be measured and reported at the end of the project and will include the following:

Logistics

- Number of logistics updates and guidance made available to the humanitarian community (target 6)
- Number of humanitarian organizations using the common storage facilities (target 4)
- Number of partner organizations attending Logistics Sector meetings (target 10)
- Number of assessments conducted and shared on the LCA (target 4)

Emergency Telecommunication

- Number of common operational areas covered by common security telecommunications network (target 2)
- Number of common operational areas covered by data communications services (target 2)
- Percentage of users reporting delivery of the services as “satisfactory” and within “satisfactory” timeframe (target > 80%)

Risk Management

23. A number of risks could impact the implementation of the Special Operation. The main risks identified are presented through the three risk areas (contextual, programmatic and institutional). The subsequent narrative explains the risks and outlines mitigation measures to be taken.

Contextual Risks. The high level of insecurity and unstable situation in Libya is the main risk facing the implementation of this Special Operation. The Logistics and ET sectors, through WFP, will work in close coordination with the HCT, UNDSS and other relevant international bodies to ensure timely communication of the security situation on the ground and will plan their operations accordingly. Furthermore, given the limitations regarding importation of equipment into Libya, the implementation may heavily rely on the local availability of equipment.

Programmatic Risks. Humanitarian agencies may further scale up or be forced to scale down their assistance in Libya due to the security circumstances; the Logistics and ET sectors will remain flexible to adapt the operation in accordance with the needs of the humanitarian community. This includes potential augmentation of their support capacity in coordination with the user community and donors.

Institutional Risks. The success of the Special Operation is conditional on adequate resources being available to WFP throughout the implementation period. Resource mobilization strategies will include steps to be taken to address any funding shortfall. Fundraising activities will be conducted jointly by the WFP Country Office, the regional offices and Headquarters in order to ensure uninterrupted services for the humanitarian community.

Project Management

24. Both the Logistics and ET sectors planned project implementation will be directly under the managing authority of WFP Libya Country Director in coordination with the Logistics Sector and Emergency Telecommunications Sector coordinators. The WFP Libya Country Director will be the Funds Manager for this SO and the WFP Libya Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 881,978 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director.

APPROVAL

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Amir Abdulla
Deputy Executive Director