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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 2010) — BURKINA FASO 200054

Reversing Undernutrition

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Number of beneficiaries | 931,000 |
| Duration of project | 24 months (1 January 2010–31 December 2011) |
| WFP food tonnage | 18,635 mt |
| Cost (United States dollars) | |
| WFP food cost | 15,344,290 |
| Total cost to WFP | 26,386,144 |

* 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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ABSTRACT

1. There has been a considerable reduction in acute malnutrition in Burkina Faso as a result of the coordinated nutrition response by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health the prevalence of acute malnutrition declined from 18.9 percent in 2003 to 12.4 percent in 2008. But continuing high food prices in local markets, a significant decline in household income as a result of falling cotton prices and a 17 percent shortfall in cereal production in 2009 have exacerbated the precarious food security situation. As a result, undernutrition among children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women is still a concern with high rates of acute malnutrition still needing attention.
2. There has been significant economic growth over the past decade, but the lack of national safety net programmes and a rapidly growing population have limited the Government's capacity to reduce poverty: this is reflected in the minimal decline in poverty from 43.5 percent in 1994 to 43.2 percent in 2010. The proportion of the population consuming less than the minimum diet fell from 46.6 percent in 2003 to 32.8 percent in 2006, but the food crisis in 2008 may have slowed this trend.
3. To respond to the critical nutrition situation and to comply with the recommendations of the 2009 WFP external evaluation and the 2009 Board mission, protracted relief and recovery programme (PRRO) 200054 aims to: i) reduce acute malnutrition below emergency levels, in line with Strategic Objective 1; and ii) increase the Government's capacity to respond to food security crises arising from market shocks, in line with Strategic Objective 2.
4. The relief component of PRRO 200054 will address the high rates of acute malnutrition by providing targeted supplementary feeding for wasted children under 5 and for under-nourished pregnant and lactating women with a view to nutritional rehabilitation. In view of the high rates of stunting, the recovery component will facilitate gender-oriented nutrition education to promote childcare and improved eating habits. A protective ration will be provided during the lean season for children under 2 to prevent a seasonal increase in wasting, particularly in areas with a deficit in agricultural production. A small-scale pilot intervention providing micronutrient powders and a protective supplementary ration to prevent malnutrition among pregnant women will support work by the Ministry of Health to improve eating habits and food quality.
5. The operation will provide food assistance for 931,000 beneficiaries, targeting eight regions, but prioritizing resources for the Sahel, North and East regions, which are exposed to hazards and frequently affected by shortfalls in cereal production.