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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) — YEMEN 200305

Relief Food Assistance to Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	131,000
Duration of project	2 years (January 2013–December 2014)
WFP food tonnage	9,855 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	5,185,365
Total cost to WFP	8,020,198

* 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. The Republic of Yemen faces a continuing humanitarian crisis following internal conflict and political instability, a breakdown of social services, the impact of high food and fuel prices, and rising poverty. Volatility in the Horn of Africa continues to add to Yemen's complex humanitarian crisis, with 236,000 registered refugees currently in Yemen. Many refugees arrive with the expectation of passing through Yemen to the neighbouring oil-rich states. While the most vulnerable are accommodated in the isolated Kharaz refugee camp, many choose to settle in Yemen's urban centres.
2. Until recently, the majority of new refugees were fleeing instability in Somalia, arriving by boat along the coast of the Gulf of Aden. In 2011, over 103,000 refugees and migrants arrived in Yemen, with the majority from Ethiopia and Eritrea. This trend continued in 2012, with 107,500 additional refugees and migrants – the highest number of arrivals ever recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
3. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) builds upon the previous PRRO 200044, "Food Assistance to Somali Refugees in Yemen", incorporating recommendations from the joint assessment mission conducted in April–May 2012 by WFP, the UNHCR and the Government. The mission findings included the increased number of refugees; continued high rates of anaemia and malnutrition; poor shelter, water and sanitation facilities; food insecurity; and the continued reliance on humanitarian assistance, including for food.
4. This PRRO aims to provide emergency food assistance to new refugee arrivals, refugees hosted in the Kharaz refugee camp and urban refugees. In Kharaz camp, WFP will provide general food assistance for all residents and meals for primary school pupils. Targeted school feeding will also be provided to refugees residing in the urban settlement of Al-Basateen.
5. Preventive and curative nutrition support will be provided through WFP's ongoing emergency operation 200451 "Emergency Food and Nutrition Support to Food Insecure and Conflict-Affected People" in line with the national approach, and includes support for malnourished children 6–59 months and malnourished pregnant and lactating women among refugee groups.
6. The PRRO will be implemented in close collaboration with the Government and in partnership with the UNHCR as well as international and national cooperating partners. The operation is aligned with 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), and will contribute to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3.
7. Following a joint assessment mission with UNHCR, WFP jointly developed a subsequent action plan. Focusing on enhancing policy, planning, livelihoods, food security and nutrition components for refugees stranded in Yemen, WFP remains steadfast in its commitment to finding durable solutions for the refugee population under its purview in Yemen.