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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 6–10 June 2005

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2005/10-A
25 April 2005
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2004) – SOUTH AFRICA 10394.0

**Support to Strengthen Vulnerability Monitoring
Systems in South Africa and the Analytical Capacity of
the Southern Africa Development Community
Vulnerability Assessment Committee**

Duration of project	Two years (1 January 2005–31 December 2006)
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Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	1,510,600
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* 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 the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



1. At the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Agriculture and Food Security Summit held in Dar-es-Salaam in May 2004, the SADC Heads of State agreed to a strategy of reducing food insecurity in the region. They noted the need to strengthen vulnerability monitoring capabilities to enhance understanding of vulnerability trends in the region and monitoring of progress towards the goals of the May 2004 Summit and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. Since 2001, the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) of the SADC Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate has helped to establish and strengthen national vulnerability systems in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, in collaboration with partner agencies the famine Early-Warning System Network (FEWS-NET), WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Save the Children Fund (SCF) UK. The mandate of the RVAC is to coordinate development of vulnerability and livelihoods assessment activities in the region; the Republic of South Africa, however, is currently not a fully integrated member of the initiative. Project 10394.0, therefore, is designed to contribute to improved policy formulation and management of food security and social safety-net programmes in the Republic of South Africa and the SADC countries.
3. The Government of the Republic of South Africa has provided R10 million to WFP out of an R100 million contribution to WFP and FAO for the southern Africa crisis. This contribution to WFP will support the development of an integrated food-security information and vulnerability monitoring system in the Republic of South Africa and will strengthen the SADC vulnerability analysis initiative. The overall purpose of the project is twofold: (i) to strengthen technical capacity in the Republic of South Africa in food-security monitoring and vulnerability analysis and (ii) to enhance technical and analytical capacity of SADC/RVAC with a view to coordinating and promoting multi-disciplinary food security and vulnerability analysis activities.
4. The project's two components will run parallel; they will be closely inter-linked and will be implemented in stages. The project will build on the existing institutional framework established by governments of SADC countries. The South African component will be managed by the Food Security Unit of the Department of Agriculture; the SADC component will be placed in the SADC Vulnerability Assessment Committee secretariat.
5. This project is in line with WFP's Strategic Priority 5, which aims to strengthen government capacity to manage food-based programmes. The project will be implemented over two years from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006, with a possibility of extension, with financial support from the South African Department of Agriculture.

