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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 9–13 November 2009**

# RESOURCES, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 5

*For information\**

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Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.2/2009/5-G/1**  
13 October 2009  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## UPDATE ON THE WINGS II PROJECT



\* 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

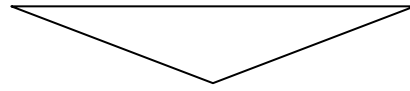
**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.**

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.

Director, WINGS II Project:                      Mr C. Nikoi                                      tel.: 066513-2518

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

## DRAFT DECISION\*



The Board takes note of “Update on the WINGS II Project” (WFP/EB.2/2009/5-G/1).

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\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



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## INTRODUCTION

1. This is the eighth progress report on the WFP Information Network and Global System II (WINGS II) Project submitted to the Board. It updates status report WFP/EB.A/2009/6-I/1, submitted in June 2009.

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## WINGS II OBJECTIVES

2. On the recommendation of WFP's External Auditor (WFP/EB.A/2005/6-B/1/Rev.1), the Board approved a business-led upgrade of WFP's information systems and business processes in October 2005, as part of the WFP Management Plan (2006–2007). The upgrade project, WINGS II, aims to:
  - introduce industry-standard information systems that are as free from customization as possible, enabling easier and faster upgrades in response to WFP's evolving needs; and
  - re-design WFP's business processes to permit: a) use of industry-standard information systems; and b) essential business reforms, such as the integration of supply-chain processes, the New Business Model and the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

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## CURRENT STATUS OF WINGS II

3. On 1 July 2009 WFP successfully made the transition to WINGS II as planned. As of 30 September WINGS II was fully functioning in 159 offices in 91 countries, and was being used by 3,450 people. The switch to WINGS II was a success, especially considering that all offices and users switched to the new system simultaneously, and that it relied on such innovative training components as on-line self-tutoring.
4. The successful transition to WINGS II throughout WFP was a result of:
  - very good planning, execution and monitoring of the numerous transition tasks;
  - a well-executed transfer of data from the previous systems into WINGS II;
  - full engagement of WFP managers in Headquarters and the field; and
  - above all, the willingness of WFP staff at all levels to embrace and accommodate the change.
5. The Secretariat is also grateful to the Board and its advisory bodies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Finance Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Audit Committee and the External Auditor – for their engagement with and close monitoring of the project's progress. Their oversight contributed to the success of WINGS II.



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## THE TRANSITION

### Training and Support

6. Over 250 WFP employees drawn from 60 country offices participated in two weeks of intensive training on the WINGS II processes from 25 May to 6 June 2009. Called “local process experts”, they returned to their offices to serve as first-level support to other users during the transition. They will continue to provide support as more users conduct self-tutoring and use WINGS II.

### Data Migration

7. Data migration from previous systems began on 13 June 2009 and continued for six weeks. The migration included data from the SAP software system, the Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System (COMPAS), the Resource Mobilization System (RMS) and field staff databases.
8. More than 500,000 records were successfully migrated into WINGS II. These included all current and past employees, project budgets and project plan values, contributions, donor receivables, vendor master records and vendor open items, purchase requisitions, purchase orders, commodity stocks, fixed assets and other records.

### Transition Organization

9. The peak of the transition activities occurred from mid-June to 20 July 2009. A special temporary management structure was put in place during this period to ensure that problems were addressed immediately. A migration coordination team tracked on a daily basis those activities directly related to the migration of data, resolving problems and updating the migration schedule.
10. Senior staff from the WINGS II project and business units, along with regional bureaux focal points representing the field perspective, also met daily for updates on the switch to WINGS II and to immediately address any issues that could affect timing or increase risk to WFP.

### Transition Challenge

11. The main challenge of the transition concerned user authorization profiles. WINGS II adopted user profiles based on the functions of staff positions in order to improve system security and better tailor user access. It was anticipated that this would be a challenge, especially because this was the first time that WFP assigned positions in the system to its locally recruited employees in the field, who make up 80 percent of the workforce and 65 percent of the users of the system. A structure was put in place to address the issue. Most of the profile inconveniences experienced by users were resolved within two months of the opening of the system.

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## SCOPE

12. The WINGS II 2009 Edition went live with all the functionality indicated in the update submitted to the Board at its 2009 Annual Session (WFP/EB.A/2009/6-I/1). WFP now has: i) a streamlined information systems architecture that over time will allow the orderly addition of new functionality; ii) a corporate self-learning system, iii) IPSAS-compliant processes embedded in WINGS II for all business areas; iv) a significantly less customized enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that will be much easier and less costly to upgrade over time; v) improved integration of business processes through use of a single information system for most of those processes; and vi) much better integration of those processes – such as COMPAS to support inventory accounting – that remain outside WINGS II.
13. The full integration of the Personal Action System portal (PASport, the payroll system for locally recruited field employees) with the enterprise resource planning system will undergo additional testing before it is rolled out to the remaining country offices.

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## ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS

14. The Secretariat will assess the benefits resulting from WINGS II implementation in 2010 after the system and processes have stabilized and users have fully adapted to it. The Secretariat has not yet had time or opportunity to define the framework and indicators for the assessment.

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## NEXT STEPS

15. Since going live with WINGS II, the Secretariat has made it a point to honour every invitation to share its experiences from the WINGS II implementation with other United Nations agencies, especially given that many of them are currently in the middle of similar ERP implementation projects. WFP has so far had visits with the United Nations Secretariat, and with several other United Nations agencies through the SAP Special Interest Group. The WINGS II team continues to receive invitations to share its experiences with these and other organizations.
16. A final report on the WINGS II 2009 Edition will be submitted to the Board at its 2010 First Regular Session and will include the total cost of the project, the capitalized value of the WINGS II asset, and the framework and indicators for assessing the benefits. At the 2010 Annual Session the Secretariat will provide the Board with a timetable and costs for delivering the functionality deferred from the 2009 Edition.