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Agenda item 11

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2008) — ZAMBIA 10594.0

Assistance to Flood Victims

Number of beneficiaries	242,600
Duration of project	21 months (1 September 2008–31 May 2010)
WFP food tonnage	35,674 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	17,020,782
Total cost to WFP	36,771,478

* 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. Floods and prolonged dry spells have an adverse impact on the food security of small-scale farmers in Zambia who depend on rain-fed agriculture. The capacity of the most vulnerable populations to become food-secure is further diminished by repeated shocks from natural disasters and the increase in food and fuel prices.
2. In February 2008, in the aftermath of widespread flooding, the Office of the Vice-President of Zambia requested assistance from the United Nations agencies. WFP's response strategy as outlined in this protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is in line with the Consolidated Appeals Process and the recommendations of an assessment carried out by the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee in June 2008.
3. The main objectives of the PRRO are to:
 - provide relief assistance to targeted beneficiaries as required;
 - restore and maintain the nutritional status of food-insecure households and increase their resilience to future shocks;
 - build national capacity for formulating, implementing and managing food security and nutrition monitoring systems; and
 - take steps to mitigate the adverse effects of soaring food prices on populations that are already structurally vulnerable.
4. The outcomes of the PRRO are:
 - increased ability of the target populations to meet immediate food needs;
 - reduced level of acute malnutrition among children under 5; and
 - strengthened capacity of cooperating partners to establish and manage food assistance activities in an efficient manner.
5. Food assistance under the PRRO will be mainly through food-for-assets (FFA) and food-for-training activities, which will include Farmer Field Schools, soil and water management, crop diversification, seed protection, small-scale irrigation and drainage, post-harvest techniques and the maintenance and construction of access roads. Complementary inputs will be sought from other United Nations agencies. Supplementary feeding to children under 5 will be used to rehabilitate the severely malnourished and prevent moderate malnutrition. WFP will pilot the use of vouchers in selected areas. Purchase for Progress (P4P) will be employed to the extent possible to empower farmers to enter the market economy as an incentive to boost their food and agricultural production.
6. Through its vulnerability analysis and mapping unit, and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP will undertake capacity development activities in the areas of food needs assessments, early warning and basic programming. WFP will strengthen the links between the Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit and the National Early Warning Unit (part of the Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives). The Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit will coordinate project activities at the national level, while District Disaster Management Committees will be responsible for project implementation at district level. FFA interventions will be implemented within the context of district-level development plans; WFP will participate in district committee work through its country office and sub-offices.