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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 23–27 February 2004

PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 8

For approval



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.1/2004/8-B/4
5 January 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION— ARMENIA 10053.1

Relief and Recovery Assistance for Vulnerable Groups

Number of beneficiaries:	110,000 per year
Protracted relief	45,000
FFW/FFT	40,000
School feeding	30,000 (of whom 5,000 included in FFW/FFT)

Duration of project	Two years (1 July 2004–30 June 2006)
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Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	11,566,551
Total food cost	6,443,095

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since independence, Armenia has been experiencing a difficult transition from a centrally planned to a market economy.

The 1989–1994 conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and the ensuing economic blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey further affected the socio-economic situation. The benefits of recent economic growth have not yet reached the most vulnerable people: some of the 316,000 refugees from the conflict still live in deplorable conditions; 157,000 victims of the 1988 earthquake still live in temporary accommodation.

Widespread unemployment and delays in payments of salaries and benefits severely affect the 51 percent of the population living on less than US\$2 a day. Reduced public spending on education has impaired the quality of education services, resulting in less regular school attendance, particularly in rural areas; the situation is exacerbated by the increase of poverty.

To alleviate the suffering of those most directly affected by the transition, WFP started emergency operations in 1993; since 1999 WFP assistance has been in the form of protracted relief and recovery operations.

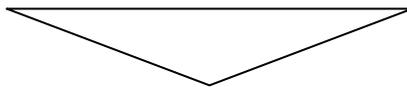
The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Common Country Assessment and the Millennium Development Goals for Armenia have set up priorities and areas of intervention that will be the basis of the proposed protracted relief and recovery operation; they include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, improved education and gender equality.

In collaboration with the Government, the international community and selected non-governmental organizations, WFP proposes to assist the vulnerable population with a two-year protracted relief and recovery operation in two major components: protracted relief for 40,000 most vulnerable people, and recovery activities for the remainder. Activities will include food for work to rehabilitate community assets, and food for training targeting women and adolescent girls. The operation proposes to expand the school feeding programme from the present 20,000 to 30,000 pre-school and primary-school children.

The proposed operation aims to reach 110,000 beneficiaries a year with a food commitment of 21,660 mt, including a contingency stock of 936 mt, based on a take-home relief ration sufficient to feed 20,000 people for three months in an emergency.



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves Armenia PRRO 10053.1, “Relief and Recovery Assistance for Vulnerable Groups” (WFP/EB.1/2004/8-B/4).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Context of the Crisis

1. Since independence, Armenia has been experiencing a difficult transition to a market economy. The end of traditional commercial, industrial and financial links with other former Soviet republics resulted in economic failure. The 1988 earthquake killed 25,000 people and destroyed one sixth of the country's housing and 40 percent of its production capacity; 15 years later, thousands of families still live in temporary accommodation. The 1989–1994 conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh led to further deterioration of the socio-economic situation and resulted in an influx of 316,000 refugees, 9,000 of whom still live in deplorable conditions. The blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey in 1989 seriously affected Armenia's trade.
2. The Russian financial crisis in 1998–1999 slowed economic growth and negatively affected exports. As a Soviet republic, Armenia exported fruit and vegetables and imported grain; after independence the country was forced to shift to grain production for domestic consumption, a change from high-value to low-value crops and from highly labour-intensive output to low labour intensity, which further exacerbated rural poverty.¹
3. These events contributed to the emergence of poverty, inequality and food insecurity; the poverty gap is still large, despite economic growth of 15 percent between January and July 2003. According to the 2003 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), 51 percent of the population live in poverty on less than US\$2 a day, of whom 16 percent are extremely poor living on less than US\$1 a day.² Refugees are reported to be three times worse off than local people.³
4. Social disparities are caused by the polarization of income distribution: 53 percent of the per capita gross domestic product, which was US\$786 in 2002, is consumed by only 10 percent of the population; the poorest 10 percent consume only 0.3 percent of total per capita income.⁴
5. Inequality rose sharply in the early years of transition and has remained high: very little of the additional income generated by growth has gone to the poor, who lack access to productive resources and employment. Economic growth may start contributing to poverty reduction when the social-protection policies proposed by the PRSP (2003–2015) are implemented.

¹ Griffin, K. 2001. *Growth, Poverty and Inequality in Armenia*. UNDP.

² Millennium Development Goals Report, 2003.

³ Armenia Common Country Assessment, 2003.

⁴ Armenia National Human Development Report, UNDP, 2001.



6. Unemployment is widespread. A 2002 Labour Force Survey indicated that 31.4 percent of the economically active population are unemployed.⁵ There has also been a trend towards feminization of poverty: 82 percent of women with four or more children do not work; 67 percent of single mothers are unemployed.⁶
7. Armenia used to have universal education and almost 100 percent literacy. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report showed that transition has had a negative impact on the education system, especially primary schools. Reduced public spending on education has impaired the quality of education services, resulting in less regular school attendance, particularly in rural areas; the situation is exacerbated by the increase of poverty.

Situation Analysis

8. Armenia is classified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a low-income, food-deficit country. It has never been self-sufficient in cereals, and imports over 1 million mt of cereals per year. Food security is explicitly linked to poverty: expenditures on food amount to between 60 percent and 70 percent of total household consumption; the figure for the poorest quintile is 85 percent.⁷
9. Drought and crop failures have compounded the problem of food insecurity for thousands of small-scale farmers. The drought in 2000 resulted in a 27 percent reduction in the wheat and barley harvests and a 40 percent loss in the potato harvest; after three consecutive years of drought, Armenia is still recovering from these losses.

Government Recovery Policies and Programmes

10. The Government approved the PRSP (2003–2015) in August 2003. The priorities include: (i) constructing and repairing irrigation systems; (ii) improving agricultural input and output markets and marketing systems; (iii) providing micro-credit to small and micro enterprises; (iv) offering incentives for foreign investment to generate employment; and (v) upgrading the quality of public services, including health and education. Sustainable high rates of economic growth combined with implementation of an efficient social-protection policy are expected to result in poverty reduction at the following rates: 41 percent in 2005, 29 percent in 2010 and 19.6 percent in 2015.
11. The Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the MDGs for Armenia, prepared in 2003, set up priorities and fields of intervention that form the basis of the proposed protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO): eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, improved education and gender equality.
12. In view of the many vulnerable people in Armenia and the need to provide targeted assistance, the Government established a household vulnerability and targeting system called PAROS. The most vulnerable receive a monthly family poverty benefit consisting of a base sum of AMD4,000⁸ plus AMD2,000 for each minor. Unfortunately, the benefits are insufficient and often delayed; to prevent destitution, WFP is distributing a food basket of

⁵ Social-Economic Situation in the Republic of Armenia, 2002.

⁶ Women Status Report, Armenia, 1999.

⁷ A Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development, Ministry of Agriculture/FAO, 2002.

⁸ United Nations exchange rate, September 2003: US\$1 = AMD583.



wheat flour, pulses and vegetable oil to 40,000 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries per year.

13. In 2002, in collaboration with FAO, the Government prepared a Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development aimed at: (i) achieving real-income growth among farmers through increased sustainable agricultural productivity; (ii) providing opportunities for real-income growth among the off-farm rural poor; and (iii) improving the food security of the urban population, especially the poorest segments.
14. The Government has devised a National Education Development Programme (2001–2005) that includes the creation of a nationwide teacher-training network and implementation of a system of professional development for teachers. The programme plans to design and implement mechanisms to subsidize education costs incurred by poor families as a means of guaranteeing access to primary education.
15. The Ministry of Social Security is drawing up a National Programme on Improving Women's Status in the Republic of Armenia and Empowering Women in Society.

Rationale

16. As of October 2003 the current PRRO 10053.0, which started in July 2001, assisted 300,000 beneficiaries with 24,056 mt of food. The relief component provides food assistance to the most food-insecure and vulnerable households such as the elderly, refugees and disabled people, applying the PAROS index. The recovery component includes three activities: (i) food for work (FFW), contributing to income generation and creation of infrastructure; (ii) food for training (FFT), providing farmers with basic agricultural knowledge; and (iii) school feeding. The PRRO exit strategy is predicated on the development of a number of favourable circumstances, especially settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. No peaceful resolution has been achieved, and it is still too soon to see any positive impact of the PRSP on the most vulnerable populations.
17. In this regard the priorities set out in the PRSP are an important step forward, because government budgets will be designed to ensure that resources are targeted to the relevant social sectors. Until the PRSP is implemented and showing results, WFP should continue to support vulnerable and food-insecure beneficiaries, as recommended by a vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) mission in August 2003; a PRRO will be implemented in 2004–2006.

RECOVERY STRATEGY

Beneficiary Needs and Targeting

18. Transitional poverty is a social fact in Armenia. The speed of Armenia's economic recovery in the next few years and the extent to which improvements in macro-economic indicators will affect the household socio-economic situation are uncertain. Overall economic improvement depends on a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute and an end to the economic blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey.
19. More than 11 percent of the population fail to meet minimum food consumption needs: food assistance is therefore vital for the neediest segments of the population such as the elderly, households headed by women, earthquake victims and refugees.



20. The VAM mission identified four most food-insecure provinces: Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Yerevan, mountainous areas where access to food is difficult, which have high child malnutrition rates, low school enrolment and large refugee populations. Between 70 percent and 80 percent of households have an average caloric intake either 35 percent below the national average or exclusively based on cereal consumption. Caloric intake is met by the vast majority of households in Gegharkunik, but this province will be included among the priority geographical areas of intervention, as recommended by VAM, because of very high prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children, poor dietary diversity, a poverty level of 62.2 percent⁹ and a large percentage of refugees.

Role of Food Aid

21. According to an Armenian Demographic Health Survey in 2000, 13 percent of children under 5 are stunted and 3 percent are severely stunted. Child malnutrition ranges from 8 percent in Yerevan to 32 percent in Gegharkunik. About 12 percent of Armenian women and 24 percent of children under 5 suffer from some degree of anaemia. In general, targeted food aid will increase access to food for very poor people living on less than US\$2 per day with inadequate means of food production. Food aid will be crucial to improving the nutritional status of beneficiaries by contributing to their daily caloric intake. Food rations for FFW and FFT participants will represent an income transfer to their scarce household budgets; school meals will ease families' economic burden.
22. Relief food assistance will prevent beneficiaries from falling into permanent destitution and hunger. Extreme poverty means that households are not consuming the amounts and types of food that provide adequate nutrients for a healthy and active life.¹⁰ Based on lessons learned during the current PRRO, FFW will provide an income transfer to help poor rural households rehabilitate their productive assets. So far, 152 schools and 11 rural clinics have been repaired, 2,500 m² of water reservoirs and 730 km of irrigation and drinking water systems have been constructed and 1,000 ha of agricultural land have been improved. FFT participants, especially women and adolescent girls, will acquire skills and knowledge that contribute to increased status at home and in society. School feeding, one of the most effective components of the current PRRO, will contribute to improved school attendance among children in the most vulnerable regions.
23. A recent self-evaluation of the current PRRO emphasized that food assistance provides nutritional support and income-transfer benefits and has a positive moral and psychological impact on beneficiaries, especially those who are isolated during the winter.

Programme Approaches

⇒ Component A—Protracted Relief

24. WFP will continue to provide relief food assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure urban population groups, including women, children, refugees, internally displaced persons, earthquake victims, disabled people, large needy families and single elderly pensioners. The relief component will cover Yerevan, Shirak and Lori provinces. WFP will use PAROS to identify the most vulnerable people; the Ministry of Social Security will be responsible for preparing beneficiary lists and distributing food.

⁹ Armenia PRSP, 2003.

¹⁰ Food Security and Nutritional Status Survey. WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, 2000.



25. This component will include a project called Elderly Care that will target single elderly people; it will be implemented by World Vision Armenia and Mission Armenia, a national NGO. The National Statistical Service indicates that 55.6 percent of pensioners live below the poverty line;¹¹ 23 percent of single pensioners survive mainly on humanitarian assistance. The project will allow elderly beneficiaries to receive WFP food rations, non-food parcels provided by WFP's partners and professional care through periodic visits by care workers.

⇒ *Component B—Recovery*

26. The recovery component will comprise three activities—school feeding, FFW and FFT—in the provinces of Shirak, Lori, Tavush and Gegharkunik.

School Feeding

27. The reduction in public spending during transition had a negative impact on the education system, especially primary schools: 7 percent of poor children do not attend public school; pre-primary school enrolment is 35 percent. The increasing number of children left out of education is the result of migration and the difficult socio-economic conditions of many families. Causes of absenteeism include lack of school clothes, shoes or supplies; primary-school pupils help their parents in agricultural work, especially in rural areas.¹² The reasons for low pre-school attendance include dilapidated facilities, high fees/contributions, lack of learning materials and parents' limited awareness of the importance of early childhood development.
28. School feeding in rural areas is important in encouraging parents to send their children to school, as indicated by findings from the July 2003 self-evaluation. WFP will partner World Vision Armenia, Caritas Armenia and Catholic Relief Services, who will complement food assistance with non-food items such as clothing, school supplies, books and stoves; the Ministry of Education and Science will be responsible for coordinating the activity.
29. In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), assistance will target pre-primary schools in the same areas as primary schools. WFP will provide a mid-day meal for children aged 3–6; UNICEF will support the following activities: training of pre-school teachers, provision of teaching materials and toys, and establishment of parents' centres to sensitize them on the importance of early childhood development and psycho-social stimulation in the home.

Food for Work

30. WFP will offer a long-term, phased, incentive-based commitment to rural communities engaged in FFW activities; communities will be eligible for four phases of FFW assistance over a two-year period and will qualify for a subsequent phase of WFP assistance if indicators demonstrate that participants maintain and use the original works. Activities will be initiated to create assets that benefit women and men equally.
31. FFW will be linked to school feeding to repair school facilities and maintain water supplies, sanitation and heating systems. Other FFW projects will help communities with basic needs such as rehabilitating clinics, water supply systems, irrigation systems and

¹¹ Khachatryan, G. 2002. Issues of the Elderly in Armenia. Global Action on Aging.

¹² Armenia Millennium Development Goals report, 2003.



agricultural projects. WFP will collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision Armenia and Armenian Caritas, who will contribute technical expertise, cash and non-food items.

Food for Training

32. FFT will mainly target women and adolescent girls and will focus on: (i) community leadership, to be implemented with a national NGO, the Women's Republican Council; (ii) awareness-raising on nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention with World Vision Armenia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and AIDS Prevention, Education and Care; and (iii) micro-enterprise establishment, with the International Organization for Migration.

Risk Assessment

33. The major factor that may influence progress of the PRRO is political and economic instability, particularly as regards settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue and major disasters; the contingency plan developed by the country office identified earthquake, nuclear accident, civil unrest and war as the most likely causes of an emergency. Successful implementation of the PRRO will largely depend on the degree of donor support and the capacity of implementing partners (IPs). An early-warning mechanism will monitor the food-security situation and evolving emergencies.

Objectives and Goals

34. The overall objective of WFP food assistance will be to contribute to recovery and transition through selected relief and recovery activities geared towards maintaining or improving human and productive capital while the priorities set up in the PRSP are implemented.
35. The PRRO's immediate objectives are to:
- ensure the food security of targeted populations;
 - rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure, drinking water systems, schools, sanitation facilities and clinics;
 - increase attendance among the poorest schoolchildren;
 - promote self-reliance by engaging participants in training, especially women and adolescent girls; and
 - enhance women's access to resources through the establishment of micro-enterprises.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BY COMPONENT

Key Programme Components

36. WFP assistance will be targeted through:
- relief: food distribution to vulnerable food-insecure populations; and
 - recovery: support through FFW and FFT activities, and school feeding.
37. Over the two years of the PRRO, WFP will need 21,660 mt of food to benefit 110,000 beneficiaries a year; 75 percent of resources will be allocated to relief, 25 percent to recovery. The reduction in the number of beneficiaries from the previous PRRO is the



result of improved targeting, as recommended by the VAM mission, leading to selection of four provinces instead of eleven. The project will strengthen complementarities among the components and take account of the implementing capacities of local authorities and partners.

⇒ *Protracted Relief Component*

Vulnerable Groups

38. The VAM mission emphasized that relief food aid will remain a WFP priority in supporting the Government's safety-net programme for vulnerable urban populations. WFP will target the most food-insecure areas with high concentrations of single-parent households with two or more children headed by women, households with orphans and elderly people and households with single elderly pensioners.
39. WFP will provide 7,592 mt a year to cover 365 days for 40,000 beneficiaries, 60 percent of whom will be women. The rations will provide 80 percent of the daily energy requirement; targeted households will meet the remaining 20 percent from their own means so that total reliance on food aid is avoided. The daily per capita ration will consist of 470 g of iron-fortified wheat flour, 30 of pulses and 20 g of vitamin A-fortified vegetable oil.
40. In villages where WFP supports FFW activities, households without a potential source of labour income are excluded from food assistance under the current PRRO. To help maintain a minimum standard for these groups, 182 mt a year will provide a monthly individual ration to 5,000 members of vulnerable households; the ration will be the same as for FFW and will be provided for the 70 days proposed for FFW activities.
41. WFP will issue ration cards in the name of a female member of each benefiting household; distribution points will be in places where women can collect food themselves. WFP and the Ministry of Social Security will prepare instructions to be posted at distribution sites indicating the size and composition of rations, the vulnerability thresholds established by the PAROS index, dates of distribution and names of beneficiaries; the instructions will clearly indicate that no services or favours are to be provided in exchange for food.

⇒ *Recovery Component*

School Feeding

42. The activity will cover the most vulnerable communities in border and mountainous areas and refugee-populated areas in the provinces of Shirak, Tavush, Lori and Gegharkunik, where the highest level of stunting in children was reported. The hot meal provided at school will increase attendance rates, alleviate children's short-term hunger and improve concentration and learning capacities. Building on the success of previous years, the number of children will be increased to 30,000 under the proposed PRRO.
43. This component will benefit children aged between 7 and 9 in the targeted schools, 49 percent of all children enrolled in grades 1–3 in the four regions, and 5,000 pre-school children aged between 3 and 6; 51 percent of beneficiaries will be girls. Food amounting to 1,444 mt a year will be provided for 176 feedings days. Schoolchildren will receive a daily hot meal prepared from 250 g of iron-fortified wheat flour, 40 g of pulses and 10 g of vitamin A-fortified vegetable oil; a portion of porridge prepared from 120 g of corn-soya blend (CSB), 10 g of vegetable oil and 10 g of sugar will be served to pre-school children.



Food for Work

44. FFW will contribute to community rehabilitation and development through asset creation. Community-based participatory methods will be used to identify, design and implement activities. Food assistance through FFW is self-targeted and contributes to building local capacity. Upgraded roads, improved environment, increased agricultural production and water supply, and new employment opportunities will help to improve living conditions among rural populations. WFP will ensure that assets created are based on the needs of women and that project proposals are designed to facilitate their participation. Ration cards will be issued in each participant's name.
45. The activity will target 6,000 participants, covering 30,000 beneficiaries, of whom 30 percent will be women, through household rations; 1,092 mt a year will be distributed. The daily FFW ration, based on a family of five people, is intended to cover household nutrition needs; it will consist of 2,350 g of wheat flour, 150 g of pulses and 100 g of vegetable oil. Arrangements are in place to ensure precise weighing of the rations and to avoid misuse. The market value of the FFW ration is equivalent to US\$1.2. The average duration of a FFW project is 70 working days.

Food for Training

46. FFT, requiring 52 mt a year, will be provided for 2,000 participants, covering 10,000 beneficiaries, 70 percent of whom will be women and adolescent girls. It will increase their food security with food rations and contribute to empowering women by increasing their skills in leadership, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and in establishing micro-enterprises. The average duration of a FFT session will be ten days. Individual ration cards will be issued in each participant's name.

Beneficiaries and Food Basket

47. Details are given in the following tables.



TABLE 1: BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES, FEEDING DAYS, RATIONS AND DAILY ENERGY VALUE							
Beneficiary type	Feeding days a year	Wheat flour	Pulses	Veg. oil	CSB	Sugar	Daily ration energy (kcal)
		(g)					
Relief component* Vulnerable persons (40 000)	365	470	30	20			1 924
Members of vulnerable households with no potential labour source in FFW villages (5 000)	70	470	30	20			1 924
Recovery component							
FFW (30 000)**	70	470	30	20			1 924
FFT (10 000)***	10	470	30	20			1 924
School feeding							
Schools (25 000)	176	250	40	10			2 000
Pre-schools (5 000)	176			10	120	10	585
Contingency (20 000)	90	470	30	20			1 924

* Single/elderly families will get one ration; families with two or more children under 16 will get double ration.

** Representing 6,000 households.

*** Representing 2,000 households.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES BY GENDER						
Beneficiaries by gender	Relief		FFW	FFT	School feeding	
	Vulnerable persons (40 000)	Members of vulnerable household with no potential labour source in FFW villages (5 000)			Schools (25 000)	Pre-schools (5 000)
Women	24 000	3 000	9 000	7 000	12 750	2 550
Men	16 000	2 000	21 000	3 000	12 250	2 450
Total	40 000	5 000	30 000	10 000	25 000*	5 000*
of whom refugees	13 200	1 650	3 300	1 000	5 000	1 000

* Approximately 5,000 children of 30,000 targeted under school feeding belong to the families of FFW participants and will also receive food from the FFW family ration. Hence, they will not be counted twice in total beneficiary numbers.



TABLE 3: TOTAL COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TWO YEARS (mt)

Beneficiary type	Wheat flour	Pulses	Veg. oil	CSB	Sugar	Total
Relief component Vulnerable persons (40 000)	13 724	876	584			15 184
Members of vulnerable households with no potential labour source in FFW villages (5 000)	329	21	14			364
Recovery component						
FFW	1 974	126	84			2 184
FFT	94	6	4			104
School feeding						
Primary schools	2 200	352	88			2 640
Pre-schools			18	212	18	248
Contingency	846	54	36			936
Total	19 167	1 435	828	212	18	21 660

Selection of Activities and Activity Approval Mechanism

48. The country office will conduct meetings of a project review committee (PRC) twice a month to ensure that activities proposed by communities and IPs fulfil the objectives of the PRRO. Activities should meet WFP criteria and priorities, and should be socially, technically and economically viable in terms of studies previously carried out by local government technical experts.
49. Project proposals received from IPs will be reviewed by the sub-office in Vanadzor and the country office in Yerevan, initially to determine whether proposals are feasible and sustainable, and offer benefits to women, involve communities and have non-food items available. After the first stage, field visits will assess the proposed projects and recommend approval by the PRC. Local committees called community action groups, whose membership will be 50 percent women, will be fully involved from project design to implementation and maintenance.

Institutional Arrangements and Selection of Partners

50. WFP's government counterpart is the Ministry of Social Security. WFP will also cooperate with the Government Commission for the Coordination of Charity Programmes, which is responsible for humanitarian assistance; the school feeding programme will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science.
51. WFP plays a lead role in food security in the United Nations system: the Programme was involved in preparation of the United Nations CCA, the MDGs and the PRSP.



52. Representatives of NGOs, government counterparts and United Nations agencies attend regular food aid coordination meetings chaired by WFP. The Programme will collaborate with these groups at the sub-office, country office and regional levels through regular meetings, committees and workshops.
53. Partnerships with NGOs will be established in line with WFP's policy on partnerships, based on two types of arrangement: (i) contract, with Letters of Understanding detailing responsibilities, in which WFP covers the operational costs of IPs; and (ii) partnership, in which NGOs complement WFP assistance with non-food items and technical expertise in joint activities.

Capacity-building

54. A WFP/Ministry of Social Security Coordination Office was established in 2002 to ensure liaison and flow of information. The office provides information on projects implemented by the Government, WFP and NGOs and initiates additional fund-raising for projects that lack non-food items and technical inputs.
55. WFP has conducted two training sessions in warehouse and stock management, and a school feeding baseline survey for the Government and IPs.
56. WFP will continue its commitment to long-term recovery and transition by encouraging a community-based approach and by supporting local governance whereby communities identify solutions to problems and are accountable for the implementation of activities.

Logistics Arrangements

57. WFP food will be shipped to the port of Poti in Georgia for onward transport by rail to extended delivery points (EDPs); it will be delivered directly to railside warehouses. The use of two warehouses—of 4,000m² in Vanadzor in northern Armenia and 2,000m² in Yerevan—reduces the cost of transport to project sites. Existing measures will continue to ensure that logistics support meets WFP's quality standards. Commodities are despatched to EDPs from the warehouses in a fleet of 12 trucks, which, given the country's small size, have a maximum of 72 hours to deliver commodities to distribution sites. Thereafter, IPs are responsible for distributing the food to beneficiaries.
58. The COMPAS system tracks movements of WFP commodities from the port to EDPs and onward despatch. Local prices are not always competitive, though 1,154 mt of wheat flour were recently procured locally, so international purchases should be considered when cash donations are pledged.

Monitoring and Evaluation

59. Monitoring takes place weekly. The monitoring plan, approved by the Country Director, is completed by each field monitor, indicating region, village name, type of activity and stage of implementation; each monitor is responsible for activities in a region and sends monthly reports to the programme officer for analysis and discussion. Projects are visited at least three times during implementation.
60. Project proposals are registered in a database, and a preliminary selection is made based on feasibility, compatibility with WFP priorities and criteria, reliability of the IPs, vulnerability of the community and relevance to community improvement. Field visits then collect baseline and ongoing information: type of project, vulnerability of the community, project site suitability, feasibility of planned works, food distributed, access to distribution points, awareness about food, food-basket acceptability, non-food items delivered and gender-disaggregated data on beneficiaries. The database is regularly updated.



61. WFP will arrange for collection of data on food prices and early-warning indicators. A logical framework will guide country office and IP workplans, including monitoring of outputs and outcomes. A breakdown of indicators by strategic priorities is given in Annex III.

Security Measures

62. Armenia is currently under United Nations Security Phase I, except for the provinces of Gegharkunik, Tavush, Syunik and Vayots Dzor, which are under Phase II. The PRRO will be implemented in two of the provinces under Phase II.
63. Security in Armenia is generally stable, but there are factors that could lead to a change in the security environment, including the possibility of earthquakes, nuclear accident, resumption of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabagh and civil unrest in countries nearby. The incidence of crimes such as theft is negligible.
64. Newly recruited staff receive security-awareness training and must complete the Basic Security in the Field course in staff safety, health and security. WFP will regularly upgrade and maintain security equipment for staff, vehicles, warehouses and office compounds. Country office and sub-office security standards are in line with the Minimum Operating Security Standards.

Exit Strategy

65. Under present conditions of widespread poverty, the PRSP is a step towards economic reform leading to sustainable growth and improved living conditions among the poorest people. WFP food assistance will be essential during the initial stage of the strategy to ensure that the most vulnerable are cared for and to create sustainable activities that can be integrated with future government efforts to foster a more equitable society.
66. WFP will support the Government's plan to involve communities in all phases of the activities. Participatory approaches will be strengthened by encouraging communities to develop their own projects and to become involved in further phases such as monitoring and evaluation. The Ministry of Social Security is particularly interested, because such initiatives contribute to the democratization of Armenian society.

Contingency Mechanism

67. The country office has established a contingency plan, updated every six months, that takes into account disasters such as earthquake and armed conflict and provides the basis for intervention in the event of a slow-onset disaster such as drought. The PRRO will maintain a stock of 936 mt of food commodities, based on a take-home relief ration sufficient to feed 20,000 people for three months.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

68. This PRRO is recommended for approval by the Executive Board within the budget provided in Annex I and Annex II. Direct operational costs are US\$10,008,681; the total cost to WFP is US\$11,566,551. An estimated 21,660 mt of iron-fortified wheat flour, pulses, Vitamin A-fortified vegetable oil, sugar and CSB will be required from July 2004 to June 2006.



ANNEX I

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (mt)	Average cost per mt (US\$)	Value (US\$)
WFP COSTS			
A. Direct operational costs			
Commodity ¹			
– Wheat flour	19 167	257.61	4 937 568
– Pulses	1 435	512.72	735 750
– Vegetable oil	828	850	703 800
– Corn-soya blend	212	290	61 480
– Sugar	18	250	500
Total commodities	21 660		6 443 098
External transport			1 892 000
Landside transport			1 024 951
Subtotal for ITSH			487 834
Total LTSH			1 512 785
Other direct operational costs			160 800
Total direct operational costs			10 008 681
B. Direct support costs (see Annex II for details)			801 180
Total direct support costs			10 609 861
C. Indirect support costs (7 percent of total direct costs)			756 690
TOTAL WFP COSTS			11 566 551
¹ This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The mix and quantities of commodities, as in all WFP-assisted projects, may vary depending on availability.			



ANNEX II

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	
Staff	
International professional staff	65 780
National general service staff	474 000
Temporary assistance	3 000
Overtime	8 400
Staff duty travel	20 000
Staff training and development	12 000
Subtotal	625 180
Office expenses and other recurrent costs	
Rental of facility	20 000
Utilities (general)	5 000
Office supplies	10 000
Communication and IT services	40 000
Insurance	5 000
Equipment repair and maintenance	15 000
Vehicle maintenance and running cost	60 000
Other office expenses	15 000
Subtotal	170 000
Equipment and other fixed costs	
TC/IT equipment	6 000
Subtotal	6 000
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	801 180



LOGICAL FRAMEWORK SUMMARY OF ARMENIA PRRO, JULY 2004–JUNE 2006

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators	Risks and assumptions	Resources required
Impact	Impact level indicators		
Outcome(s)	Outcome level indicators		
1. Improve the capacity of beneficiaries to cope with or reduce vulnerability through protracted relief	1.1 Increased access to food for beneficiaries 1.2 Decreased percentage of income spent on food	1. Food commodities are available, IP capacity is in place	Activity outcome 1 - US\$4 624 988
2. Decrease in percentage of income spent on food through FFW activities	2.1 Improved condition of schools and sanitation and health services 2.2 Increased food production	2. Food is available, IPs are available, assets are properly used and maintained, non-food items are available	Activity outcome 2 - US\$649 664
3. Impart skills to participants through FFT activities	3.1 Skills acquired in leadership and micro-enterprise establishment 3.2 Raised awareness on nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention	3. Skills properly used and meet specific needs, food is available	Activity outcome 3 – US\$30 937
4. Improve children's attendance rates and ability to concentrate through school feeding	4.1 Increased attendance rate among children 4.2 Alleviated children's difficulties in concentrating by relieving short-term hunger	4. Helpers/teachers/parents/communities are involved, non-food items are provided, food is available on time, schools are fully functioning, adequate conditions exist	Activity outcome 4 - US\$859 080
5. Improve food security in emergencies	5.1 Improved food security of people in emergency situations	5. Food commodities are available to meet the needs of people affected by emergencies	Activity outcome 5 - US\$278 426
Outputs	Output level indicators		
1.1.1 Number of beneficiaries (men, women) assisted with food aid 1.1.2 Number and composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries	1.1.1 Percentage of beneficiaries (men, women) assisted with food aid 1.1.2 Percentage and composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries	1. Sufficient food is received and distributed, dialogue takes place with the Government on programme planning and implementation	Country office monitoring plan (M&E plan matrix) has been developed
2.1.1 Number of men and women participating in FFW activities	2.1.1 Percentage of men and women participating in FFW projects	2. Communities are empowered to undertake FFW activities, non-food	



LOGICAL FRAMEWORK SUMMARY OF ARMENIA PRRO, JULY 2004–JUNE 2006

Results hierarchy	Performance indicators	Risks and assumptions	Resources required
2.1.2 Quantity of food distributed per month 2.1.3 Number of public and social infrastructures rehabilitated 2.1.4 Number of agriculture projects created	2.1.2 Percentage of food distributed per month 2.1.3 Percentage of school/pre-schools rehabilitated, water pipelines constructed/repaired 2.1.4 Percentage of agricultural activities undertaken	items are contributed by IPs	
3.1.1 Number of participants (men, women) assisted with food through FFT activities 3.1.2 Number of training courses organized	3.1.1 Percentage of participants (men, women) assisted with food 3.1.2 Percentage of training courses organized	3. Sufficient food is available, IP capacity is ensured	
4.1.1 Number of girls and boys receiving food through school feeding 4.1.2 Number of girls and boys attending school regularly	4.1.1 Percentage of girls and boys fed 4.1.2 Percentage of girls and boys attending school regularly	4. Food resources are available, community/IP participation is strengthened	
5.1.1 Number of beneficiaries (men, women) assisted with food aid 5.1.2 Number and composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries affected by emergencies	5.1.1 Percentage of beneficiaries (men, women) reached assisted with food aid 5.1.2 Percentage and composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries	5. Sufficient food is received and distributed, dialogue takes place with the Government on contingency programme planning and implementation	



Notes

Please refer to Logical Framework Manual and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines in the WFP Programme Design Manual (PDM) for further guidance on how to verify the vertical and horizontal logic of the logframe.

Refer to the EMOP/PRRO Workflow in the PDM for guidance on M&E guidelines and the use of the M&E plan matrix.

Please note that for submission to EB, we do not present the Activity; activities are integral part of the M&E plan matrix

MONITORING AND EVALUATION MATRIX OF ARMENIA PRRO, 2004–2006				
	Means of verification			Reporting
Selected performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility for collection	Collection method	Uses of information
PRRO Activity 1 (protracted relief)				
Outcome 1 — Improve the capacity of beneficiaries to cope with or reduce vulnerability through protracted relief				
1. Number of people accessing the different services	WFP and social services agents' monitoring visits; self-evaluation report	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	Self-evaluation report Surveys Quarterly reports
Output 1 — Number of beneficiaries (men, women) assisted with relief food aid				
1. Number of beneficiary rations distributed (men, women)	Attendance sheets Project reports Food distribution lists	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visits reports IPs' narrative reports
2. Composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries	Attendance sheets Project reports Food distribution lists	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visits reports IPs' narrative reports
PRRO Activity 2 (FFW)				
Outcome 2 — Decrease in percentage of income spent on food through FFW activities				
1. Number of schools/assets created/maintained	WFP and social services agents/other IPs monitoring visits Self-evaluation report	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	Self-evaluation report Surveys Quarterly reports



MONITORING AND EVALUATION MATRIX OF ARMENIA PRRO, 2004–2006				
	Means of verification			Reporting
Selected performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility for collection	Collection method	Uses of information
2. Number of ha under agriculture	WFP monitoring visits Project reports	WFP IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
3. Vegetables/fruit produced (mt)	WFP monitoring visits Project implementation reports	WFP IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
Output 1 — Number of men and women participating in FFW activities				
1. Number of recipients (men, women) of food by activity	Attendance sheets Project reports Food distribution lists	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
2. Number of people benefiting from assets/used assets	Attendance sheets Project reports Food distribution lists	WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
3. Quantity of food distributed per month	Attendance sheets Project reports Food distribution lists	WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports



MONITORING AND EVALUATION MATRIX OF ARMENIA PRRO, 2004–2006				
	Means of verification			Reporting
Selected performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility for collection	Collection method	Uses of information
Output 2 — Number of public and social infrastructures rehabilitated				
1. Number of schools/kindergartens rehabilitated	Project reports	WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
2. Number of health facilities rehabilitated	Project reports	WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
Output 3 — Number of agriculture projects proposed				
1. Number of km of irrigation lines repaired, ha of land improved, quantity of cereals produced		WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
2. Number of workers temporarily employed		WFP monitors IPs	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
PRRO Activity 3 (FFT)				
Outcome 3 — Impart skills to participants through FFT activities				
1. Number /type of training sessions organized	WFP IP reports	WFP monitors IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	Surveys IPs' narrative reports



MONITORING AND EVALUATION MATRIX OF ARMENIA PRRO, 2004–2006				
	Means of verification			Reporting
Selected performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility for collection	Collection method	Uses of information
Output 1 — Number of participants (men, women) assisted with food through FFT activities				
1. Number of beneficiaries (men, women) participating in FFT sessions	WFP IP reports	WFP monitors IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	Surveys IPs' narrative reports
PRRO Activity 4 (School Feeding)				
Outcome 4 — Improve children's attendance rates and ability to concentrate through school feeding				
1. Percentage of school children completing academic year	WFP monitoring visits Project implementation reports Surveys	WFP IPs	Field visits, interviews Questionnaires Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports
Output 1 – Number of girls and boys attending school regularly				
1. Number of girls and boys receiving hot meals through school feeding	WFP monitoring visits Gender-disaggregated reports	WFP IPs	Field visits, interviews Questionnaires Processed through the MS Access/Excel database system	WFP field visit reports IPs' narrative reports



MONITORING AND EVALUATION MATRIX OF ARMENIA PRRO, 2004–2006				
	Means of verification			Reporting
Selected performance indicators	Data source	Responsibility for collection	Collection method	Uses of information
PRRO Activity 5 (Contingency)				
Outcome 5 — Improve the food security of beneficiaries to cope with vulnerability in emergencies through contingency food distribution				
1. Number of people assisted with food aid	WFP and social services agent monitoring visits	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	As required
Output 1 — Number of beneficiaries (men, women) assisted with contingency food distribution				
1. Number of rations distributed to beneficiaries (men, women)	Attendance sheets Food distribution lists	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports
2. Composition of food rations distributed to beneficiaries	Attendance sheets Food distribution lists	WFP monitors Ministry of Social Welfare/other IP personnel	Field visits, interviews Processed through the MS database system	WFP field visit reports



ANNEX IV



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CCA	Common Country Assessment
COMPAS	Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System
CSB	Corn-soya blend
EDP	Extended delivery point
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFW	Food for work
FFT	Food for training
IP	Implementing partner
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PRC	Project Review Committee
PRRO	Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
VAM	Vulnerability analysis and mapping
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

