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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 18–19 February 2013

EVALUATION REPORTS

Agenda item 6

For consideration



Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.1/2013/6-B/Add.1

14 January 2013

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE JOINT UNHCR/WFP IMPACT EVALUATION ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS – BANGLADESH

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

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 Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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BACKGROUND

1. This is one of the four impact evaluations jointly commissioned by the WFP Office of Evaluation and the Policy Development and Evaluation Service of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It assessed the differential impacts of food assistance on different refugee and unregistered Rohingya populations in southeast Bangladesh, in particular those living in two official refugee camps for 20 years.
2. WFP and UNHCR agree in general terms with the evaluation recommendations, which are aligned with their needs-based approach and their experience to date in supporting the Rohingya.
3. Recent developments in Myanmar offer an opportunity for reconciliation and reflect positive attitudes towards resolving the statelessness of the Rohingya.
4. The Secretariat's responses to the recommendations – which are built in the context of paragraphs 2 and 3 – are presented in the attached matrix.

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE JOINT UNHCR/WFP IMPACT EVALUATION ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE
TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN PROTRACTED REFUGEE SITUATIONS – BANGLADESH**

Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>Recommendation 1: Develop a transition strategy for providing unregistered Rohingya in Cox's Bazar with temporary status and recognition, pending durable solutions in Myanmar, to ensure that they have protection, opportunities to contribute to the economy, and access to basic services.</p>	<p>UNHCR, in collaboration with WFP and the Government of Bangladesh</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>UNHCR and WFP support this recommendation, but implementation is subject to the Government of Bangladesh agreeing to temporary status and recognition of the Rohingya in Cox's Bazar. The 2009 UNHCR concept note "Identification of Unregistered Persons from Myanmar Residing in Bangladesh" issued at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was shared again with the ministry in April 2012. No formal response has been received, but UNHCR and WFP are ready to support the Government in developing a transition strategy.</p> <p>UNHCR and WFP will increase their advocacy for a transition strategy that ensures that the Rohingya are protected, have access to basic services and can make a living and contribute to the economy.</p>	<p>This will depend on the Government's response.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: Jointly develop an alternative strategy for current food assistance and introduce options that continue to target: a) registered refugees; and b) increasingly, the most food-insecure, unregistered Rohingya and local population groups in Cox's Bazar.</p>	<p>WFP and UNHCR</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>a) Registered refugees. A joint assessment mission by WFP and UNHCR with participation by the Government in December 2012 will carry out an evidence-based review of current food assistance for registered refugees and identify any changes required. The updated strategy will be part of a new protracted relief and recovery operation to be drafted in the first quarter of 2013.</p> <p>b) Food-insecure unregistered Rohingya and local groups in Cox's Bazar. The refugee camps are located in areas with a high proportion of extreme poverty targeted for assistance under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the WFP country programme. WFP is already assisting some of the most vulnerable people under country programme 200243 (2012–2016), as shown in the response to Recommendation 3.</p>	<p>July 2013</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>Recommendation 3: Identify strategies for ensuring that all vulnerable Rohingya and local populations in Cox's Bazar are targeted for support interventions including health, education and services for preventing malnutrition.</p>	<p>UNHCR, WFP, the Government, other United Nations partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The US\$33 million United Nations Joint Initiative for 2010–2012 was an area-based development programme for the Cox's Bazar district: donor support was strong but the Government rejected the initiative early in 2011. WFP is supporting the most vulnerable people in two sub-districts of Cox's Bazar under country programme 200243 through school feeding for 76,030 children at 540 primary schools and community-based management of acute malnutrition reaching 2,770 beneficiaries per month.</p> <p>WFP is also implementing a cash-based food security and nutrition support pilot for 700 women and their families in host communities.</p> <p>WFP can scale up any of the above components, subject to the availability of funding and the agreement of the Government.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Scaling up is possible at any time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Within the framework of a transition strategy and alternative food assistance options, develop strategies for gradually reducing the large concentrations of refugees in camps and of unregistered refugees at unofficial sites to mitigate conflict over natural resources and the significant protection problems at these locations.</p>	<p>UNHCR and WFP</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Implementation depends on a decision by the Government to give temporary status to refugees and unregistered Rohingya to enable them to stay and, where possible, become economically active.</p> <p>UNHCR and WFP will continue to lobby the Government, the United Nations country team and the diplomatic corps in Dhaka in support of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Awaiting the Government's response to the evaluation recommendations.</p>