

ODC Regional Presentation

**WFP Second Regular Session of the
Executive Board
October 2007**

ODC Region

- The region characterized by of civil strife and largely man made disasters
- Countries with increasingly fragile economies and weakened public institutions
- Humanitarian challenges seem daunting
- Yet, at the same time, there is also hope and opportunities for the way forward

WFP is engaged on two fronts:

- Addressing complex humanitarian operations
- Handing-over operations

Challenges – Complex

Humanitarian Operations - IRAQ

- 4.4 million displaced persons
- 2.2 million inside Iraq - 2.2 million have fled to neighbouring countries primarily Syria and Jordan
- Repatriation of these refugees is contingent on a political solution
- Refugees in Syria difficult to target - mostly urban
- Reaching the needy displaced inside Iraq is difficult due to Insecurity, attacks, and commandeering of humanitarian supplies
- WFP in cooperation with the Governments, other UN agencies and NGOs will be providing assistance to some 750,000 IDPs

Challenges – OPT/Palestine

- Steady decline in economic and commercial activities due to current security restrictions
- An increasing number of people losing their main source of livelihoods and are dependent on humanitarian assistance
- WFP and UNRWA are now providing assistance to 75% of the total Gaza population
- WFP is providing food rations to 665,000 non-refugee Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank

Other Challenges

- Operations in supports of IDPs in protracted low intensity conflicts (Yemen, Somalia, Iran, North and South Caucuses)
- Restricted access to meet humanitarian needs in several parts of the regional
- Dramatic increase in prices of some food commodities

Opportunities – Handing over operations

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia

- Working with Governments and local authorities
- On schedule with our roadmap to handover our food based programmes by end of 2008
- Governments expressed their appreciation for WFP's work over the years, and have requested WFP to continue to emergency preparedness and food security

Opportunities – New forms of Partnerships

- Develop new and innovative forms of partnership to support capacity-building and advocacy activities
- Establish a system to support governments in monitoring the impact of major market changes on vulnerability;
- Identify openings for WFP to support local farmers and producers through increased local and direct procurement

Best Practices

- Egypt - WFP is piloting an innovative programme in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, UNICEF, and other partners, with funding from the US Department of Labour to prevent child labour and to support families to send their children to school
- In Yemen, WFP has had great success in supporting girl's education through food for education programmes, working in close collaboration with Government counterpart ministries, UNICEF and other partners.

Strengthening UN partnerships at regional and country levels

- Increased collaboration with Resident Coordinators and the Regional Directors Team
- Significant progress in developing joint programmes and activities with the UN agencies within the context of the UNDAF