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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 4–7 November 2013**

## **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**Agenda item 8**

*For information\**



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## **PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2013) — MAURITANIA 200474**

### **Recovering from Previous Crises and Laying the Groundwork for Resilience for Populations Affected by Food Insecurity in Mauritania**

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of beneficiaries             | 328,292                         |
| Duration of project                 | 1 year<br>(May 2013–April 2014) |
| WFP food tonnage                    | 13,593 mt                       |
| <b>Cost (United States dollars)</b> |                                 |
| WFP food cost                       | 7,423,704                       |
| WFP cash/voucher cost               | 5,820,300                       |
| Total cost to WFP                   | 26,548,545                      |

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.**

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 availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Mauritania had not fully recovered from the food price crisis of 2008 when an exceptionally severe drought struck the Sahel region in 2011–2012. The combination of poor harvests, high food prices and loss of livestock left much of the population severely food insecure. The conflict in Mali in 2012 exacerbated the crisis, disrupting food imports and triggering an influx of refugees.
2. In mid-2012, during the peak lean season, almost a third of Mauritania's population of 3.6 million were food-insecure – the highest ever recorded. Global acute malnutrition prevalence among children 6–59 months was 12 percent (“serious”), with certain areas beyond 15 percent and considered “critical”. By December 2012, 17 percent of Mauritanian households remained food-insecure.
3. Despite a relatively good 2012/2013 harvest and improved food availability, agricultural production remains insufficient to meet the country's food requirements. Communities remain weakened by the cumulative shocks of previous crises. Food security monitoring indicates that 800,000 people will be food-insecure by July 2013.
4. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) builds upon the assistance provided under emergency operation 200333 which provided relief from the effect of the drought from February 2012 to April 2013, and supports a transition towards a more comprehensive resilience strategy. It is aligned to the 2013 Consolidated Appeal and to WFP's Strategic Objectives 1 (save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies) and 3 (restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations).
5. The PRRO aims to contribute to building reliable and predictable social safety nets in order to strengthen populations' resistance to future crises and prevent relapse, with the following specific objectives:
  - reduce moderate acute malnutrition among children 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women through targeted supplementary feeding;
  - prevent acute malnutrition among children 6–24 months through blanket supplementary feeding;
  - improve the food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable households by rebuilding economic, agricultural and environmental assets through food assistance for assets; and
  - support the livelihoods of most vulnerable populations in urban areas through skills training.
6. The operation is intended to benefit more than 328,000 vulnerable Mauritanians from May 2013 until April 2014 in the regions of the country identified as most vulnerable, at a cost of US\$26.5 million.