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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2014) — GHANA 200675

Assistance to Ivorian Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	8,500
Duration of project	14 months (1 February 2014–31 March 2015)
WFP food tonnage	1,506 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food and related costs	1,131,856
Capacity development and augmentation	3,000
Total cost to WFP	1,559,986

* 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).

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ABSTRACT

1. The protracted political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, ongoing since 2010, has resulted in the influx of thousands of asylum seekers into Ghana. Three years after the humanitarian crisis began, 9,000 Ivorian refugees still reside in Ghana, 8,500 of them inhabiting three refugee camps in the Brong-Ahafo, Central and Western regions. An October 2013 joint assessment mission by United Nations agencies, the Government and donor partners indicated that most refugees were unwilling to return to Côte d'Ivoire in the near future due to the political situation and continuing security concerns.
2. Most of the refugees fled Côte d'Ivoire with no assets or money. Since May 2011, they have benefited from WFP food assistance first under an immediate response emergency operation and then under emergency operation 200321 which ended in January 2014. Host communities have supported the Ivorian refugees, but that support has declined with time due to diminishing resources. Most refugees who originally settled in host communities have relocated to the camps. The October 2013 joint assessment mission and September 2013 participatory assessment organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners indicated that food is the refugees' most pressing need, followed by shelter and education.
3. Few refugees have marketable skills or speak the local language well enough to engage in income-earning activities. The joint assessment mission concluded that the likelihood of a protracted stay requires a strategy to transition to self-reliance. UNHCR and WFP have jointly prepared an exit strategy through which training will be provided in English and Twi, the local language of trade in and around the camps. UNHCR and partners will run the training programme while WFP will provide food assistance. A communication strategy will deliver information on the phase-out of unconditional support, joint assessment missions, food security assessments and periodic nutritional assessments will be conducted to monitor project impact.
4. The operation is aligned with Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 of the WFP Strategic Plan (2014–2017) and seeks to:
 - save lives by meeting refugees' food security and nutrition requirements (Strategic Objective 1 – Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies); and
 - provide food assistance ensuring refugees' household food security and preventing negative coping strategies during the transition to self-reliance (Strategic Objective 2 – Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies).
5. The operation also contributes to Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.