

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 19–22 February 2007



Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.1/2007/17

8 June 2007

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2007

In accordance with the methods of work of the Executive Board, the present document reflects the main points of its deliberations to be taken into account by the Secretariat in the implementation of the Board's decisions and recommendations, contained in the document WFP/EB.1/2007/16.

This document is printed in a limited number of copies. Executive Board documents are available on WFP's WEB site (<http://www.wfp.org/eb>).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Adoption of the Agenda, Election of the Bureau and Appointment of the Rapporteur	1
CURRENT AND FUTURE STRATEGIC ISSUES	
2007/EB.1/1 Opening Remarks	1
ANNUAL REPORTS	
2007/EB.1/2 Annual Report for 2006 to ECOSOC and FAO Council	3
POLICY ISSUES	
2007/EB.1/3 Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative	4
2007/EB.1/4 An Update on WFP Interventions in Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation	5
RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS	
2007/EB.1/5 Update on the WFP Management Plan (2006–2007)	5
2007/EB.1/6 Report of the WFP External Auditor on Treasury Management	6
2007/EB.1/7 Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations on 2004–2005 Operations	7
2007/EB.1/8 External Audit of Funds and Programmes involved in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	7
ASIA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO	
2007/EB.1/9 Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the India Country Programme (2003–2007)	8
SUDAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO	
2007/EB.1/10 Summary Report of the Evaluation of Darfur EMOP 10339.0/1	9
EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO	
2007/EB.1/11 Budget Increases to Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations—Uganda 10121.1	10
WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO	
2007/EB.1/12 Development Projects — The Gambia 10548.0	11



SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO	13
MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE PORTFOLIO	14
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PORTFOLIO	15
ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS	16
2007/EB.1/15 Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP	16
ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT	17



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA , ELECTION OF THE BUREAU AND APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

1. Having declared open the Board's First Regular Session of 2007 and welcomed the 12 incoming Board members, the President outlined the proposed timetable for the session. The agenda was then adopted under item 1 with the addition of two topics – the External Audit of Funds and Programmes involved in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the housing allowance of the Executive Director.
2. The President then introduced item 2 and invited discussion of the composition of the Bureau. Lack of a consensus among Board members as to the position of Vice-President of the Board, for which Zimbabwe was nominated by list A, led to an adjournment of the session and prolonged negotiations among the Lists. These were facilitated by the President and a team of Friends of the President. No solution acceptable to all parties was reached, however.
3. On resuming the session, the President announced that consensus had not been reached, and that the issue would have to be determined by a vote, the first in the history of WFP. This was carried out in conformity with Rule IV and Rule IX of the *Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*. The outcome of the vote was as follows: 17 against, 16 for, and 3 abstentions. List A subsequently proposed the nomination of Cape Verde, which the Board accepted. The Board elected Cape-Verde together with the candidates proposed by the other Lists to establish the Bureau.
4. The Board appointed as Rapporteur Mr Zakariou Adam Maiga (Niger).

CURRENT AND FUTURE STRATEGIC ISSUES

Opening Remarks (2007/EB.1/1)

5. The President thanked his predecessor, H.E. Mirza Qamar Beg, for his leadership, wisdom and eloquence, thanked outgoing members of the Bureau and Board and welcomed new members, stressing the need for collegiality.
6. Outgoing Executive Director James Morris, addressing the meeting in a video recording, expressed gratitude for the work and support of the Board and for the efforts of the WFP staff in combating hunger – “the most important work in the world” – and pledged his future collaboration.
7. The Secretariat updated the Board on the WFP strategic planning process. The new Strategic Plan would respond to changes such as United Nations reform, shrinking resources for development, rising cereal prices, increasing natural disasters and changes in United Nations leadership; the incoming Executive Director, whose mandate would start on 5 April 2007, wanted the plan to reflect extensive consultation and would engage personally in the strategic planning process. Accordingly, an updated four-year Strategic Plan would be presented to the Board in February or June 2008. A biennial Management Plan based on the current Strategic Plan would be submitted to the Board at its 2007 Second Regular Session and subsequently amended to bring it into line with the new Strategic Plan.
8. WFP's 61 protracted relief and recovery operations (PRROs) formed the bulk of its work in 2006; the largest were the southern Africa regional operation and those in



Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Uganda. There were 18 emergency operations (EMOPs); the largest by far was in Sudan, where lack of security continued to be a problem. In the DPRK, the ongoing PRRO was underfunded and food pipeline breaks could be expected in the near future; if current trends continued, the country could face a food deficit of up to 1 million mt. The United Nations Secretary-General had sought audits of all United Nations activities in the DPRK. In the Horn of Africa, security problems continued in Somalia but there was hope for improvement. Kenya had suffered its worst floods in a decade. WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had been asked to draw up a food-security plan for the region. The Rome-based organizations were working together on the joint Sahel Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative (SARDI) to prevent crises and relieve hunger. In relation to emergency preparedness, the Secretariat cited the positive contributions made by the new humanitarian response depots, which were available to the United Nations and NGO and government partners.

9. The Secretariat expressed to donors its appreciation for the US\$2.8 billion raised in 2006 – a record – which had met 94 percent of WFP’s requirements, and stressed the importance of the timing of contributions. The donor base had broadened from 60 to 97 donors over the previous five years, a 62 percent increase, with 12 new donors in 2006, all from countries that were not members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); dependency on the major donor and on the top ten donors had decreased as a result. The multilateral share had been lower in 2006 than in 2005; the private sector had contributed 2 percent of WFP’s total needs in 2006, and corporate partnerships had been established with Citibank, Unilever and the Japanese Advertising Council among others. WFP’s financial needs for 2007 were expected to be more than US\$3 billion; it was seeking an increase in the number of donors and in multilateral donations, and was revising its strategy for private-sector funding.
10. The Secretariat then updated the Board on administrative matters. The information and communications technology (ICT) help desk and non-food procurement had been moved offshore; consideration was being given to moving other services offshore. The Rome-based agencies continued to work together to carry out their complementary missions: examples included a joint tender for electricity, a joint actuary review of after-service staff benefits, avian flu preparedness, cooperative loaning of workspace, joint security management and joint expansions in ICT and telecommunications. WFP was strengthening its management: training had been completed for senior staff and was to start for mid-level staff. Implementation of 360-degree evaluations was starting, and the contractual status of national staff had been improved. A WINGS re-engineering project to align corporate systems with WFP business requirements would be operational in January 2008; an increase in project scope was expected to increase funding needs and extend deadlines. WFP was among the first in the United Nations system to approve International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).
11. In updating the Board on policy issues, the Secretariat noted that it had paid increased attention to cash-based responses, enhancing strategic partnerships and developing an academic outreach strategy, including a hunger seminar series, a WFP working paper series and a curriculum on hunger. With regard to United Nations reform, and particularly the “One UN” initiative, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) had agreed to implement pilot projects in eight countries, with a focus on development. With regard to humanitarian reform, a Global Cluster Appeal was to be launched by the new United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in March or April 2007. The Rome-based United Nations agencies were committed to enhancing their collaboration on reducing hunger, food insecurity and rural poverty.



12. Board members expressed gratitude to the outgoing President, the Executive Director and his Chief of Staff. They encouraged continued United Nations coordination and requested more information on the process for the Strategic Plan and United Nations reform. Members expressed particular interest in continued cooperation among the Rome-based agencies, capacity-building for disaster preparedness and mitigation, non-food responses, enhanced needs assessments, human resource policy, child nutrition, development, and effective and accountable food aid. Board members recognized the efforts of WFP staff and stressed the need to ensure the safety of personnel in the field.
13. Board members from Latin America reminded the Board that they could offer knowledge and skills to support and enhance WFP's work. Japan presented WFP with a coin minted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its joining the United Nations. Sudan noted its improved harvest this year and invited consideration of local food purchase.
14. The Secretariat undertook to take into account the points made by the Board. An outline for the Strategic Plan would be submitted to the June meeting. The Board noted that the incoming Executive Director had expressed her intention to focus on emergency preparedness and nutrition for women and children.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Report for 2006 to ECOSOC and FAO Council (2007/EB.1/2)

15. The Secretariat presented WFP's Annual Report for 2006 to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the FAO Council, which took into account Board comments from last year and focused on humanitarian reform, the cluster system, increased WFP participation in joint programmes at the country level and cooperation with the other Rome-based agencies. The report would thus provide input to the triennial policy review at the United Nations General Assembly.
16. Members of the Board commended the report, expressing support for WFP's participation in United Nations reform and the cluster system. More information was requested on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies, in particular on the senior-level working group; Board members suggested that a paper assessing the current collaboration be provided as a basis for moving forward. Coordination was encouraged as a means of implementing more effective programming, but Board members recalled the importance of keeping the pace of integration in line with inter-government dialogue.
17. Board members called for greater attention to gender analysis and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, citing Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and Bulletin 13. The Board expressed interest in the development of a standard food-security classification system and requested clarification of its relation to the needs-assessment framework and establishment of priorities. Members asked for clarification of WFP's work in relation to sector-wide approaches (SWAPs) and budgetary support.
18. Several suggestions were made on the content and format of the report, including organizing the partnership section thematically and providing more qualitative results-based analysis.
19. The Secretariat noted that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) called for global cluster leadership to be mainstreamed by 2008 and that the WFP management plan would have to address the issue. United Nations funding to WFP had increased to over US\$140 million, with US\$96.6 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund



(CERF) in its first year and US\$48 million from country-level common humanitarian funds in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); the Secretariat noted that some of this funding was additional to what would have been contributed bilaterally, but exact figures were difficult to determine. WFP was seeking ways to integrate project-support activities with national strategies. The Secretariat reminded the Board that whether funding was spent on development or emergencies was largely determined by donors: less than 10 percent of WFP funding was not tied to a specific use. The Secretariat noted that the Cape Verde pilot project had shown that the establishment of joint offices often involved administrative complications, particularly at the beginning of the process.

20. The Secretariat confirmed that WFP was working to reinforce inter-agency collaboration on common needs assessments. The Secretariat agreed with the Board that WFP could not anticipate inter-governmental processes with regard to United Nations reform, but the existing situation allowed for collaboration at the country level. WFP's work on nutrition was outlined, although it was not the lead agency of the nutrition cluster; the United Nations Joint Logistics Centres (UNJLCs) had an ongoing role in the cluster system. The Secretariat reiterated WFP's commitment to gender inclusion and protection and stressed that a zero-tolerance policy on abuse was in place. The Secretariat undertook to consult with the Bureau on proposed changes in the format and organization of future reports.

POLICY ISSUES

Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative (ECHUI) (2007/EB.1/3)

21. In presenting the ECHUI paper, the Secretariat emphasized the fundamental importance of the partnerships necessary to help countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and outlined the timetable for establishing ECHUI. A number of national and regional initiatives addressing child hunger were already under way, for example in Latin America and West Africa. WFP was seeking endorsement from the Board to establish a global policy framework that would generate partnerships in support of these initiatives.
22. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed his agency's commitment to ECHUI, stressing the complementarity and comparative advantages of UNICEF and WFP as partners in the initiative.
23. The Board expressed support for the launch of ECHUI, noting the work that had been carried out by the Secretariat, particularly on the workplan, the terms of reference and the timetable of actions. Some Board members had hoped that the plan would have moved beyond the draft stage, and stressed the urgent need to tackle the chronic problems of child hunger and undernutrition. Decisions were needed at UNICEF and WFP in the next sessions of their governing bodies to endorse the activities and leadership roles of the two organizations.
24. Some Board members suggested that cash transfers could be effective in the process of establishing ECHUI; others stressed the need for more substantial interventions. The needs for accurate evaluation and targeting were recognized by the Board, which noted that technical support from the World Bank was continuing in the development of ECHUI, but that it would not be a co-initiating partner.
25. In response, the Secretariat stressed that one of WFP's main roles was advocacy in relation to the chronic problems of child hunger and undernutrition and for widespread dissemination of the six main interventions that could address these problems in a scalable,



cost-efficient manner. A number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private companies, civil service organizations and United Nations agencies had expressed interest in ECHUI; some had already volunteered to be partners. The importance of targeting was also recognized: multiple cluster surveys and other tools would be introduced to refine the process. The UNICEF representative noted that a new, more comprehensive report would be submitted for review at the UNICEF Executive Board meeting in June 2007.

An Update on WFP Interventions in Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation (2007/EB.1/4)

26. The Secretariat introduced the update paper on WFP's framework for mitigating disasters, which did not describe all of WFP's activities but highlighted a few important ones; the main focus was ensuring rapid and effective response at the global and regional levels and supporting governments in their disaster-management approaches.
27. Some Board members noted that the document was broad in scope and that it focused on response at the expense of prevention; this aspect would need to be further developed in the future. The Board recognized WFP's skills in coordinating responses and reactions, and emphasized the importance of disaster mitigation. WFP had an opportunity to be a leader among other United Nations organizations in this field. Board members called for a policy paper to show how WFP could work in partnerships with other organizations, and commended the establishment of the Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity (SENAC) project.
28. The Secretariat concurred that prevention was an essential part of disaster preparedness and mitigation and that it would need to be developed in any policy paper that was presented. The Secretariat stressed that partnerships were a current and essential feature of WFP's involvement, and outlined the process to be followed in preparing an official policy document for disaster preparedness and mitigation for submission to the Board for approval in late 2007 or early 2008.

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Update on the WFP Management Plan (2006–2007) (2007/EB.1/5)

29. The Secretariat presented the Update on the WFP Management Plan (2006–2007), the fourth update for the current biennium; two informal consultations had been held. The Secretariat noted a projected US\$47 million positive balance at the end of 2007 for the Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) Equalization Account; a similar balance for the General Fund was expected. PSA budget items had been reprioritized, but the overall budget had not changed.
30. The Secretariat stated that decisions were needed to: (i) fund variances between standard staff rates and actual expenditures from the PSA Equalization Account and the General Fund; (ii) fund a 12.1 percent increase in Rome general service salaries; it was proposed that the PSA Equalization Account be used for this; (iii) revise regular PSA appropriation and property, plant and equipment capital appropriation: increases were funded from vacant positions, a 3.5 percent downward adjustment in all unit budgets and a 20 percent reduction in travel; country offices were exempted; (iv) fund a US\$2.6 million Walk the World income deficit from the General Fund; the 2007 Walk was to be fully managed by TNT; (v) use the General Fund to cover commitments to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), for which WFP's contribution was assessed at US\$22.6



million; it had not been feasible to use direct support costs to fund that commitment, for example because UNDSS personnel were often present in countries where WFP did not operate; and (vi) provide an advance of US\$10 million to ensure continuity of the WINGS II project.

31. Members of the Board thanked the Secretariat for clarifying the points raised and for the consultations on the document before the session. The Board requested that staff cost variances be reported with a view to enhancing the Board's awareness of the issues.
32. The Board expressed concern about the costs of UNDSS and encouraged WFP to take up the issue with the United Nations system and to continue to seek alternative ways to cover the costs. Given the deficits resulting from WFP's role in managing Walk the World, Board members expressed doubts about its effectiveness as a fundraiser and discouraged WFP from involvement in management of the next event. The Board requested further clarification as to the effects of across-the-board cuts on programmes and the ways in which interest on donor funds was used to fund the General Fund. The Board urged the Secretariat to present more information, analysis of costs and benefits, and a strategy for fundraising and communication; the Bureau would decide, in consultation with the Secretariat, on ways of proceeding with the strategy. Some members requested assurances that costs for WINGS II would not continue to increase.
33. In response, the Secretariat announced that it would hold a financial seminar to clarify some of these issues, to which all Board members were invited. It was agreed that the United Nations system should consider funding UNDSS from the United Nations budget rather than base commitments on headcounts unrelated to the location of projects. The Secretariat defended the advocacy value of the Walk the World and explained the rationale for having invested in taking over its management. The increase in the fundraising budget had the objective of raising full funding for all operations through work with donors, twinning cash and commodity contributions and developing private-sector partnerships. The Secretariat explained that increased costs for WINGS II were linked to reviewing business processes and mainstreaming IPSAS into WFP; among other things, IPSAS required commodities be tracked by value and not volume alone.

Report of the WFP External Auditor on Treasury Management (2007/EB.1/6)

34. In introducing the paper on WFP treasury management, the External Auditor noted that for the past four years WFP had retained cash resources in excess of US\$1 billion. The External Auditor had carried out a review to examine how retained funds were safeguarded, whether they had been effectively managed and whether investments had been productive. The report comprised three parts: cash management, investment management and treasury performance.
35. The External Auditor discussed where cash was held, cash forecasting, foreign exchange risk, investment management and treasury performance. WFP had managed cash funding prudently and had met its objectives in these areas; cash funding had been safeguarded and had yielded a reasonable return while maintaining low risk. The report showed many strengths in WFP's treasury management, with scope for improvement in detailed aspects. The External Auditor then made a number of recommendations for improved governance and management.
36. Members of the Board were pleased with the treasury management report: they appreciated the detailed approach and supported the External Auditor's management recommendations. The Board asked whether the External Auditor had found cases of financial fraud. The Board wanted to be assured that all the low-risk criteria would be



taken into account in investments. The Secretariat was asked to prepare further information on investment performance, investment managers and investment fees.

37. The Secretariat responded that the External Auditor's report had been received only recently and that it had not yet been reviewed; a review would be submitted at the next Board session. WFP was proactive in encouraging external support for the investment committee; a paper on the issue would be submitted at the Board's 2007 Annual Session to provide more detail.
38. The External Auditor observed that there had been cases of financial irregularity: a recent significant case had been reported separately by the Executive Director; the External Auditor's report on the financial statements referred to the incidence of fraud in the financial period, and the internal auditors also reviewed and reported on fraud in the Inspector General's report to the Board. External audit visits were regularly made to field offices to monitor WFP's financial controls and assess the risk of fraud and irregularity.

Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations on 2004–2005 Operations (2007/EB.1/7)

39. The Secretariat introduced the progress report, emphasizing its importance as a governance tool for the Board, and reported that 30 out of 45 audit recommendations had been completely implemented; the remaining 15 were in various stages of implementation, some of which could be completed only when the WINGS II changes had been implemented. Following the suggestion made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the FAO Finance Committee, a new format had been adopted to include comments made by the External Auditor on each recommendation that the Secretariat had indicated as fully implemented.
40. The Board commended the progress made in implementing the audit recommendations and welcomed the new format of the progress report. However, Board members were concerned about the timing of implementation and about possible further costs; the Board encouraged the Secretariat to complete implementation of the remaining audit recommendations. Some members praised the new system of tracking commodities that was being adopted in the Southern Africa Regional Bureau (ODJ) as a complement to the Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System (COMPAS).
41. The External Auditor confirmed the importance of the Board's review of the reports in the WFP's governance processes.

External Audit of Funds and Programmes involved in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2007/EB.1/8)

42. The Secretariat introduced the paper on the audit of funds and programmes operating in the DPRK.
43. The Board expressed its support for the audit. Some members asked about the effect the audit would have on the workplan that the External Auditor had already shared with the Board and, given that the External Auditor had audited WFP's activities in the DPRK in 2005, requested information on any new elements that might be introduced.
44. Board members noted that working conditions in the DPRK were difficult. The Board noted, however, that there had been four audits of WFP's operations there that had signalled robust arrangements. The Board stressed that accountability was the prime issue.



45. The External Auditor noted that the audit in the DPRK would be a special audit and that it would be undertaken in addition to his normal work programme. On receipt of the request from the President of the Board, the External Auditor would assess the assignment and coordinate with the United Nations Board of Auditors. The External Auditor also highlighted some of the practical limitations that might arise in the conduct of the audit.

ASIA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the India Country Programme (2003–2007) (2007/EB.1/9)

46. In introducing the summary report of the mid-term evaluation of the India country programme, the Secretariat stressed that WFP's main objectives were to develop intervention models and replicate them – which had been achieved – and to advocate for food security in India. Malnutrition in India had fallen by 15 percent and rates of anaemia and vitamin A deficiency had declined. The evaluation recommended that WFP strengthen its partnership with UNICEF in India.
47. The Regional Director of the Asia Regional Bureau (ODB) emphasized the scale and difficulties of operations in Afghanistan, where insecurity, harsh terrain and bad weather were constraints; more work to develop livelihood opportunities was needed. Food security remained a problem in the DPRK, where WFP's programme was only 18 percent resourced; underfunding and lack of access were significant constraints. Drought, floods and pests were affecting food security in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where a ban on poppy production had affected many livelihoods. In Nepal, the refugee situation remained unresolved; continued funding was required. WFP had received strong support from the Government and donors in Pakistan, but child health and education indicators were worrying in some areas, especially those near the Afghan border. The next harvest in Sri Lanka might be lower than expected, and the political situation remained tense. The Regional Director emphasized that under-funding was a problem throughout the region: further funding was urgently needed to avoid the possibility that operations might be compromised.
48. WFP was using vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) data, much of which was provided by national mapping authorities, to assess vulnerability and the locations of populations in need so that emergency responses could be targeted effectively. WFP was working on a new environmentally friendly initiative in an attempt to reduce the effects of its operations on the environment, degradation of which had a direct link with poverty and hunger. An external consultant would conduct an environmental study to suggest ways forward. WFP was committed to working with Governments, communities and the private sector, and was exploring the use of solar panels to provide power for some applications. WFP aimed, as always, to work in an innovative, competent and cost-effective manner and to support other humanitarian organizations, for example with its humanitarian air service (HAS).
49. The Board expressed its appreciation of the evaluation of the India country programme. Some members, however, felt that a greater focus on gender issues was needed. The Board suggested that strengthened partnerships between WFP, governments, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and UNICEF were vital if the country programme (CP) objectives were to be achieved. A Board member expressed reservations as to the effectiveness of the food-for-work programmes in Asia, and a question was raised



about the result of the peer review in India. The Board felt that the recommendations from previous evaluations could be more closely followed up, and urged WFP to increase its efforts in this respect. Board members enquired about the status of the Asian Philanthropic Trust, food security in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the capacity of local NGOs for projects in Afghanistan and WFP's work with returning refugees in Afghanistan.

50. The Secretariat responded that the Asian Philanthropic Trust involving individuals of high net worth would be launched shortly, potentially by the next Board session. The Secretariat reminded the Board that WFP had positive partnerships with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in food for education, in which they shared a commitment to work in the same schools: UNICEF focused on education, WHO on deworming and WFP on food and nutrition. WFP was working with NGOs in Afghanistan, but they needed greater assistance from WFP, particularly in the south and east. In general, monitoring was extremely difficult in the conditions prevailing in some insecure parts of the country. WFP continued to work with local governments and communities to distribute food.
51. The Secretariat stressed WFP's commitment to the programmes in India, but it had only US\$6 million in 2006 of the required US\$28 million and only three international staff members: its capacity was constrained as a result. The Secretariat believed that there had been some inconsistencies in the evaluation, but stressed that the country office was nonetheless addressing the recommendations of the evaluation. It was emphasized that the region was evolving rapidly and that it was essential that WFP continue to collaborate with national governments to adapt its work to address the challenges and exploit its comparative advantages.

SUDAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Summary Report of the Evaluation of Darfur EMOP 10339.0/1 (2007/EB.1/10)

52. The Secretariat presented Sudan EMOP 10557, noting that it was smaller than the 2006 EMOP but still WFP's largest operation. Darfur absorbed 71 percent of the assistance, mostly relief to internally displaced people (IDPs). South Sudan was expected to receive 17 percent of the assistance; 12 percent would be assigned to central and eastern Sudan and the Three Areas.
53. The situation in Darfur had approached breaking point as a result of violence against aid workers. A serious incursion into an IDP camp on 18 December had led a WFP food distribution partner to decide not to return to the region, so no food could be distributed to that camp in January; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had taken over delivery of food, water, sanitation and health services. The United Nations agencies and a coalition of NGOs had issued statements on the situation and the urgent need to protect civilians and humanitarian workers. In the South, assistance was shifting away from general food delivery towards food for education, food for work and supplementary feeding. In 2007 there were expected to be over 700,000 returnees, many of them spontaneous; many would require assistance. Eastern Sudan had the highest chronic malnutrition rate in the country and required a comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy; general food deliveries would be reduced.
54. The FAO/WFP joint crop and food assessment results had shown a record cereal harvest, which had enabled WFP to buy locally with donors' cash contributions. The Government of the Sudan was favourably considering a WFP request for food donations; delivery



would require cash contributions from the Government and/or other donors. Food was being pre-positioned in Darfur and southern Sudan thanks to donors providing funds early in the year; WFP encouraged new contributions for the second half of 2007. WFP also appealed for funding for special operations in the Sudan, including the HAS, WFP's largest air operation, which was serving the entire humanitarian community in the country, and emergency road repairs and mine clearance, which were perceived as a tangible peace dividend.

55. The Secretariat presented the summary report of the Darfur evaluation. The EMOP had reached 2.7 million beneficiaries and accomplished a great deal under difficult circumstances; the humanitarian imperative had placed the saving of lives above organizational regulations where necessary. However, there had been a lack of effective monitoring and evaluation and of adequate targeting, inadequate response to firewood and milling issues, poor commitment to gender and inadequate support for area offices.
56. The Board praised WFP staff for their commitment, adaptability and courage in such a demanding environment; the Board also emphasized the urgent need for adequate protection of staff. Concerns were expressed regarding monitoring, the relevance of school feeding, WFP's interactions with other partners on security issues and the effects of interventions on local markets. The Board asked for clarification as to how general food deliveries could be phased out in favour of more targeted programmes and invited the Secretariat to respond to the evaluation's finding on "insufficient commitment to gender concerns", citing it as a humanitarian imperative and not merely a management issue. They requested more specific information as to how regulations might interfere with response to an emergency and the need for a trade-off between quality control, effective programming and saving lives. They suggested that tools be developed on the basis of lessons learned, that budgets be earmarked for monitoring and evaluation, and that options be explored for reducing transport costs. The Board called attention to the plight of the vulnerable non-rural population and encouraged better coordination between United Nations organizations and NGOs in charge of food distribution.
57. The Board condemned the violent events in the IDP camp and on the roads and expressed gratitude for WFP's activities. It requested WFP to support the return of refugees and encouraged local procurement.
58. The Secretariat undertook to continue to develop monitoring and evaluation approaches for use in complex and dangerous situations. Improvements had been made in monitoring and gender issues since the evaluation period ending December 2005. Some of the monitoring problems were attributable to weak and over-extended partners. Food relief committees had been set up in all the camps, so beneficiaries were involved and committees would be able to distribute food in the absence of WFP; there were some obstacles to overcome in involving women fully on committees and as monitors. Discrepancies between planned and actual activities were partly a result of funding shortfalls and partly of logistics and security problems. Transport costs had been reduced by pre-positioning food and discontinuing air drops. Some re-registration of IDPs had been accomplished to improve targeting, but it could be a dangerous activity for workers to undertake.



EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Budget Increases to Protracted Relief And Recovery Operations—Uganda 10121.1 (2007/EB.1/11)

59. The Deputy Regional Director of the East and Central Africa Regional Bureau (ODK) noted that although some trends in central and eastern Africa had been positive, poverty rates remained high. Many of the countries in the region were food-insecure and vulnerable because of flooding and drought. In Uganda, the 2006 peace talks were faltering and there were 230,000 returning IDPs who needed support.
60. Board members praised WFP's work in the field and in refugee camps, but stressed the needs for funding, for plans to be in place before emergencies occurred and for accurate targeting. Some members asked for more information on local procurement in Ethiopia, given the current high market prices, and for clarification as to why mortality rates had improved in Kenya despite the drought.
61. The Secretariat responded that the introduction of cash as a safety net had improved the purchasing power of poor people; cross-border trade had also been important. But high market prices meant that local purchasing was often not feasible. With regard to malnutrition rates in Kenya, the Secretariat explained that the figures referred to the refugee camps, not the general population.
62. The Uganda country director noted that political instability was having serious negative effects on humanitarian work in the area: if the peace process moved forward, IDPs would return to their homes. Given the region's fertility and suitability for agriculture, WFP would not have to support Uganda for more than another two or three years if political stability were established.
63. The Board approved the budget increase to Uganda PRRO 10121.1 from June 2007 to March 2008 and accepted the need for an ongoing response to emergencies and protracted problems in the area.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Development Projects — The Gambia 10548.0 (2007/EB.1/12)

64. The Regional Director of the West Africa Regional Bureau (ODD) presented an overview of the food security situation, stressing that ODD made extensive use of partnerships, in particular with UNICEF on nutrition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for refugee emergencies and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) for food security.
65. Since 2005, UNICEF and WFP had taken leadership and advocacy roles in the fight against unprecedented high rates of malnutrition in northern Sahel, which had acute malnutrition rates of 15 percent and stunting rates of 37 percent. The two agencies had fostered interagency coordination among United Nations agencies in line with IASC agreements and had strengthened partnerships with governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs to increase common understanding of the situation and the need for urgent and sustained response, and to prioritize response strategies.



66. PRROs in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger required US\$13 million for the coming six months. The West Africa Coastal PRRO was being replaced by country-specific PRROs in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, starting in July 2007. UNHCR and WFP had confirmed that facilitated repatriation to Liberia was to be completed in June 2007. Recent violence in Guinea had led to martial law; non-essential United Nations staff and dependents had been evacuated. About 1,000 mt of WFP food had been looted in Labe and Kankan.
67. WFP urgently required US\$7 million for the West Africa Coastal PRRO and for the special operation providing humanitarian air services. In response to continued unrest in Côte d'Ivoire, a new regional PRRO was being planned to start in July 2007. US\$2 million was needed over the next six months to support IDPs and protect vulnerable populations.
68. For eastern Chad, a loan of US\$5 million had been taken from the IRA to assist the 220,000 Sudanese refugees in 12 camps; resources were urgently needed to pre-position food before the rainy season. Regional instability in Chad and the Sudan had led to deteriorating security in northern Central African Republic; WFP was increasing the scope of the ongoing PRRO to include the most vulnerable 300,000 of the 1.1 million people affected. The results of an ongoing rapid food security assessment, led by WFP with the participation of NGO partners, would be used in determining the scale of WFP's future assistance. The PRRO still required US\$4 million.
69. The Regional Director briefed the Board on partnership with CILSS: a steering committee was monitoring the functioning of markets in the Sahel; WFP had out-posted an adviser to strengthen CILSS capacity for emergency needs assessments. The Rome-based agencies were collaborating with CILSS and the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) on the design and launch of SARDI. The WFP/UNICEF led Alliance for Education had grown, promoting basic education through school feeding, building schools, training teachers, nutrition education and deworming.
70. The Regional Director presented the development project The Gambia 10548.0: Support to Basic Education in Rural Vulnerable Regions (August 2007–July 2011) for Executive Board approval. The project was in line with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Regional Director thanked the Board for its generosity in providing funds for work throughout the region.
71. Members of the Board expressed support for the work of ODD and praised the Gambia project for its participatory approach that involved the Government and NGOs, its gender sensitivity and its support for capacity-building. The Board enquired about the role of school garden projects and requested clarification as to support for madrassas and integration of interventions with national strategies. Concern was expressed about the IDP and refugee movements in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad and about coordination between the organizations involved. Clarification on staffing issues in Chad was sought.
72. In response, the Secretariat noted that there had been no reduction of staff in Chad. Collaboration between ODK, ODD and the Sudan was dealing with cross-border refugee movements. WFP development activities were aligned with national strategies, often under government leadership; weak governance capacity was a constraint that was being addressed. Cameroon's hospitality for refugees was gratefully acknowledged. The Regional Director announced that discussions had been held and contingency plans were being made for refugees from northern Central African Republic entering southern Chad and Cameroon. The Gambia country director explained that the madrassas were Islamic



schools that had been accepted into the education sector to serve the needs of some members of the community; they were required to meet government curriculum criteria. He gave assurances that WFP was keen to collaborate with partners in their bilateral programmes in The Gambia.

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

73. The ODJ Regional Director provided information about the regional PRRO. He emphasized the deepening crisis of the impact of HIV/AIDS: southern Africa was the epicentre of a crisis that in 2006 had caused 2 million deaths in sub-Saharan Africa and led to deepening food insecurity and poverty. Serious problems could be expected as a result of environmental degradation and climate change. The 2002 regional floods had led to the regional EMOP and subsequent PRRO. Relief was always provided following shocks, but the ODJ strategy was to enhance national capacities to provide protection and to improve the ability of targeted vulnerable populations to withstand shocks. Technical assistance was given to national and regional structures to improve food security monitoring and programming.
74. For people affected by HIV/AIDS, assistance included home-based care, food rations to support vulnerable people and households, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and nutritional support. As a way to safeguard and provide skills for the next generation, WFP collaborated with FAO on junior farmer field and life skills schools (JFFLS) and other agricultural projects. In Madagascar, WFP provided technical support for the development of the school feeding programme, which the Government intended to fund.
75. Flooding of the Zambezi was affecting countries across southern Africa: dams were at record high levels and the floods had caused displacement of people and loss of crops. Excellent management of water resources and disaster response by the Government of Mozambique had avoided a greater catastrophe, but 140,000 people had lost homes and an additional 140,000 had no shelter. The Government had requested assistance for sheltering 140,000 people and feeding 280,000; a grant had been solicited from CERF. Cyclone Flavio was headed toward Mozambique and would deposit large amounts of rain in already flooded areas.
76. In future, PRROs would be solicited for single countries. Board members were encouraged to request further information and to provide feedback to the Regional Director in person or by e-mail.
77. Members of the Board who had participated in the Board field visit to Zambia and Malawi complimented WFP staff for their professionalism in facing crises in the region. Some Board members wondered if HIV/AIDS might be classified as an emergency and suggested that the Global AIDS Fund be encouraged to finance AIDS work in order to free WFP to devote itself to other work, including food and nutrition issues important for effective anti-retroviral therapy. Board members called attention to the effects of flooding in Zambia and asked for support for Government relief efforts; the importance of identifying and implementing measures to prevent flooding was also emphasized.
78. The Regional Director accepted thanks on behalf of country and regional staff. He noted that in Johannesburg WFP shared offices with FAO to do regional work on disaster management and that much HIV/AIDS work was carried out in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, WHO and NGOs. He suggested the Board send a message to the Global Fund about working together with WFP



on AIDS issues. He assured the Board that any flood relief would be incorporated into existing PRROs.

MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

79. The Regional Director of the Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Regional Bureau (ODC) gave an overview of the situation in the region, stressing the challenges of working in areas troubled by violence and by emergencies resulting from human activity. Of particular concern were the protracted conflicts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Iraq. Checkpoints and security searches in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had increased by 40 percent since 2005, affecting markets and pushing more people into poverty. A WFP/FAO joint assessment had calculated that although 35 percent of the population were food insecure, food assistance had averted a wider humanitarian crisis. Through the PRRO in Gaza and the West Bank, WFP was assisting 650,000 of the poorest non-refugees; a new operation would be presented to the Board in June. There was a growing humanitarian crisis in Iraq: 1.8 million people were internally displaced; 2 million people had fled to Syria and Jordan. In response to a recent dramatic increase in the number of Iraqi refugees in Syria, WFP and UNHCR were working together to assist 30,000 more refugees later in 2007. Refugees in Western Sahara had been in isolated camps in Algeria for over 20 years; they were vulnerable, had little chance of survival on their own and remained dependent on aid. WFP and UNHCR had recently made a joint visit to the camps.
80. Regional office priorities were to update contingency plans and emergency preparedness in 14 countries in the region and in neighbouring countries and to form new partnerships. The governments in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia were providing safety nets, allowing WFP to phase out its support.
81. Outgoing Executive Director James Morris had strengthened fundraising in the Gulf Region and had visited North Africa to consolidate partnerships. WFP was raising its profile as an advocate for the hungry poor in the Middle East. ODC was working on regional collaboration, which had been strengthened by decentralization. Collaboration was particularly strong with UNICEF and WHO; the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was working with Humanitarian Coordinators to avoid overlaps in programming.
82. Members of the Board who had participated in a field visit to Egypt expressed their appreciation for the work of WFP there. The Board expressed gratitude to those who had participated in the field visit and provided the report on it. Members from the region mentioned the importance of food for education and food for work and asked that WFP strengthen its presence in Dubai, increase its fundraising from within the region and increase collaboration with the Red Crescent and the Red Cross and with other United Nations agencies. Members requested more information on crops, harvests and food availability. One member asked whether assistance to 35,000 flood victims in Algeria was to be extended beyond March.
83. The Regional Director thanked Board members for their input during the Egypt trip. She stated that food production was low in most of the region, covering about 20 percent of needs, with the balance coming from imports; she would provide greater detail outside the meeting. Refugee camps in Algeria were facing management problems and the mission there had made recommendations on improving food distribution and on assessing the



nutritional needs of vulnerable groups; the effects of flooding had been largely overcome. The Regional Director and the Board paid warm tribute to deceased WFP colleague Khaled Adly, a former director of ODC.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

84. The Regional Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bureau (ODP) outlined the situation in the region, noting that social and economic inequalities contributed to the chronic malnutrition and anaemia that affected indigenous and afro-descendant populations in particular, and drawing attention to the number of natural disasters. WFP focused on enhancing national governments' emergency preparedness and response capacities and eradicating chronic malnutrition in children. An emergency response depot had been set up in Panama, with sub-centres in El Salvador, Ecuador and Barbados; WFP provided leadership of the humanitarian logistics cluster. Information management systems for emergency response were being customized for Central America and the Andean region; VAM was being used to analyse the effects of natural disasters on food security. ODP collaborated with national governments, regional associations, agency counterparts, NGOs and donors and supported capacity-building at various levels.
85. A programme to develop national plans to tackle chronic child malnutrition in Central America had been requested by Ministries of Health and heads of state and government and was being implemented with the Inter-American Development Bank. An Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) study had estimated the high economic costs of hunger on the Central America region. For the Andean Region, a meeting in Lima sponsored by UNICEF and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) had led to the Lima Act targeting child malnutrition.
86. Members of the Board expressed support for ODP's focus on child malnutrition and on indigenous and afro-descendent communities. Members from the region thanked the Board for the support extended to their countries and encouraged further coordination with other United Nations agencies and programmes. The Board requested more details on funding shortfalls, VAM, extending the knowledge management project to the Andean region and conducting a similar ECLAC study, and a pilot project on advocacy among Hispanic people in the United States, which had been suggested during a previous Board meeting.
87. The regional director responded that VAM studies were under way. He explained that the Central America programme on child malnutrition had been developed in response to a request to WFP from officials in the region. An economic study of the Andean region had been requested, but funding had not been available. The knowledge management project also needed more resources in order to be extended to other countries. A study was being carried out on the potential for advocacy work with Hispanic communities in the United States, including work with friends of WFP in Washington and with a community of artists of Hispanic origin who were joining forces with UNICEF.
88. Ongoing programmes needed US\$34 million between February and August 2007 and US\$67 million between then and December 2007; the Board was asked to consider funding ODP projects to assist the indigenous populations and those of African descent, to strengthen national capacities for disaster management and to eradicate child malnutrition.
89. Members of the Board requested that all regional presentations be circulated as documents of the Board prior to the meetings in order to allow for consultations and more structured responses. The Secretariat assured the Board that presentations were posted on



the website and could be made available to delegates via e-mail, but that they were generally not available until after the meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP (2007/EB.1/15)

90. The Secretariat presented the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) reports relevant to the work of WFP. The document was in matrix form as requested previously by the Board. The Secretariat welcomed any comments or questions from the Board.
91. Members of the Board suggested that with regard to the JIU/REP/2006/2 document, WFP should give special consideration to (i) recommendation 4 on ACABQ members and appointments in United Nations organizations for which they had had oversight responsibilities, (ii) recommendation 5 on term limits for external auditors and (iii) recommendation 10(d) on involvement of governing bodies in termination of the contracts of heads of internal oversight. The Board recognized that the report *Oversight Lacunae in the United Nations System* was the most significant in terms of relevance to WFP.
92. In view of the fact that JIU/REP/2006/2 also related to the report on governance, which would be discussed at a subsequent Board session, members of the Board would consider future discussion on how best to present both documents to the Finance Committee before they came before the Board for consideration.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
AIDS	Autoimmune deficiency syndrome
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
COMPAS	Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System
CP	country programme
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECHUI	Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HAS	Humanitarian Air Service
HIV	human immunodeficiency syndrome
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	information and communications technology
IDP	internally displaced person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPSAS	International Public-Sector Accounting Standards
JFFLS	junior farmer field and life skills school
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODB	Asia Regional Bureau
ODC	Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Regional Bureau
ODD	West Africa Regional Bureau
ODJ	Southern Africa Regional Bureau
ODK	East and Central Africa Regional Bureau
ODP	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bureau
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSA	Programme Support and Administrative
SARDI	Sahel Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative
SENAC	Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity
SWAP	sector-wide approach
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNJLC	United Nations Joint Logistics Centre
VAM	vulnerability analysis and mapping
WHO	World Health Organization