

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

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# **INFORMATION NOTES**

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## **WFP PROGRAMMING INSTRUMENTS**

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## BACKGROUND

1. At the first Executive Board session of 2001 (February), the Board recommended that the complex issue concerning the use of different instruments for development, relief and emergency assistance for a given country, particularly a country in crisis, be further examined. Although recognizing that it might not be an accurate perception, delegates pointed out that the existence of separate documents led them to the notion that humanitarian and development activities were possibly not closely coordinated. They therefore wanted to know how a Country Programme, protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) and emergency operation (EMOP) reinforced one another and were synchronized in a given country. On 10 September, this paper was presented to the Executive Board Bureau, which asked the Secretariat to circulate it at the Board's Third Regular Session in October 2001.

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## ISSUE

2. The Country Strategy Outline (CSO), Country Programme, development project or PRRO documents may be presented to the Executive Board for approval at different sessions for a given country. During the presentation of those documents, the delegates expect clarity and a reiteration of the operational linkages among the different WFP operations and of the application of programming instruments, especially for countries in crisis.

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## RESPONSE

3. All WFP operations require information on country-specific issues, with special emphasis on food security analysis and the role of food assistance. WFP's CSO and Country Programme documents require references to the link with the United Nations Common Country Assessment (CCA) and Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

### The Country Strategy Outline

4. The CSO is primarily a *strategy* document that analyses a country's food security problems and the obstacles to development posed by food insecurity. It further presents a general integrated plan by which WFP might address those problems, emphasizing the particular strengths of food aid. It makes explicit reference to any existing crisis situation in the country and to the various interventions by WFP, the Government and other United Nations agencies and partners. The CSO is presented to the Executive Board for information and guidance.



## Programming Instruments

5. WFP then applies one or more *programming* instruments, depending on the specific needs of a country:
  - **Country Programme:** The Country Programme is WFP's planned response to the strategic objectives that a recipient country shares with WFP and other assistance partners. A Country Programme is always preceded by a CSO and is presented to the Executive Board for approval.
  - **Development project:** Development projects are prepared and submitted for approval for countries with long, complex emergencies or where WFP's intervention is limited in scope and the low level of WFP development assistance does not justify the preparation of a Country Programme. The Country Programme or development project with a food value above US\$3 million is presented to the Executive Board for approval. The Board has delegated approval authority to the Executive Director for development projects with a food value up to US\$3 million. The Executive Director reports to the Board on the approvals under that delegated authority.
  - **Protracted relief and recovery operation:** The PRRO aims to provide relief and to help re-establish and stabilize livelihoods and household food security and is best suited for circumstances of relative stability, when food aid can be more precisely targeted. It can apply *inter alia* to situations of internal population displacement and long-standing refugee situations and may involve activities designed to develop a degree of self-reliance.
  - **Emergency operation:** An emergency operation is undertaken at the request of a government or, in special situations, at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General, when the population of a country is affected by an emergency caused by natural calamities or by man-made disasters, and when it is determined that that population needs WFP food aid, which cannot be provided using resources previously approved for any ongoing WFP project, activity or operation.
6. Development projects and PRROs are presented to the Executive Board for approval if they have a food value above US\$3 million. For development projects, PRROs and EMOPs with a food value up to US\$3 million, the Board has delegated approval authority to the Executive Director, who reports to the Board on the use of that authority. If the food value of an EMOP exceeds US\$3 million, it is jointly approved by the Executive Director of WFP and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
7. The Country Programme, PRRO and EMOP focus on groups of people with different needs over varying periods, in a given country. All of the operations focus on the intended result of food security. Each programming instrument has a distinct approval process, allowing WFP the opportunity to address varying needs without compromising commitments to already approved programmes/projects.



## CONCLUSION

8. The WFP Country Director, in close cooperation with the government authorities of his/her country of assignment, is responsible for ensuring synchronization among various WFP operations in a country. When introducing a CSO, Country Programme or PRRO to the Executive Board, the Country Director will provide a comprehensive update on the food situation in the country, emphasizing the relationship of each WFP operation with others in the country.