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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 2010) — MALAWI 200087

Assistance to Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	38,200 (annual average)
Duration of project	36 months (1 January 2010–31 December 2012)
WFP food tonnage	9,186 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	4,529,235
Total cost to WFP	8,793,671

* 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.

Regional Director, ODJ*: Mr M. Darboe tel.: 066513-2201

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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. Malawi has for many years hosted refugees from neighbouring countries, primarily Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi. WFP has provided food assistance to refugees since 2002, first through emergency operation (EMOP) 10152, then through protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10309 from 2004 to December 2009.
2. This successor PRRO 200087 is intended to provide food assistance to refugees through general food distributions at Dzaleka refugee camp and Karonga refugee transit shelter. The PRRO also seeks to address the massive deforestation around Dzaleka camp that has resulted from the camp population's high demand for wood for cooking.
3. The PRRO will run for two years with an estimated cost of US\$8.8 million. It will require 9,186 mt of food, of which 8,391 mt will be for refugees and 795 mt for food-for-asset activities for neighbouring communities.
4. According to a recent joint assessment mission and a food security survey, WFP-supplied food represents up to 75 percent of refugees' food consumption, demonstrating the refugees' heavy reliance on external assistance. Government restrictions on movement, integration and wage-earning opportunities have limited refugees' opportunities to become more self-reliant.
5. The overall goal of the PRRO is to achieve and maintain food security among refugee populations settled in officially designated camps, while protecting the surrounding environment and the livelihoods of neighbouring communities. The operation targets food-insecure households.
6. The specific objectives of the PRRO are:
 - a) maintaining adequate and regular access to food for targeted refugees;
 - b) restoring, maintaining and, wherever possible, improving the natural environment; and
 - c) addressing the needs of neighbouring communities that may be adversely affected by the presence of refugees.

These objectives are in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1 – Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; and Strategic Objective 2 – Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.

7. In late 2009 the refugee population was established at 12,600, but a flow of Ethiopians and Somalis into Malawi means that the refugee population is expected to rise to an annual average of 14,000 over the next three years.
8. A tripartite agreement reached among the Governments of Malawi and Rwanda and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilitates the repatriation of Rwandan refugees. However, most Rwandan refugees are not ready to repatriate voluntarily. If the number of refugees repatriating increases, WFP will adjust food requirements accordingly.
9. WFP will continue to support UNHCR's advocacy efforts aimed at changing existing legislation that restricts refugees' rights and privileges. The Government of Malawi is not in favour of granting citizenship to refugees who want to stay in Malawi, so naturalization is not an option.