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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
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Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

Rome, 21–25 October 2002

INFORMATION NOTES

E

Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.3/2002/INF/24

2 October 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

WFP'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS

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BACKGROUND

1. At its Annual Session in 2002, the Executive Board took note of the oral presentation on the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), by Mr Ross Mountain, Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator and Director of OCHA Geneva. The Board expressed interest in WFP's involvement in the CAP and the Programme's efforts to strengthen the process.
2. The World Food Programme plays a key role in the Consolidated Appeals Process. The Programme consistently has the highest requirements and donor contributions under the CAP than any other agency. WFP participates not only in the food aid sector of the CAP but also in the areas of logistics, communications, security and field coordination. In the field, WFP is actively engaged in general context analysis, in particular in scenario building, contingency planning and recovery strategies. Around these core areas, the Programme has been active in addressing key cross-cutting issues, including HIV/AIDS, gender and internally displaced persons (IDPs). It also participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee¹ (IASC) and the committee's sub-working group on the CAP.
3. WFP has developed a corporate approach to the CAP, and is now well placed to engage itself strategically in a way that adds value to its operations, supports coherent humanitarian action, and gives confidence to donors in United Nations humanitarian interventions.

STRENGTHENING THE PROCESS

4. Since its endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly in 1991, the CAP has greatly improved as a strategy-setting and coordination tool. WFP supports the IASC-approved plan of action for strengthening the CAP, which focuses on senior-level engagement with the CAP, the CAP as an advocacy tool, and the CAP as a strategic planning and coordination tool. WFP has hosted its own internal evaluations of the CAP as a resource mobilization tool and of the Programme's participation in the Consolidated Appeals Process.
5. WFP appreciates the efforts of donors, through the Montreux Donor Retreats, to improve the CAP by focusing on coordination, transition, gender, moving to a CAP performance framework and strengthening results-based reporting. WFP appreciates donors' efforts also to coordinate themselves in order to improve the equity of humanitarian aid between sectors and emergencies.
6. In all instances WFP plays a lead role in the food aid sector in major complex emergencies. The expression of needs, the strategy for the food security sector, and how that strategy fits into the overall humanitarian context are critical aspects of the credibility of the CAP. To ensure credibility, WFP makes every effort to learn from past implementation and to present a clear picture of assessed needs. The Programme is also

¹ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee comprises members (FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO) and standing invitees (International Committee of the Red Cross, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, InterAction, International Organization for Migration, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, Research Strengthening Group/IDPs, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Bank).



making increased efforts to ensure that monitoring and reporting arrangements are developed, with results measured against a verifiable set of indicators.

7. WFP believes that the CAP is a flexible tool and that it should be continued as a fund-raising and coordination mechanism well into transition situations, until the government has the capacity to coordinate, plan and implement development activities on its own. The CAP provides continuity from emergency action through the early phase of reconstruction and rehabilitation. The CAP can facilitate capacity-building in the government and civil society, with support from the inter-agency response mechanisms already in place, without the disruption caused by the changing of key actors.
8. WFP supports OCHA's efforts to improve training for Humanitarian Coordinators (HC) in the Consolidated Appeals Process. HCs are responsible for leading the CAP, and therefore the level and quality of their involvement has a direct influence on the quality of strategy-setting and coordination throughout the process.

WFP INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE CAP

9. WFP has made significant progress over the last two years in institutionalizing its approach to the CAP. As the CAP touches the areas of resource mobilization, needs assessment, strategic planning and advocacy, it makes it rather complex to handle institutionally, given that a large number of functions and parts of the organization need to be involved in the development and implementation of consolidated appeals.
10. WFP has developed a CAP focal point network in its headquarters, regional bureaux and country offices. This network is the engine room for WFP's engagement with the CAP and provides great opportunities for the exchange of information and experience. The issues involved in the Consolidated Appeals Process are complex ones, and therefore investing in people and in the process is critical.
11. To this end, WFP has developed a CAP training programme, recognized by the IASC Working Group as one of the strongest among those of the United Nations agencies. Three WFP CAP training events have been held since June 2001. Originally intended only for CAP focal points at the country offices, the training has been broadened to include Country Directors, regional bureau representatives and representatives from relevant headquarters units. It has provided a means of "capturing learning" and best practice (i.e. recording for future use the information gathered), and more importantly of acting on the findings. The two workshops in 2002 identified learning points concerning institutional issues and general WFP perspectives on the CAP. WFP staff have also participated in OCHA training of trainers and facilitated OCHA field CAP workshops.
12. As a complement to WFP's CAP training programme, and to strengthen WFP's participation in the process, an Operations Department directive on the subject (OD2002/006) was circulated throughout the organization. The directive covers the roles and responsibilities and financial reporting as regards the CAP, and offers guidance for WFP projects in the Consolidated Appeals Process.



CONCLUSION

13. The global launch of the Consolidated Appeals Process will take place on 19 and 20 November 2002, with WFP's Executive Director participating from Japan. Mr Morris will focus on the southern Africa emergency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
14. WFP has made significant progress with regard to its engagement in the CAP, and the Programme now has a solid base on which to build a focused and strategic approach. WFP will make every effort to ensure that it adds value to the effective implementation of overall humanitarian programmes in a way that makes the most practical difference to the beneficiaries of such programming.

