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Second Regular Session**

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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 OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2006): AZERBAIJAN 10168.1

**Assistance to Internally Displaced People and
Other Vulnerable Groups**

* 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.

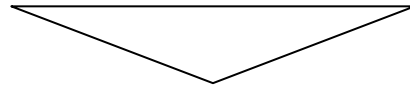
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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

* Regional Bureau Cairo (Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe)



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board takes note of “Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation Approved by the Executive Director (1 January – 30 June 2006): Azerbaijan 10168.1” (WFP/EB.2/2006/11-B/4).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document (document WFP/EB.2/2006/16) issued at the end of the session.



1. Azerbaijan gained independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991 and began the transition to a market economy. The challenges of this transition were exacerbated by conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. About 1 million people have been internally displaced for more than ten years as a result of the conflict and the challenges of economic transition. Nearly 70 percent of the internally displaced people (IDPs) still live in sub-standard temporary shelters, and unemployment – estimated at over 70 percent among IDPs of working age – remains a serious problem.
2. The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) seeks to provide food assistance for IDPs, who depend on the Government and humanitarian assistance; it will help food-insecure and vulnerable IDPs, particularly women and children, to maintain minimum nutritional status. The food-for-education (FFE) programme will address declining enrolment rates among children of primary-school age and help to stabilize attendance. The primary objective of food for work is to increase employment opportunities for food-insecure rural households.
3. The findings of WFP's 2005 food security and nutrition survey were incorporated into the design of the PRRO, which is aligned with Government policies and priorities. The proposed PRRO complements the activities of the Government and partners by reinforcing current assistance and benefit programmes for IDPs and vulnerable resident populations. The PRRO is aligned with the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) for Azerbaijan and will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, to achieve universal primary education and to promote gender equality and empower women. In assisting vulnerable IDPs, schoolchildren and food-insecure households, the PRRO is aligned with Strategic Objectives 2, 3 and 4.
4. WFP will provide food assistance for 130,000 beneficiaries, 70 percent of whom will be women and children, in 11 districts in the initial stage of the proposed PRRO. Newborn babies are included as beneficiaries, as recommended by the joint visit by Board members of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP from 9 to 15 May 2005.
5. The Government of Azerbaijan is committed to providing assistance for IDPs. Current government initiatives such as the construction of housing and allocation of land aim to improve IDPs' living conditions and reduce reliance on food assistance. With World Bank support, the Government is planning a comprehensive reform of social welfare entitlements that would include all citizens, including IDPs.
6. Given these promising developments, WFP expects this PRRO to be used to ensure the smooth transfer to the Government of responsibility for WFP's current beneficiaries.