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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

**Rome, 8–12 June 2009**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2008)— MALI 10610.0

### Fighting/Controlling Malnutrition in Food-Insecure Areas

Number of beneficiaries	896,324
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2009–31 December 2010)
WFP food tonnage	24,696 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	15,929,405
Total cost to WFP	32,748,374

\* 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 matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Mali is the seventh largest country in Africa and has seen rapid development over the last 15 years since the establishment of a democratic form of Government, including regular elections since 2002. Despite such political stability and improved relations with foreign partners, Mali remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 175<sup>th</sup> out of 178 countries in the 2006 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development index.
2. Mali faces numerous health challenges related to poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate hygiene and sanitation practices. The country's health and development indicators rank among the lowest in the world. In 2006, only 56 percent of the population was estimated to have access to safe drinking water, and only 69 percent had sanitation services of any kind. In 2001, annual government expenditures on health were the equivalent of about US\$4 per capita. Medical facilities in Mali are very limited; malaria and other arthropod-borne diseases are prevalent.
3. Results from recent food security and nutrition assessments conducted by WFP and other partners confirm that high levels of poverty and illiteracy, especially among women, contribute to high malnutrition rates. In 2003, it was estimated that 15 percent of children were underweight, with higher percentage rates in vulnerable regions during lean periods. WFP's response through the PRRO will help to control malnutrition and strengthen livelihoods in targeted regions of the country with high malnutrition prevalence rates, particularly in parts of northern Sahel. The operation aims to:
  - improve and stabilize the nutritional status of children under 5, and particularly those under 2, and pregnant and lactating women;
  - increase the access of tuberculosis (TB) patients to treatment;
  - improve the nutritional status of people living with HIV/AIDS; and
  - improve nutrition-related practices and knowledge.
4. The operation is in line with WFP's Strategic Objective 4, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Mali Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. It will be implemented jointly with the Government, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and beneficiary communities. In partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the PRRO targets the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou, Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal.
5. Five main components of the PRRO account for 86 percent of the operation's resources:
  - i) supplementary feeding for 411,688 malnourished children aged 6–59 months;
  - ii) supplementary feeding for 106,568 pregnant and nursing women;
  - iii) support to improve the nutritional status of 48,961 TB and AIDS patients undergoing treatment (Strategic Objective 4, MDGs 1, 4–6);
  - iv) food-for-training activities targeting mostly women, providing rations for cooking demonstrations to 328,582 participants during training sessions;
  - v) general food distribution feeding for 196,735 children aged 6–24 months during the lean season.