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**Executive Board  
First Regular Session**

**Rome, 9–10 February 2015**

## **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**Agenda item 8**

*For information\**



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### **PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2014) — NEPAL 200787**

#### **Food Assistance for Refugees from Bhutan**

Number of beneficiaries	23,500
Duration of project	3 years (1 January 2015–31 December 2017)
WFP food tonnage	7,983 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Food and related costs	4,727,152
Cash and vouchers and related costs	1,508,928
Total cost to WFP	8,297,337

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.**

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

## ABSTRACT

1. As a result of revised citizenship laws enacted by the Government of Bhutan in the 1980s, Bhutanese asylum seekers moved to Nepal in the early 1990s. The Bhutanese refugees are the decedents of Nepalese people who migrated to Bhutan between the 1870s and 1940s. In 1985 they were forced to leave Bhutan when their citizenship was withdrawn.
2. In 1993, the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan initiated negotiations to find permanent homes for Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal. In 2007, the Government of Nepal agreed to third-country resettlement as a durable solution. By August 2014, 92,000 refugees had been resettled; 23,500 remain in two camps in Jhapa and Morang districts in the eastern plains region of Nepal. It is expected that 20 percent of the remaining refugees will resettle each year, and that a final caseload of between 10,000 and 15,000 will remain when this resettlement concludes.
3. Since 1992, WFP has provided food assistance through a series of emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations (PRRO) at the request of the Government of Nepal. Because refugees are not permitted to participate in agricultural or commercial activities, they are dependent on external assistance as their primary source of food.
4. The goal of PRRO 200787 is to save lives and protect the livelihoods of the refugee population by providing secure access to food, thereby improving their nutritional status and enabling them to acquire skills that will improve their self-reliance. PRRO 200787 will contribute to Strategic Objective 1 and to Millennium Development Goal 1; it is also aligned with the Zero Hunger Challenge.
5. Following recommendations from the 2014 joint assessment mission and market surveys in 2012 and 2014, WFP will continue to provide full food rations for the refugees and will monitor market prices with a view to switching to a market-based response in the third year of the operation, when the refugee population is expected to have stabilized. In order to reduce undernutrition, children age 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients will receive additional nutrition support.
6. PRRO 200787 was prepared in consultation with the Government of Nepal, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and beneficiary representatives. It builds on WFP's previous operations, lessons learned from monitoring, the recommendations of the 2012 and 2014 joint assessment missions, the 2012 and 2014 market assessments and a 2013 nutrition assessment.