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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2011)— ECUADOR 200275

Assistance to Refugees and Persons Affected by the Conflict in Colombia

Number of beneficiaries	120,100
Duration of project	36 months (July 2011–June 2014)
WFP food tonnage	5,538 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	4,958,200
WFP cash/voucher cost	2,969,364
Total cost to WFP	13,571,583

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

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ABSTRACT

1. Approximately 50 Colombian asylum-seekers enter Ecuador each day, a 48 percent increase over the past five years. Most are poor, socially fractured, and have limited access to education and national safety nets. The northern border between Ecuador and Colombia is characterized by high levels of insecurity and lack of social and institutional development, with intense competition for resources and social services, which creates tensions between refugees and Ecuadorians.
2. A 2010 emergency food security assessment found that 22.6 percent of refugees are moderately food-insecure and 5.3 percent severely food-insecure. Refugee populations, as well as poor Ecuadorian households, are particularly affected by malnutrition.
3. The Government of Ecuador has requested that humanitarian assistance focus on the integration and the inclusion of Colombians. In line with the 2011 joint assessment mission conducted by WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, WFP will strengthen its operational capacity and presence aiming to: i) reduce tensions associated with relief food distributions; ii) better target and monitor its food assistance; and iii) support integration activities.
4. As part of its hand-over strategy, WFP will work closely with various governmental institutions as well as local authorities. WFP will advocate for the inclusion of community-based food security actions in local development plans, and for the inclusion of refugees in national social protection programmes.
5. The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) will begin in July 2011, costing US\$13.6 million for three years, reaching approximately 120,100 people. It is aligned with Strategic Objectives 1 and 3¹, and aims to: a) improve the food consumption of new asylum-seekers and refugees without creating new tensions; and b) rebuild sustainable livelihoods, and the food and nutrition security of refugees and Ecuadorians, with a special focus on women. The operation contributes to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1, 3 and 7.²
6. The PRRO supports the Government's refugee and integration policies, food security and sovereignty goals; it also focuses on the environment and is in line with the Ecuador United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2010–2014).

¹ Strategic Objective 1 — Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies; and Strategic Objective 3 — Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations.

² MDG 1 — Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; MDG 3 — Promote gender equality and empower women; and MDG 7 — Ensure environmental sustainability.