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*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) – CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONAL PRRO 10444.0

**Assistance to Strengthen Disaster Preparedness
and Mitigation among Marginalized
Populations in El Salvador, Guatemala,
Honduras and Nicaragua**

Number of beneficiaries	471,000
Duration of project	24 months (June 2009 – May 2011)
WFP food tonnage	46,500 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	16,915,803
Total cost to WFP	32.2 million

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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. Regional protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10444.0 addresses the food needs of vulnerable people frequently affected by natural disasters: it will develop capacity at the community level to help people to cope with disasters and allow for a handover of WFP interventions in the longer term. It was approved by the Executive Director on 20 June 2007 for two years from June 2009 to May 2011; the total cost is US\$32.2 million; up to 471,000 beneficiaries a year will benefit from 46,500 mt of food aid.
2. The PRRO will prevent deterioration of the nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women, in support of government nutrition plans and Millennium Development Goals 1, 4 and 5. It will support households' capacity to respond to shocks by improving disaster preparedness, access to food and environmental conditions, in line with MDGs 1 and 7. The PRRO is in line with WFP's Strategic Objectives 2, 3 and 5.
3. Central America suffers recurrent natural disasters: four major hurricanes affected the region in 2005; in 2006 PRRO 10212.0 and the country programmes addressed emergencies resulting from volcanic eruptions, flooding, earthquakes and rat infestations; 17 hurricanes are foreseen for 2007, five of which are expected to be severe.
4. The 2005–2006 regional emergency food security assessment found that 50 percent of the households in Honduras, 44 percent in El Salvador and 25 percent in Guatemala had drastically reduced the quantities and type of food they consumed, mainly because of natural disasters. A WFP assessment concluded that 40 percent of the population of Gracias a Dios in Honduras had access to only half of the recommended kcal intake five months after Hurricane Beta hit in October 2005. These reductions in consumption add to chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. In areas of El Salvador affected by hurricanes and drought, stunting among children under 5 is double the national average. In hurricane and drought-prone areas of Honduras, acute malnutrition is three times the national average.
5. This PRRO will use flexible programming to address the effects of recurrent disasters in several countries, stressing accurate targeting, coordination and cost-effectiveness. Under the relief component revolving food stocks in disaster-prone areas will allow timely responses to immediate food needs among populations affected by disasters. Following relief food distribution, a recovery component that includes food for assets and food for training will mitigate the effects of disasters and seasonal food insecurity. Targeted supplementary feeding will prevent malnutrition rates from increasing during and after natural shocks.