

برنامج
الاعذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 22 - 24 May 1996

EVALUATION AND TERMINAL REPORTS

Agenda item 6

E

Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/96/6
1 April 1996
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This document is produced in a limited number of copies.
Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from
asking for additional copies.

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.
2. Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.
4. The WFP staff dealing with this document are:

Director:	W. Kiene	tel.: 5228-2029
Evaluation Officer:	B. Henze	tel.: 5228-2033
5. Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).

BACKGROUND

1. As ever more WFP resources are used for relief, there is an increasing need to assess the Programme's related performance and to ensure that lessons learned are applied in future relief interventions. Consequently, the Office of Evaluation, while continuing to cover the Programme's development side, is increasingly embarking on evaluations of emergency relief and protracted refugee and internally displaced person operations.
2. The Executive Director is submitting for consideration by the Executive Board two evaluation summary reports on protracted refugee and displaced person projects, namely:
 - a) PRO Bangladesh 5329 - "Evaluation of WFP assistance to refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh and for their reinstatement in Myanmar", Addendum 1.
 - b) PRO Mozambique 4164 (Exp.4) - "Displaced persons affected by food shortages and civil strife in Mozambique", Addendum 2.

Several other evaluations of relief operations are in progress. They will be presented at forthcoming sessions of the Executive Board.

ISSUES AND LESSONS LEARNED

3. Both evaluations focus on WFP's overall performance in relief activities, but look particularly at the contribution food aid has made to the transition from relief to rehabilitation and development.
4. WFP assistance has been efficiently managed and delivered in both operations; beneficiary targeting has generally been satisfactory. The direct involvement of the WFP country offices in final distribution to beneficiaries and even in resourcing (in the case of Mozambique) were found to be important factors. The evaluation reports suggest greater flexibility in the application of the WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding concerning UNHCR's food distribution responsibilities.
5. Although refugee relief operations are not planned to last long, it is important to include education and skills training from the outset. Training can have positive effects on the current situation of the refugees and may contribute to improving living conditions when they resettle. However, care has to be taken that the level of services and benefits does not prevent refugees from returning.
6. Possibilities should be explored to provide development assistance to the host population to mitigate negative effects, such as deforestation, caused by the presence of the refugees.



7. However the Bangladesh/Myanmar operation demonstrates that a clear understanding has to be reached between WFP and its partners (particularly UNHCR) on the strategies to be adopted.
8. The regional approach adopted has proved to be the preferable strategy wherever possible: it allows for greater flexibility in the allocation of commodities and in shifting from relief to development and it facilitates the tracking of returnee movements across borders.
9. Both evaluations underline that WFP assistance has contributed fairly effectively to support the process of transition from relief to recovery and development. The inclusion of rehabilitation/development considerations at the design stage (in Mozambique and the Myanmar component) has proved to prompt an early focus on development and facilitates a swift response to eventual improvements in the overall situation. However, the shift from relief to development raised questions as to when and how to "graduate" beneficiaries from free food to food for work, and on the implementation capacity for development-oriented schemes.
10. Therefore, WFP, together with other donors, must take an active interest in capacity-building. This effort is vital not only in the context of increasing the country's response capacity in future emergencies, but also to have administrative and other capacities in place for the time when the situation normalizes. It is important to include the private sector and NGOs (some may have only emergency experience) in that process. For instance, the use of private transporters for the delivery of WFP assistance in Mozambique has resulted in considerable development of an important sector for the country's economy.



