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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 8–11 November 2010**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2010) — IRAQ 200104

### Capacity–Building to Reform the Public Distribution System and Strengthen Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Groups

Duration of project	24 months (1 May 2010–30 April 2012)
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#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	25,391,910
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\* 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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## ABSTRACT

1. Development project 200104 aims to provide critical support to the Government of Iraq in strengthening social protection for vulnerable groups. This will be achieved through reform of the public distribution system (PDS) and development of effective social safety nets linked to the productive sector.
2. Existing government social protection programmes are poorly targeted and inadequate to protect vulnerable groups. At present, the PDS is the largest element of the country's social protection system, and the main source of food for poor people. The PDS is hindered by poor internal controls and accountability, and inefficiency in its supply chain management.
3. The Government has taken important steps towards reforming the PDS and developing its social protection system. In 2009, the Council of Ministers endorsed a five-year plan to reform the PDS. This envisages a gradual reduction in the number of recipients of the PDS ration, revision of the food basket and decentralization of management.
4. Article 29 of the Government's 2010 Budget Law requested the Ministry of Trade to develop a detailed plan for reforming the PDS, giving priority to the targeting of poor Iraqis. Council of Ministers Decision No. 369, 2009 empowers the Ministry of Trade to reform the PDS in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Planning.
5. The Government's National Development Plan (2010–2014), the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2010–2014), the International Compact for Iraq (2009) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2011–2014) prioritize reform of the PDS and social safety nets to protect vulnerable groups.
6. The objectives of the development project are a core focus of WFP's Country Strategy for Iraq (2010–2014) and address WFP Strategic Objective 5 – Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase. WFP is currently leading the United Nations Task Force to support the Government's reform of its social protection system for vulnerable groups.
7. Implementation of the project will include: i) providing technical assistance in supply chain management and the design and implementation of effective social safety nets; ii) transferring the necessary technology for improving the efficiency of PDS supply chain management; and iii) training government staff in supply chain management and design of social safety nets.