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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) — ZAMBIA 200070

Food Assistance for Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	22,000
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2010–31 December 2011)
WFP food tonnage	8,200 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	3,591,756
Total cost to WFP	7,954,024

* 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 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. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has maintained an open-door policy for asylum seekers, consistently granting asylum to populations seeking refuge since the 1970s. In July 2009, Zambia hosted 80,906 refugees. Some 50,800 refugees are situated in two main settlement areas: mostly Angolans in the Western and North-Western provinces; and Congolese in two camps in the Northern and Luapula provinces. Another 25,300 refugees reside outside the camps and do not receive assistance.
2. WFP designed protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200070 at the request of and in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations assisting refugees. The PRRO anticipates that roughly 22,000 refugees will require assistance in 2010, and 16,000 in 2011. These are planning figures and subject to revision based on new developments, including ongoing repatriation efforts that will continue throughout 2010 and into 2011.
3. The overall goal of the PRRO is to meet and safeguard the basic nutritional needs of refugees by providing secure access to basic but adequate nutrition until they attain food self-sufficiency or are repatriated to their country of origin. Although voluntary repatriation of refugees has been ongoing since mid-2007, numbers repatriated have varied greatly, from 11,500 in 2008, to 16,971 in 2009, and only 2,405 as of July 2010.
4. In line with WFP's Strategic Objective 1, the project objectives will be to: i) reduce or stabilize moderate acute malnutrition in the refugee camps; ii) reduce or stabilize mortality in the refugee camps; iii) improve food consumption among the refugee population during the assistance period; and in line with Strategic Objective 3, to facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees.
5. The Angolan refugee population in Zambia presents a particular situation. Repatriation and/or the provision of land for local settlement of refugees from Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements has enabled WFP to reduce assistance significantly and target only the most vulnerable refugees left in these settlements. The remaining beneficiaries have integrated with the local population, achieved self-reliance or repatriated voluntarily.
6. Where possible, WFP will continue to procure food locally through its Purchase for Progress programme, to encourage small-scale production and improve rural marketing infrastructure in and around refugee settlements and camps. WFP will also continue to promote the direct participation of women in food management, distributions, income-generating activities and capacity-building activities. WFP's cooperating partners will continue to be encouraged to recruit women into their workforces, especially in decision-making positions.