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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 22–26 October 2007**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) – ARMENIA 10053.2

### Relief and Recovery Assistance to Vulnerable Groups

Number of beneficiaries	110,000
Duration of project	18 months, (1 July 2007 – 31 December 2008)
WFP food tonnage	11,965 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	4,028,660
Total cost to WFP	6.69 million

\* 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 C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10053.2 was approved in April 2007 for the period 1 July 2007 – 31 December 2008 to assist 110,000 beneficiaries with 11,965 mt of food. The operational budget is US\$6.69 million.
2. The 18-month PRRO, the last phase of WFP's intervention in Armenia, includes a gradual hand-over to the Government to ensure continued and sustainable support for vulnerable groups.
3. The operation envisages a phase-out of relief food assistance in parallel with an increased Government budget in the existing Family Poverty Benefit (FPB) programme. The Government has budgeted for a public cash-for-work scheme. Communities in rural areas are engaged in primary school feeding and are providing complementary resources in support of school feeding. WFP focuses its food for education (FFE) on areas where community commitment and resources are available as activities are handed over.
4. The goals of WFP's assistance are to support the most vulnerable and food-insecure people during transition and by the end of 2008 to have handed over the WFP relief caseload to the Government, which will assist the beneficiaries by increasing family benefits. WFP continues to focus on household food security, the creation of community assets and the development of human capital by:
  - enhancing the food security of targeted populations – Strategic Objective 2; Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 and 6;
  - rehabilitating agricultural and rural infrastructure – Strategic Objective 2; MDGs 1 and 7;
  - alleviating short-term hunger, improving concentration and learning among schoolchildren and maintaining high attendance rates – Strategic Objective 4; MDGs 2 and 3;
  - increasing HIV/AIDS awareness – Strategic Objective 4 and MDG 6;
  - promoting self-reliance, especially among women, by imparting knowledge about micro-enterprise development and agricultural techniques – Strategic Objective 4 and MDG 3; and
  - enhancing the capacities of the Government and local partners to absorb WFP's caseload – Strategic Objective 5.
5. WFP activities include:
  - relief food assistance to supplement the FPB;
  - food for work for the repair of infrastructure;
  - food for training to promote self-reliance in vulnerable villages and provincial towns where opportunities for improvement are few; and
  - FFE complemented by fresh products with transport provided by communities and the involvement of parents' associations.
6. WFP has an ongoing dialogue with the Government: discussions with the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues showed that the Government would benefit from guidance to build capacity in maintaining food stocks for emergencies; the ministry indicated that if the Government opts to use a food-based safety net in its new Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSRP), it would like WFP to help with planning and implementation arrangements.