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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

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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 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2011) – BURUNDI 200164**

#### **Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Vulnerable Food-Insecure Populations**

Number of beneficiaries	547,000
Duration of project	2 years (January 2011–December 2012)
WFP food tonnage	37,734 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food costs	18,735,067
Total cost to WFP	37,090,794

\* 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 point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Regional Director, ODN \*:      Mr S. Samkange                      tel.: 066513-2262

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. After several years of conflict, Burundi has made a successful transition to democratic government – with elections in September 2005 and June 2010 – and significant strides towards stability. However, as a low-income, food-deficit country ranked 166<sup>th</sup> out of 169 in the *Human Development Report* (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2010), severe challenges continue: security is unpredictable, with criminality and banditry rates rising, and poverty is widespread, with more than 65 percent of the population living on less than US\$1 per day. Land-locked and resource-poor, with an underdeveloped manufacturing sector, Burundi is vulnerable to economic shocks and international price fluctuations. It is also prone to natural disasters, with persistent floods and droughts. A 2008 comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment found that 28 percent of the population are food insecure. About 70 percent of households obtain most of their food from the market. Vulnerable households mortgage their crops before maturity and use a significant part of their harvests to repay debts. Most vulnerable farmers sell their produce at harvest, when prices are low, and buy food during lean seasons, when prices are high. According to a 2007 survey, national average levels of wasting and stunting were 5.6 and 46 percent respectively, and a December 2009 nutrition survey in six provinces recorded even higher levels, with stunting reaching 65 percent in Muyinga and Kirundo. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly iron, vitamin A and iodine, are a public health concern.
2. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200164) will contribute to the third priority, identified in the WFP country strategy document “Humanitarian Response Action”. In line with the Government’s food and nutrition strategies and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the operation addresses Millennium Development Goals 1, 3, 4 and 7. Its overall goal is to improve the food and nutrition security of targeted populations, with the specific objectives of saving lives and maintaining the nutrition status of refugees, returnees and severely food-insecure people (Strategic Objective 1); and restoring and rebuilding the lives and livelihoods of returnees and vulnerable communities that host refugees/returnees and are affected by successive shocks (Strategic Objective 3).
3. The operation will assist 547,000 beneficiaries over two years. The relief component will provide a general food ration to refugees living in camps and a six-month food ration to Burundian returnees, as part of a return package. Targeted food distributions to vulnerable people during lean seasons will reduce negative coping strategies and encourage the resumption of livelihoods. Food-for-work and food-for-training activities will address environmental degradation, promote asset creation, and support livelihoods, to facilitate reintegration and consolidate peace. The operation will target areas with high levels of food insecurity and severe negative coping mechanisms, successive climatic shocks or large numbers of returnees. Community-based, participatory targeting will be applied.