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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 10–13 November 2014**

## **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) — BANGLADESH 200673**

#### **Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar**

Number of beneficiaries	33,000
Duration of project	18 months (1 July 2014–31 December 2015)
WFP food tonnage	743 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Food and related costs	944,078
Cash and vouchers and related costs	6,023,118
Total cost to WFP	8,320,284

\* 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).

\* Bangkok Regional Bureau (Asia)

## ABSTRACT

1. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200673 will assist 33,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps in Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh. The refugee population in these camps comprises those formally registered in 1991/92 following a wave of sectarian violence in Myanmar, and their next-of-kin, who have never been formally registered.<sup>1</sup> No significant progress has been achieved in identifying durable solutions; more than half of the population of Kutupalong and Nayapara camps has been born in Bangladesh.<sup>2</sup>
2. The refugees are dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival. Food production is extremely limited,<sup>3</sup> as is the use of local markets due to the official restrictions on refugee movement outside the camps as well as participation in livelihood activities. Poor dietary diversity, limited access to safe water, and poor sanitation, hygiene, and inadequate childcare practices contribute to alarmingly high rates of child undernutrition. Stunting and wasting continue to remain consistently above or near to critical thresholds over the last five years.
3. Under PRRO 200673, WFP will continue to safeguard the food and nutrition security of refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara camps. WFP's assistance has three components: i) food assistance to registered refugee households through an innovative and cost-effective electronic voucher system, replacing the general food distribution modality, found not fit for purpose any longer;<sup>1</sup> ii) an established nutrition safety net for treating and preventing acute undernutrition among pregnant women and young children through fortified supplementary foods; and iii) school feeding in pre-schools and primary schools, to encourage school enrolment, attendance and completion, while addressing short-term hunger and micronutrient deficiencies through fortified biscuits. WFP also assists vulnerable persons in neighbouring communities through a livelihoods component under the country programme.
4. The PRRO is informed by the 2012 WFP/UNHCR joint impact evaluation,<sup>1</sup> joint assessment mission, and an in-depth, gender-sensitive consultation process with refugees and stakeholders operating inside the camps. WFP's assistance to Myanmar refugees is provided at the request of the Government of Bangladesh.
5. WFP will phase out assistance to the refugees subject to their attainment of self-reliance, which depends on the policies of the Government of Bangladesh. Positive strides have been made, both in the Government's acceptance of the joint assessment mission recommendations, and the registration of more refugees. The recent National Strategy on Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh remains focused on foreign policy engagement with the Government of Myanmar to find a solution to the formal registration of undocumented nationals from Myanmar.
6. The PRRO aligns to the WFP Strategic Plan (2014–2017), and contributes to WFP Strategic Objectives 1 and 4. It also supports the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 4 and 5.

<sup>1</sup> Owing to the policy shift vis-à-vis registration in 1992. See "[Summary Report of the Joint UNHCR/WFP Impact Evaluation on the Contribution of Food Assistance to Durable Solutions in Protracted Refugee Situations – Bangladesh](#)" (WFP/EB.1/2013/6-B).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR. 2011. *States of denial: A review of UNHCR's response to the protracted situation of stateless Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh*. Geneva.

<sup>3</sup> Action Against Hunger. Nutrition Causal Analysis, 2011.