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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 27–28 May 2004**

## **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**Agenda item 5**

*For information\**



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### **PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2003) — MALAWI 10309.0**

#### **Food Assistance for Refugees**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Number of beneficiaries | 15,600   |
| Duration of project     | 24 months<br>(1 January 2004–31 December 2005) |

#### **Cost (United States dollars)**

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Total cost to WFP | 1,709,000 |
|-------------------|-----------|

\* 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.

Regional Director, Southern Africa      Mr M. Sackett  
Regional Bureau (ODJ):

Senior Liaison Officer, ODJ:              Ms E. Larsen              tel.: 066513-2103

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



1. Malawi's national income of US\$180 per capita places it among the world's ten poorest countries; it ranks 162<sup>nd</sup> of 175 countries in the 2003 Human Development Index. Malawi shares borders with Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania; its geographical location and open door policy have made it a refuge for those seeking asylum, despite national economic implications. Since the early 1990s, areas of fertile land have been granted to refugee households living in designated camps so that they can supplement their food aid baskets with vegetables. This policy is to continue with the opening of the new camp in the southern region.
2. Since June 2002, refugees have benefited from food distributions under emergency operation (EMOP) 10152.0 overseen by WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and implemented by the Government and a local non-governmental organization. In July 2003, the United Nations agencies and partners decided that it was timely to make the transition to a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) in order to assist and encourage refugees to become food secure. This two-year PRRO will provide assistance to up to 11,200 asylum seekers/refugees, mainly from Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, who will be based in two refugee camps in the central and southern regions of Malawi.
3. PRRO 10309.0 is designed to assist a maximum of 15,600 beneficiaries at any one time, of whom 11,200 will be refugees—55 percent women and 45 percent men—and 4,400 will be individuals in food-insecure households in the host community. The PRRO will run from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2005 at a total cost of US\$1,709,000 million. The cumulative total of refugees receiving food assistance during this period will be 20,600.
4. The total food requirement for the PRRO is 4,496 mt, with 3,946 mt for general distribution (relief/refugee) and 550 mt for food-for-work (FFW) activities targeting food-insecure households in host communities surrounding the camps. In order to increase women's control over food, WFP will continue to encourage women to collect rations.
5. An agreement will be signed between: (i) the Government of Malawi, represented by the Commissioner for Disaster Management and Poverty Alleviation Affairs; (ii) another implementing partner yet to be selected; (iii) UNHCR; and (iv) WFP. The agreement will outline the responsibilities of each party. The Commissioner for Disaster Management and Poverty Alleviation Affairs and UNHCR will be jointly responsible for coordinating and implementing camp operations. The Government's primary responsibility will be warehouse management. The other implementing partner will be selected on the basis of a capacity review by UNHCR and WFP; its primary responsibility will be food distribution and monitoring. UNHCR and WFP are expected to collaborate on carrying out monthly registrations of new arrivals and annual registration and verification exercises to ensure the accuracy of registered refugee numbers. UNHCR will collaborate with the Ministry of Health and international NGOs in organizing nutritional surveys; a socio-economic survey will be carried out during the first year of the PRRO. WFP will continue to strengthen its monitoring capacity and will monitor jointly with operational partners. WFP will assist in coordinating training guidelines for staff of partner agencies and the refugees.

