

برنامج  
الأغذية  
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Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 12–14 November 2012**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012) – TUNISIA 200307

### Assistance to Disadvantaged Rural Communities Affected by Food Insecurity

Number of beneficiaries	132,000
Duration of project	2 years (1 March 2012–28 February 2014)
WFP food tonnage	Not applicable
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	Not applicable
WFP cash/voucher cost	14.3 million
Total cost to WFP	21.3 million

\* 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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Liaison Officer, ODC:                      Ms M. Jaring                      tel.: 066513-2342

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Tunisia is in the midst of a political, social and economic transition following the January 2011 events that led to the ousting of the former President and his government. Elections for a Constituent Assembly were held in October 2011 and an interim government has been appointed, pending parliamentary and presidential elections now expected in the first quarter of 2013.
2. The economy has contracted and the general deterioration of economic conditions adds to the vulnerability of the country's poor. This has been exacerbated by both the crisis in Libya and the economic downturn in Europe, Tunisia's main trading partner. Long-term unemployment, which affects mostly young people, is the most important driver of poverty and food insecurity and also the most pressing social issue.
3. While the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has a sub-regional office in Tunis, WFP only returned to Tunisia in February 2011 as part of its response to the Libya crisis. Under this protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP – together with FAO – aims to address the food insecurity and unemployment facing vulnerable families in rural Tunisia.
4. The proposed PRRO provides structure for WFP's and FAO's contribution to the United Nations country team's Bridge Programme for 2011–2013 aimed at maintaining social and economic stability in the country. The Bridge Programme was drawn up in consultation with the Government and has been extended until the end of 2014.
5. Given that food markets continue to function, WFP will implement a cash-for-work response, FAO will deliver vocational training through Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools at a cost of US\$21.4 million. There will be a total of 132,000 beneficiaries. The Government has made a commitment to contribute US\$5 million, representing 12.5 percent of the total value of the WFP and FAO project. The Government's contribution will be used to remunerate participants of the cash-for-work projects.
6. This PRRO addresses WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 5. It also contributes to Millennium Development Goal 1.
7. The PRRO is designed to facilitate a smooth hand-over of WFP activities to the Government following implementation.