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**Executive Board  
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# 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 2007) — ZAMBIA 10593.0

### Food Assistance for Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Number of beneficiaries	45,500
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2008–31 December 2009)
WFP food tonnage	14,288 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	4,751,497
Total cost to WFP	11,152,145

\* 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. The Government of the Republic of Zambia consistently grants asylum to people seeking refuge. The current refugee population is estimated at 118,100, of whom 64,500 reside in designated sites; the rest are integrated into communities. In 2007, WFP provided food assistance for 48,000 refugees dependent on food aid.
2. The security situation in southern Africa and the Great Lakes region has improved in recent years, particularly in Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The transition process is fragile, but the election of constitutional governments and peace negotiations with warring factions are establishing conditions for social and economic development. The voluntary repatriation of refugees from DRC started in mid-2007, but delays have been encountered: 7,300 refugees repatriated to DRC in 2007, fewer than the 20,000 planned by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
3. WFP has phased down its assistance to Angolan refugees in Zambia, because most of them are now self-reliant or repatriated; 73,800 were voluntarily repatriated during 2003-2007. Repatriation and the provision of land for refugees from the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements has enabled WFP to reduce the number of refugees assisted by 36,500 in two years; food assistance now targets only the most vulnerable groups.
4. In line with WFP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3, protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10593.0 will continue to assist 45,500 mainly Congolese refugees in the Kala and Mwange camps and vulnerable groups in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements in 2008. The number is expected to fall in 2009 as Congolese refugees are repatriated. With the Angolan refugees repatriated or resettled, PRRO 10593.0 aims to assist a markedly smaller caseload than the 82,000 of the previous phase in 2006.
5. The food requirements are estimated at 14,288 mt at a cost of US\$4.8 million and a total cost of US\$11 million. Assistance will be phased down as repatriation continues. WFP will continue to procure food through local purchases when possible to encourage small-scale production and rural infrastructure improvements in and around the settlements.