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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 15–17 May 2002**

## **EVALUATION REPORTS**

**Agenda item 3**

***For consideration***

# **E**

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**WFP/EB.2/2002/3/2**

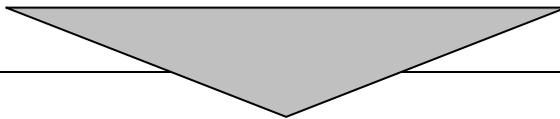
25 March 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE EVALUATION OF PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION— AZERBAIJAN 6121.00**

**Relief and Recovery Assistance for  
Vulnerable Groups**

# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for consideration to 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.

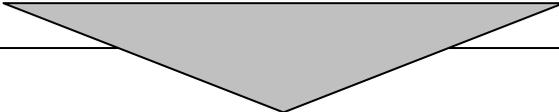
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# Executive Summary



Since 1994, WFP has been responding to the food insecurity of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Azerbaijan through emergency operation (EMOP) 5302.00, which was replaced by the current three-year protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 6121.00 in July 1999. The PRRO objectives are to: (i) supply protracted relief to 405,000 beneficiaries—390,000 IDPs and 15,000 vulnerable people; (ii) assist 50,000 returnees to resettle; and (iii) help recovery of livelihoods in agriculture and agroforestry and improvement of social and economic infrastructures through food for work (FFW) and food for training (FFT) for 30,000 IDPs. The cost to WFP is just over US\$23 million.

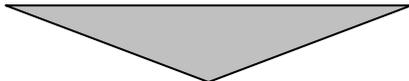
IDPs who are unable to resettle in their home areas of Nagorno Karabakh (NK) and surrounding districts now live in tents, railway wagons, unfinished buildings, underground shelters and other unsuitable structures. WFP provides a ration providing 50 percent of daily needs as a supplement to other food, in particular the Government of Azerbaijan's bread subsidy. With World Vision (WV) as the principal implementing partner, the PRRO has maintained the nutritional status of IDPs.

The WFP country office has faced serious difficulties in implementing the planned reduction to 70,000 beneficiaries of protracted relief in the third year of the PRRO, resettlement of IDPs and planned FFW farming activities. This is because land of suitable quality has not been available. WFP has, however, supported the pilot settlement of 2,000 IDPs returning to their home areas. WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are using FFW and FFT to support a successful joint programme in pre-school trauma reduction.

In order to improve the deplorable living conditions of IDPs, WFP should support FFW and FFT activities such as maintenance and repair of water supplies, sanitation and shelter, construction of in-camp roads, and provision of nutritional and psychosocial advice.

WFP has managed the PRRO efficiently. Beneficiary needs-based targeting can be further improved by using vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) methodology to help identify the most food insecure and vulnerable groups. A VAM mission from Headquarters could assist the country office in targeting the new PRRO.

## Draft Decision



The Board notes the recommendations contained in this evaluation report (WFP/EB.2/2002/3/2) and notes also the management action taken so far, as indicated in the associated information paper (WFP/EB.2/2002/INF/7). The Board encourages further action on these recommendations, with considerations raised during the discussion taken into account.





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## INTRODUCTION

1. A mission comprising a consultant specialist in humanitarian assistance, a member of WFP's Office of Evaluation and a national expert on gender visited Azerbaijan from 25 October to 9 November 2001. Their purpose was to assess WFP assistance against standard evaluation criteria. The mission held discussions with the State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced People (SCRIDP), United Nations partners, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and WV. Five days were spent visiting WFP and WV implementation sites, during which the mission observed distributions, visited warehouses and saw the living conditions of beneficiaries. It observed implementation activities and interviewed beneficiaries, local government representatives, and WFP and WV field staff. During the final two days, there was a meeting with the formulation mission for the next phase of the PRRO, during which its findings and recommendations were discussed.

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## OVERVIEW OF THE PRRO

### Background to the Evolution of the Protracted Situation

2. In 1989, Azerbaijan became involved in a military conflict with Armenia over the enclave of NK which continued. Some 600,000 people were displaced until a cease-fire in 1994. Another 200,000 refugees from Armenia have entered Azerbaijan since the mid-1980s. The Government estimates that 800,000 of Azerbaijan's population of 8 million people are displaced. Despite continuing negotiations by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), it has not been possible for IDPs to return to their home areas in NK or the seven surrounding districts, because much of the infrastructure was destroyed during the war and its aftermath. Continuing economic problems mean that the Government of Azerbaijan has not been able to maintain its generous levels of welfare payments. IDPs have few opportunities to earn money.

### Food Insecurity and Poverty Among Those Affected

3. Many IDPs arrived without any assets; others had to sell their assets in order to survive. Although many of the IDPs had been farmers, they were unable to gain access to land. Those who had worked in industry or services were unable to find comparable employment. IDPs thus had little income to buy food or other household needs, which contributed to their malnutrition and ill health. By 1998, malnutrition<sup>1</sup> among IDP children from 6 months to 5 years of age had risen to 30 percent; among the over-60s, it had risen to 12 percent. In 1998–1999, *Médecins du Monde* (MDM) Greece discovered a high incidence of goitre, a disease caused by lack of iodine in the diet.

### National Policies and Priorities for Relief, Recovery and Food Security

4. Since 1992, the Government of Azerbaijan has granted additional entitlements for IDPs. It now provides a subsidy for children under 16 years of age in poor families, war pensions

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<sup>1</sup> Global malnutrition is the rate of malnutrition in a population, the percentage of the population with weight-for-height scores of  $-2Z$  and/or oedema.



and invalidity pensions. There is also a bread subsidy. The Government of Azerbaijan intends to allocate 47,000 ha of agricultural land to IDPs, to enable them to achieve greater food security by providing their own food. In conjunction with United Nations agencies, the Government is aiding the resettlement of IDPs in Fizuli, Agdam and Terter. To assist this resettlement, WFP supplies returning IDPs with full rations for three months or half rations for six months.

### Role of Food Aid and Rationale for WFP Assistance

5. WFP has responded to the food insecurity of IDPs in Azerbaijan since 1993, initially through EMOP 5302.00, which assisted 100,000 beneficiaries. The caseload increased over the years, reaching 215,000 under EMOP 5302.04, which was followed by the three-year PRRO 6121.00 in July 1999. The Government of Azerbaijan is not yet fully capable of coping with the current economic and social problems, poverty and food insecurity. WFP therefore provides rations of approximately 50 percent of daily needs in addition to any other food that IDPs may have. A 1998 WFP/WV food-economy survey reported that 24 percent of IDP household income was provided by the WFP ration.

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## ASSESSMENT OF THE PRRO RECOVERY STRATEGY AND DESIGN

### Assessment of the Recovery Strategy

6. The WFP country office prepared the PRRO document and recovery strategy using *Guidelines for the Preparation of a PRRO* and *From Crisis to Recovery*. The country office received little expert advice from the regional bureau or Headquarters, however, even though the PRRO was a new type of activity at the time. The country office prepared the document after a joint WFP/donor mission from 10 to 15 January 1999 that made recommendations for activities. The recommended strategy closely resembles EMOP 5302.04, for example, in continuing to support the programme for war-traumatized children, Sumgait orphans, tuberculosis-affected children in Baku and Chernobyl victims.
7. Operational modifications to the programme reflect the largely static political and economic situations. The NK problem has not been settled. The WFP contingency plan, which was not available at the time of the PRRO design, was prepared in mid-2001. It is being reviewed continuously by the country office, including during the mission, when the risk of outbreak of hostilities increased. It will be used to modify implementation and for the design of the new PRRO. The scenario can be used for the design of the recovery activities.
8. The recovery strategy includes a rationale for continued provision of a half ration and a justification for food aid. Target areas are not identified, although the geographic coverage, a continuation of the area previously covered, is clear. Assistance modalities are explained. The risk assessment identifies increased military activity as the main threat and states that a transition to recovery activities is dependent on military and economic stability. In the exit strategy, WFP stresses that phase-out will be possible only if the Government of Azerbaijan is better able to cater for social cases than in 1999, and discusses the consequent need for an extension of relief activities.

### Assessment of the PRRO Design

9. Four objectives are listed in the PRRO document: (i) to contribute to improving food security among IDPs and vulnerable groups; (ii) to encourage voluntary resettlement of



returnees in their places of origin; (iii) to encourage integration of IDPs into communities; and (iv) to increase opportunities for beneficiaries to become self-reliant. The main emphasis is on the first objective. It involves 83 percent of food resources through the distribution of food relief to maintain the nutritional status of the IDPs. The other three aims would be a significant move towards recovery. In the PRRO document, only 2.5 percent of food was allocated as support for resettlement. Although this small allocation may seem to indicate a lack of resolution on the part of WFP, it, in fact, demonstrates an accurate perception of the difficulties of resettlement. The allocation of only 14 percent of food resources to support FFW and FFT may also appear to be overcautious, but the lack of sufficient land for agriculture was already clear in 1999, so this modest target was appropriate. Monitoring and evaluation are discussed, although many of the items are numerical and delivery-related rather than indicative of success. Design of the PRRO is broadly in line with *From Crisis to Recovery* and incorporates activities classified as appropriate for early and late recovery phases.

10. In the PRRO document, the intended reduction of the number of beneficiaries of additional feeding depends on the success of FFW and FFT. For reasons beyond the control of WFP, it was not possible to carry out many of these activities. The reduction in the number of relief beneficiaries has consequently been lower than intended. The proposal was to reduce the number of IDPs benefiting from protracted relief from 200,000 in the first year, to 120,000 in the second and to 70,000 in the third. The current caseload is 143,000. The mission considers these intended reductions and extensive resettlement to be optimistic when proposed and unrealistic in the present economic and political context. The mission is of the view that the planned growth of FFW and FFT activities was over-ambitious. That objective would have been more achievable if the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), planned to start in 1999, had been implemented. Its goal of “eradicating food insecurity at the national and household levels” would have been ambitious even in a favourable developmental situation.
- The PRRO was designed in a limited time, with some helpful guidelines but no visits from specialist advisers.
  - The recovery strategy was based on the expectation of available agricultural land for FFW.
  - Little of this land became available however; the planned three-year reduction in the number of beneficiaries was thus unachievable.
  - Although the Government of Azerbaijan had intended to release 47,000 ha of land for IDPs, it was difficult to obtain plots of land in areas lacking good-quality productive land for local people.
  - In some cases, the land made available was inaccessible or of poor quality; some was 50 km from homes.
  - The introduction of charges for irrigation water, which had previously been free and IDP’s inability to pay for non-labour inputs ensured that few IDPs were able to participate, even where land was available.
  - The exclusion of FFW participants from further rations was another disincentive.



### Recommendation

- ⇒ For the preparation of the new PRRO, WFP Azerbaijan should use the *Country Contingency Plan* and the different scenarios to identify the circumstances in which relief or recovery activities shall be implemented, and should modify the PRRO relief and recovery strategies continuously according to unfolding events.

## PRRO IMPLEMENTATION

### Assessment and Targeting

11. Beneficiaries are registered by family, using data provided by the Government of Azerbaijan, and screened by WFP and WV to avoid multiple or inappropriate registrations. The data are cross-checked with those of organizations distributing in other areas. WFP now has a creditable disaggregated computerized database on beneficiary families. Family record cards, issued and updated for each distribution, are securely stored. Record keepers demonstrate a detailed knowledge of household characteristics. At distribution, beneficiaries produce their former Soviet Union identity documents, or replacement Form 9 for stamping. The identity card can be cross-checked with family record cards.
12. WFP currently uses entitlement criteria based on former Soviet Union and Government of Azerbaijan practices, which are well understood by beneficiaries. WFP uses exhaustive lists of criteria for exclusion from entitlement. Prisoners and people who have missed two distributions are permanently excluded, as people aware of the implications of their actions. Those who risk missing distributions through age or infirmity can have their commodities collected by a registered person. Others are excluded because they are probably able to provide for themselves from paid employment. University students and returnees from military service are examples of this presumably employable group. Since 1999, WFP has stopped any new registration of beneficiaries in order to reduce its caseload. Newborn children have therefore not been admitted to the list of beneficiaries. Even with rigorous application of deletion criteria, WFP has been unable to achieve as planned the unrealistic reduction to 70,000 beneficiaries by year three of the PRRO. At present, there are 143,000 beneficiaries. Many beneficiaries complained to the mission and to WFP staff that their exclusion was unjustified. WFP considers each case carefully and consistently, keeping the Government of Azerbaijan informed of its principles and actions. The mission considers that targeting would be more accurate and equitable if it were based on inclusion on the basis of need, identified through the use of VAM methodology. This would help to ensure that the most vulnerable receive the highest priority, and would be more equitable than exclusion on the basis of presumed ineligibility.

### Logistics and Leakages

13. Commodities are imported by rail via Georgia directly to extended delivery point (EDP) warehouses. The mission noted minimal losses and high standards of warehouse management. The small amounts of temporarily undistributed rations are securely stored at distribution points. A two-month pipeline break at the start of implementation led to a temporary reduction in rations from three to one meal per day, and the temporary closure of 80 percent of the UNICEF/WFP child-development centres.



## Security

14. Security is not at present a significant issue, but it will become problematic if military conflict recurs or if large-scale resettlement can occur. Mines and unexploded ordnance are a problem in areas where resettlement is being attempted. There have been no serious security incidents at distribution sites or warehouses or for beneficiaries. Response to the earthquake in 2000 demonstrated problems in communications. Codan radios are now being transferred to new vehicles, and WFP makes extensive use of mobile phones. The United Nations family had one week of security training early in 2001.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

15. The monitoring systems used by WFP and WV are effective. WV has 12 field monitors and WFP has three, including the chief field monitor in the country office. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system is based on the one developed for the EMOP. WV and the Massali suboffice provide detailed daily reports of distributions. At distribution sites, staff are available to discuss issues raised by beneficiaries. Bi-monthly random monitoring after distributions gives detailed information on conditions in individual homes, provides an opportunity for beneficiaries to discuss issues in confidence and enables rigorous exclusion of multiple registrations.
16. The mission was concerned that the special needs of children should be considered, because of their vulnerability and the implications for the future of society. Some 35 percent of IDPs are under 15 years of age, many of whom were born in IDP conditions. Many of the children seen by the mission were small for their age, which is in line with the findings of ad hoc nutritional surveys showing stunting and wasting in IDP children. The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2000 showed 20 percent of them to show severe and moderate stunting and 8 percent to show wasting. Some 9.5 percent were of low birth weight. Almost half of IDP children under 5 were anaemic; a 1996 survey found that one quarter had experienced diarrhoea in the previous fortnight. In 1996, a WFP nutritional survey of children under 5 found 3 percent suffering from severe malnutrition, 7 percent from moderate malnutrition and 20 percent from mild malnutrition.
17. School feeding programmes could help to address some of the problems of child malnutrition and help to reduce the drop in school attendance, especially among girls. Findings of nutritional surveys indicate cause for concern: it would be advisable to undertake regular, standardized surveys to ensure that nutritional status is being maintained. The WFP October 2001 Household Food Economy Survey shows an increase in family size such that overcrowding and threats to health have increased since 1998.
18. Food-security surveys carried out by WV in 1998, with support from the Save the Children Fund (SCF) and USAID, and by WFP in 2001 indicate high levels of need resulting from poverty and serious food insecurity in many areas.

## Management

19. The PRRO's management systems are efficient; they are unchanged from those of EMOP 5302.04. The country office, based in United Nations House, has eight staff with two expatriates, the representative and the emergency officer. There are three logistical points: Masalli, a WFP suboffice with 12 support staff, and WFP offices at Imishli and Mingechiver with 99 support staff. The suboffices allow close management of implementation activities. WFP and WV staffing is gender-balanced. The country-office staff is sufficient for present needs, but a change to conflict or resettlement would require additional staff for VAM, logistics and monitoring.



### Recommendations

- ⇒ As an aid to future targeting, a VAM mission should be requested to advise on needs-based targeting techniques in order to identify the most vulnerable groups. In the identification of new targeting criteria, involvement of IDP communities should continue with the cooperation of the Government of Azerbaijan.
- ⇒ WFP should continue to cooperate with other United Nations agencies, civil society, partners and the Government of Azerbaijan to secure regular systematic nutritional surveys.
- ⇒ The introduction of a school feeding programme should be considered.

## RESULTS OBTAINED

20. Discussion of the effectiveness and sustainability of PRRO activities is structured according to the programme objectives in the PRRO document.

### Protracted Relief

21. At present, the Government of Azerbaijan considers that it is unable to guarantee the provision of food relief for IDPs without WFP support, and that WFP rations are essential for the maintenance of nutritional status and public order. There was a near riot when the pipeline was interrupted in late 1999. The WFP rations providing 50 percent of basic daily food needs have contributed significantly to the feeding of IDPs. The large number of unemployed men and women seen during the day suggests that few are able to buy much food.
22. It was noted during distributions that more than half of the recipients were women, as reported by monitors.
23. The fact that recipients may currently be dependent on WFP half rations does not mean that these are a disincentive to seek work or earn an alternative income. Most people would be very willing to work, given the opportunity.

### Returnees and Resettlement

24. In the early stage of the PRRO, as part of a Government of Azerbaijan/United Nations/European Union project, WFP assisted some 2,000 IDPs who were returning to Horadiz in the liberated territories by providing them with full rations for three months or half rations for six months. The success of this pilot scheme was limited by the prevalence of mines and unexploded ordnance and because not all returnees were farmers and there was a lack of employment opportunities for non-farmers. The destruction of infrastructure, the reluctance to return girls to areas where there were many soldiers and the psycho-social problems associated with return to a devastated home environment were also factors. The PRRO document envisaged the return of 50,000 people, but this figure was based on the hope of a political settlement of the NK problem, which did not materialize. Even though almost all IDPs express a strong desire to return, any large-scale resettlement depends on a solution of the fundamental political problem.



### Recommendation

⇒ If WFP should in future be involved in the support of resettlement, it should provide three months of full rations and longer-term support through FFW for reconstruction activities and FFT for psycho-social and other needs.

### Recovery (FFW and FFT)

25. Through FFW and FFT, WFP had planned to assist 5,000 IDPs in the first year, 10,000 in the second and 15,000 in the third; 65 percent of participants were to be women. Agriculture, agroforestry, social and economic infrastructure were to be the areas of activity. Although the Government of Azerbaijan had intended to release 47,000 ha of land for IDPs, such land as was made available was inaccessible or of poor quality. The introduction of charges for irrigation water and IDPs' lack of capital ensured that few were able to participate. The exclusion of FFW participants from further rations was an additional disincentive. Any person who accepts payment for FFW or participates in microcredit schemes is deleted from the beneficiary list after three months. It is not surprising that IDPs have preferred the relative security of relief rations. Despite efforts by WV, few have made use of the microcredit option. Attempts to secure the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in agricultural activities elicited only one potential participant, whose expectations were unrealistic.
26. Two other types of FFW were implemented with partners. In cooperation with UNICEF, 36 preschool centres for development, intended to secure and stimulate the development of 2,000 children born and brought up as IDPs were set up during the PRRO. Helpers have been trained through FFT and are paid by FFW. The mission was impressed by the quality of work undertaken and believes that such work is necessary if the trauma associated with IDP status is not to be reproduced in another generation. The second FFW-supported activity was the reconstruction of four schools, two with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International and two with Relief International.
27. WFP also supported Relief International by supplying FFT over 15 days for 680 volunteers for training in community health, basic medical assistance and peace and tolerance. WFP and WV investigated the possibility of supporting IDPs in income generation through a micro-finance programme. The number participating in this initiative was very small, however.
28. The mission noted the deplorable living conditions of IDPs. Many of the settlements were characterized by poor sanitation, leaking buildings, poor insulation, limited water supply, bad drainage, lack of waste-disposal facilities, infestations by insects and vermin and lack of privacy. These conditions probably contribute to the high incidence of physical and mental sickness in the community and to the poor reproductive health of women. FFW and FFT could help to improve this situation.



### Recommendations

- ⇒ The preschool partnership with UNICEF should be continued and, if circumstances allow, its activities extended to other areas.
- ⇒ WFP should support FFT and FFW activities to improve the living conditions of IDPs, for example through FFW to maintain and repair water supplies, sanitation and shelters and to construct camp roads, and through FFT to provide nutritional and psycho-social advice.
- ⇒ WFP should seek Government of Azerbaijan non-food items (NFIs) for FFW activities. The feasibility and desirability of modifying the mechanisms for FFW should be assessed, for example, as employment-generating schemes.

### Partnership and Coordination

29. WFP has three types of partnership: (i) with the Government of Azerbaijan; (ii) with United Nations agencies; and (iii) with NGO implementing partners. The WFP representative has frequent contact with the Government of Azerbaijan, particularly SCRIDP. WFP was a major participant in the National Conference on Development, Strategic Directions Towards Development, which led to better relations between the Government of Azerbaijan, the United Nations and NGOs. The conference looked for solutions to issues relating to alleged corrupt behaviour in Azerbaijan. Since 1999, most United Nations agencies have been based at United Nations House, making coordination within the United Nations easy. As part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), WFP has played a key role in preparing the 2001 Common Country Assessment (CCA), taking the lead on the theme of food security and chairing the Food Security Committee. WFP led the preparation of the United Nations Contingency Plan for Azerbaijan. Following earthquakes and a landslide in 1999 and 2000, a United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), with WFP as a member, will help coordinate responses to future emergencies.
30. WV, which has been operating in Azerbaijan since 1994, is the main implementing partner. It was the key partner for EMOP 5302. WFP signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with WV in 1996. WV reports daily to WFP; there are good working relationships in Baku and in the field. As a large, well-funded and well-staffed organization able to undertake specialized monitoring assessment activities, WV has been responsible for almost 120,000 beneficiaries. Local NGOs do not currently have the capacity to undertake this level of activity. ADRA International and Relief International are also implementing partners. The LoA with WV specifies gender-disaggregated reporting and fulfilment of WFP Commitments to Women.
31. Coordination with the main implementing partner remains unchanged since EMOP 5302; coordination with the Government of Azerbaijan and United Nations agencies has improved.

### Resourcing Issues

32. In October 2001, the PRRO had a 30 percent resource shortfall, of approximately 14,000 tons of food. In-country stocks were 6,712 tons. At the current rate of consumption, and if the present resource shortfall is secured, the balance of food is sufficient to extend the operation for at least six months. At the start of the PRRO, late commitments from donors were partly covered by carry-over stocks and partly by the late delivery of EMOP stocks. A temporary shortfall led to the suspension of distributions for two months. The



principal donor regards the PRRO category favourably because of its emphasis on recovery activities.

33. The mission considers that the country office has adequate staff for present operations but that additional staff will be needed when the present unresolved situation ends. The US\$400,000 budgeted for NFIs in agriculture has not been used. Budget revisions have been restricted to additional donations of cheese and canned fish.

#### Recommendations

- ⇒ WFP should explore the possibility of using the resources allocated to NFIs (US\$400,000) for FFW activities aimed at improving IDPs' living conditions.
- ⇒ WFP should continue to encourage and facilitate donor visits to implementation sites.

### MEETING WFP'S COMMITMENTS TO WOMEN

34. During the PRRO, WFP produced the *Midterm review of implementation* (1999), *Gender survey in lieu to food security* (2001) and the *Gender action plan for Azerbaijan 2000-2001* (2000). This last was considered by a visiting WFP gender expert to be of very high quality. At present, the country office has two gender focal points. In relation to Commitments to Women, WFP has carried out the following actions: (i) ensuring gender balance among WFP and WV staff, the latter through the LoA; and (ii) ensuring gender balance at field level. The latter means that beneficiaries see women in positions of authority, and female beneficiaries have access to female staff.
35. The mission was impressed by the gender-disaggregated data on adults and children, which allow monitoring of the gender implications of activities and may be used to identify gender-related problems. WFP registration cards show that 49 percent of households are headed by women and that women collect more than half of the rations. Almost all food preparation is by women; men alone make decisions about food management in only 15 percent of households. In preschool development centres supported by FFW and FFT, all the employees are women.
36. Currently, no additional food is provided for expectant and nursing mothers, although normally these groups are considered to be in need of additional food.

#### Recommendations

- ⇒ In continuing food support to IDPs, the extra nutritional requirements of expectant and nursing mothers should be taken into consideration.
- ⇒ WFP should continue to give women an equal opportunity to participate in FFW and FFT.
- ⇒ The detailed gender-disaggregated monitoring of all activities should be maintained.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

37. Large numbers of IDPs have been concentrated in small areas for almost ten years, and it might be anticipated that their presence or actions would cause considerable environmental degradation. *The assessment of drought damage and priority needs for assistance* report



suggests that considerable degradation has been caused by IDPs cutting wood, but the mission saw little evidence of tree felling. Electricity, kerosene and gas, if available, are supplied free of charge to IDPs although there are many cuts in the electricity supply, particularly in winter. Some IDPs use these fuels for cooking and some for heating, so demand for fuelwood is reduced. The mission saw some women cooking with fuelwood, although dung was more widely used. Dung fuel can have adverse effects on women's health, affecting eyesight and causing lung and heart disease. Cooking the rations provided by WFP does not create exceptional demand for fuel. In general, neither relief nor recovery activities have a significant negative effect on the environment. The degrading and unhealthy living conditions of the refugees are by far the most significant public health issue.

#### Recommendation

- ⇒ WFP should use FFT and FFW to support health and environmental improvements in the living conditions of IDPs, with NFIs from the Government of Azerbaijan and with the participation of IDPs in prioritizing and planning.



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## ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
EMOP	Emergency operation
FFT	Food for training
FFW	Food for work
IDP	Internally displaced person
LoA	Letter of Agreement
NFI	Non-food item
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NK	Nagorno Karabakh
PRRO	Protracted relief and recovery operation
SCRIDP	State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced People (Azerbaijan)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAM	Vulnerability analysis and mapping
WV	World Vision

