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Agenda item 8

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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1999)— ZAMBIA 6134.00

Food Assistance for Refugees from Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo

Number of beneficiaries	21,900
Duration of project	Twelve months (April 1999–March 2000)

Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	2,541,342
Total food cost	1,287,280

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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. Zambia is currently providing asylum to refugees from Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Refugees are accommodated in two settlements: Meheba in the North-Western Province, and Mayukwayukwa in the Western Province. High hopes of stability in Angola have been dashed by the collapse of the Government of National Unity and the recent upsurge of hostilities between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). As for the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, it has deteriorated with the intensification of fighting between the Government's forces and the Rebel Alliance.
2. The findings of the WFP/UNHCR Joint Food Assessment Mission (JFAM) carried out in July 1998 indicated high levels of food insecurity among refugees, largely attributable to the poor performance of the 1997/98 crop season. In tandem with the JFAM, UNHCR conducted in August 1998 a nutritional survey to assess the nutritional status of the refugee population and found serious problems of chronic malnutrition in both settlements. In Mayukwayukwa, the stunting prevalence rate was 58 percent; 42 percent of all children were severely malnourished and 16 percent moderately malnourished.
3. The Government of Zambia maintains an open-door policy and has consistently granted asylum to populations seeking refuge, despite the related economic and security implications. It has allocated vast areas of fertile land to refugees to settle and cultivate (2.5 hectares per family). The objectives of WFP assistance will therefore be to maintain adequate nutritional standards among refugees, especially population groups most at risk, i.e. new arrivals and vulnerable groups; and to promote self-reliance by supporting self-production and income-generating activities, with particular emphasis on the participation of women.
4. WFP assistance will be geared to providing refugees with food rations until they develop their family plots and attain a minimum degree of self-sufficiency. The total number of beneficiaries that will be assisted through this PRRO will be 21,900; the vast majority of refugees are originally from rural areas and generally farmers. The Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Commission for Refugees, will be directly responsible for refugee policy and the coordination and implementation of assistance programmes. WFP will work through the Lutheran World Federation, which has also been subcontracted by UNHCR to handle the food management and distribution in the settlements.
5. The total food requirements amount to 4,568 tons of mixed food commodities. The total cost of this operation for WFP will be of US\$2,541,342 and the food cost US\$1,287,280. The PRRO is expected to last for a period of 12 months, from April 1999 to March 2000.

