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**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 19 - 22 October 1999**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

**Agenda item 8**

***For information***



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1999)— SRI LANKA 5346.05

### Extension of Relief Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka

Number of beneficiaries	79,515
Duration of project	Eight months (1 May 1999 to 31 December 1999)

Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	3,496,631
Total food cost	2,731,075
Total cost to Government	2,110,293
Total project cost	5,606,924

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted for information 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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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



1. Sri Lanka is a low-income, food-deficit country (LIFDC), importing nearly 45 percent of its cereal requirement. Food availability has generally been low; the average daily per capita requirement of 2,200 kcal has become increasingly difficult to meet.
2. The internal conflict, which erupted in the North-East provinces of Sri Lanka in 1983 and escalated in intensity in the ensuing years, has resulted in the large-scale displacement of people with limited return or resettlement possibilities. The major military offensive and attacks on civilians by rebels caused large displacement in 1990, 1995 and 1997, and this scenario is continuing.
3. The conflict has claimed the lives of many people and has had a devastating impact on the economy at large. It is estimated that 2 million people are directly affected. The displaced have sought refuge in welfare centres or are residing with friends and relatives. The Government of Sri Lanka provides food and other humanitarian assistance to some 650,000 internally displaced persons.
4. The objective of the WFP operation is to provide food assistance to some 79,515 displaced persons worst affected by the internal conflict. These people have lost their property and means of livelihood, and have been forced to flee their homes to save their lives. They have neither the means to manage on their own nor relatives or friends to support them. They have been housed by the Government in 210 welfare centres located in the districts of Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Ampara.
5. The strategy adopted to achieve the objective includes the provision of nutritionally adequate relief food rations, ensuring that women personally collect food rations, representation of women in coordinating and management committees, provision of vocational training, and credit to women for income-generating activities.
6. WFP food aid is the primary source of nutritional support and assistance to displaced persons living in welfare centres. Through the operation, the targeted camp population of 79,515 receives daily food rations consisting of WFP-provided rice, pulses, sugar and iodized salt, and Government-provided coconut oil. In addition, children below 5 years of age, expectant and nursing mothers (up to 12 months, i.e. 6 months during pregnancy and 6 months after childbirth) receive a supplementary ration consisting of WFP-provided corn-soya blend and sugar, and Government-provided coconut oil. The total food requirements are estimated at 10,591 tons provided by WFP and 517 tons of coconut oil provided by the Government; the latter is fortified with vitamin A by WFP in order to guarantee and improve the nutritional status of the camp population. The nutritional value of the general ration is 2,000 kcal, and that of the supplementary ration is 500 kcal. Overall implementation responsibility for the protracted relief operation (PRO) rests with the Department of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Services.
7. Detailed implementation guidelines and a comprehensive system of ration cards (general ration, supplementary ration), checklists and reporting formats are in place and are used effectively. Plans are also under way to monitor the nutritional status of internally displaced persons. PRO 5346.05 does not foresee any recovery activities for those internally displaced persons who resettle; assistance to such activities is planned under a protracted relief and recovery operation which is to start in early 2000.

