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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 7–11 November 2005**

## **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**Agenda item 9**

*For information\**



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### **PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2005) – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 10189.1**

#### **Food Assistance to Populations in a Post-Conflict Situation**

Number of beneficiaries	204,000
Duration of project	24 months (1 July 2005–30 June 2007)
WFP food tonnage	16,435 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Total cost to WFP	13,554,556

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions of 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 for information to the Executive Board.**

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, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit. (tel.: 066513-2645).

\* East and Central Africa Region



## ABSTRACT

1. The Central African Republic has been affected by ten years of internal conflict: riots in 1996, a failed coup d'état in 2001, continuous armed conflicts in 2002 and the coup d'état on 15 March 2003. Public infrastructures and private resources have been destroyed or looted. There has been an improvement in the security situation since the 2003 coup, but recurring insecurity continues, characterized by arms trafficking, acts of violence and hostage-taking by armed bandits. Since 2002, 42,000 Central Africans have found refuge in neighbouring Chad. The Government's minimal resources are such that back-payment of civil servants' salaries presents a serious problem.
2. The population is estimated at 3.5 million people, with a growth rate of 2.5 percent per year. The Central African Republic is a least-developed food-deficit country ranked 168<sup>th</sup> of the 175 countries in UNDP's 2003 Human Development Index; 67 percent of the population live on less than US\$1 per day. Life expectancy has declined from 49 years in 1995 to 39 years in 2004; the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of 15 percent is the highest in the region. There is a notably high level of malnutrition: chronic malnutrition is 39 percent, food habits do not favour food diversification, and cases of malnutrition among women are common.
3. The goals of the current PRRO are (i) to save lives, (ii) to reinforce the food security of vulnerable people living in a post-conflict situation and (iii) to contribute to the country's socio-economic recovery. The **relief component**, which accounts for 71 percent of WFP's food assistance, consists of assisting 89,000 beneficiaries: 32,000 returnees, 23,000 vulnerable people and 34,000 beneficiaries living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The **recovery component**, which accounts for 20 percent of WFP's food assistance, consists of assisting 115,000 beneficiaries: 90,000 people benefiting from food-for-work activities and 25,000 benefiting from food-for-training activities. Throughout the project, WFP will ensure that recovery operations are in line with the Millennium Development objectives.
4. WFP will work with other United Nations institutions. A monitoring and evaluation plan based on the project's logical framework will be established. This PRRO is based on an optimistic scenario of positive developments in the crisis in the Central African Republic. Contingency planning has been done for less optimistic scenarios. During implementation of the PRRO and in accordance with positive developments in the country, WFP will gradually reduce its relief activities and direct them towards recovery to encourage the strengthening of coping mechanisms and the recovery of local economies.

