

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 12–16 June 2006

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2006/11-B/2
28 April 2006
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2005) – BANGLADESH 10045.3

Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

Number of beneficiaries	22,000 refugees 12,500 host population
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2006–31 December 2007)
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	4,898,557
Total food cost	3,110,634

* 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.

This document is printed in a limited number of copies. Executive Board documents are available on WFP's WEB site (<http://www.wfp.org/eb>).

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.

Regional Director, ODB*:	Mr A. Banbury	tel.: 066513-2505
Liaison Officer, ODB:	Ms S. Izzi	tel.: 066513-2207

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).

* Asia Regional Bureau



ABSTRACT

1. In late 1991, a large number of people from the North Rakhine State of Myanmar, known as *rohingyas*, began to cross into Bangladesh to escape religious and ethnic persecution. By mid-1992, the presence of 250,000 officially recognized refugees was verified. The international community, with support from a number of aid agencies and the Government of Bangladesh, ensured that assistance was provided to meet their basic needs. By mid-1997, fewer than 25,000 *rohingyas* remained in the camps, since when the population has remained relatively stable. An estimated 100,000 to 250,000 *rohingyas* have settled in Bangladesh, independent of international assistance.

Overview of Implementation

2. Under this two-year operation, WFP assists 22,000 refugees and 12,500 people from the host population: a general food ration is designed to maintain acceptable nutritional status among the refugees; supplementary and therapeutic feeding prevent and treat cases of malnutrition. The school snacks programme encourages enrolment and attendance in primary schools. Limited food-for-training activities target 300 women and adolescent girls to encourage efforts toward self-reliance. A small food-for-work programme aims to improve relations between refugees and the host population by building assets for the communities.
3. The food basket, which is based on the recommendations of a joint needs assessment mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP in July 2004, remains unchanged and consists of rice, pulses, blended food, oil, sugar, salt, dried skim milk and fortified biscuits. The daily general ration provides 2,160 kcal.
4. Donor assistance, coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is channelled through the Bangladesh Relief and Repatriation Commissioner. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society manages transport, delivery, storage and distribution of food aid supplied by WFP and subsequent reporting at the camp level.
5. The Department of Health provides health services and selective feeding programmes, supported by UNHCR. Regular coordination meetings are held at the local and central levels with all partners.

Prospects

6. Efforts to find durable solutions have met with little success. In 2003, renewed efforts by UNHCR resulted in an easing of acceptance by the Government of the Union of Myanmar of those willing to repatriate. This led to a peak in repatriation in mid-2003 that subsequently decreased because refugees were unwilling to repatriate. An attempt to include the *rohingyas* in a UNHCR initiative to promote self-reliance among refugees for whom no durable solution exists was unsuccessful. UNHCR is developing a modified proposal, but it will require considerable consensus-building in the Government of Bangladesh and pressure from the donor community before it can be implemented. In the meantime, to encourage repatriation and discourage a further influx, the Government continues to restrict refugees' access to incomes and livelihoods, further perpetuating their dependency on external assistance.