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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2004

In accordance with the methods or work of the Executive Board, the present document reflects the main points of its deliberations to be taken into account by the Secretariat in the implementation of the Board's decisions and recommendations, contained in document WFP/EB.2/2004/9.

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EVALUATION REPORTS

Management response to the PRRO thematic evaluation recommendations (2004/EB.2/1)

1. The Board welcomed the detailed management response to the “Summary Report of the PRRO Category” (WFP/EB.1/2004/6-A) and commended WFP management on its commitment to improve the programme quality of protracted relief and recovery operations (PRROs). The Board congratulated WFP for initiating activities aimed at building the capacity of the programme staff to plan, manage and implement recovery programmes and to monitor and measure results effectively.
2. An urgent need was noted to clarify definitions of recovery and relief and to improve normative guidance on recovery programming in line with the directives from the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) Working Group on Transition Issues. The internal review of the two-year conversion rule from emergency operation (EMOP) to PRRO was considered a crucial step that would offer flexibility in planning activities for recovery and rehabilitation.
3. The Board recognized the importance of the ongoing collaboration between OD divisions – OEN, VAM, OEP and ODO – and with PSP and OEDR in providing programme and technical support to country offices and regional bureaux for improving the programme quality. The proposed creation of a Project Preparation Fund de-linked from the project direct support costs (DSC) and activation of a Programme Quality Helpdesk at Headquarters were viewed as important contributors to the quality-improvement and assurance process.
4. The Board emphasized the need for continuous management attention, especially in strengthening inter-agency coordination and building strategic partnerships with humanitarian and development actors, building a corporate strategy for recovery programming and placing greater emphasis on recruitment of staff specialized in disaster and recovery planning.
5. The Board welcomed the opportunity for an informal consultation in September 2004 and endorsed the submission of an interim progress report at the First Regular Session of the Executive Board in February 2005.

EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO—OPERATIONAL MATTERS

6. Mr H. Arthur, Director, East and Central Africa Regional Bureau (ODK), presented an overview of recent and current developments in the East and Central Africa region. The number of beneficiaries in the region had increased from 25 million to 26 million since February 2004. The most topical issue, the Sudan, continued to be of concern: the 1.2 million people requiring food aid in the Darfur region was expected to swell by a further 800,000 by the end of 2004 because farmlands were inaccessible to the resident population. Food rations would also have to be doubled. Current pledges were insufficient to meet the projected needs, and certain commodities would soon run out. Poor infrastructure, especially road links, was a major problem that would hamper the return of refugees in the event of a peace settlement. There were gaps in the funding for road and



bridge building, but the cost savings of avoiding air transport would benefit all concerned, including donors.

7. The situation in camps for displaced persons in Uganda remained sordid, with further recent reports of violence and death. In addition to food aid, political pressure on the Ugandan government from donor governments was urgently required.* Children were especially affected by the situation.
8. Political instability threatened the peace settlement in Burundi; the United Nations Security Council had agreed to send peace-keeping forces to complement African troops, but the situation was extremely uncertain; it was therefore difficult to meet the needs of increasing numbers of displaced persons.
9. Progress had been made in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, but conditions remained precarious in the east; the situation of illegal Congolese refugees in Angola, following the host government's decision that they should return to their country of origin, was uncertain because the latter was unprepared to receive them. Further volcanic activity in the region was an additional threat. A special air transport service for staff in Democratic Republic of Congo was urgently needed: distances were huge and turnarounds were proving disastrously time-consuming; staff were put at risk in certain areas.
10. Armed clashes in Mogadishu had displaced large numbers of people in Somalia. The general situation in the Horn of Africa had improved dramatically, but many people were still at risk from the consequences of drought. After years of drought, floods had recently resulted in loss of human life and property destruction in Kenya.

**Budget increase to development project—country programme
Uganda 10019.0 (1999–2005) (2004/EB.2/4)**

Protracted relief and recovery operation—Ethiopia 10127.1 (2004/EB.2/5)

**Budget increase to protracted relief and recovery operation—Great Lakes
Regional 10062.1 (2004/EB.2/6)**

11. The Regional Director (ODK) presented the three projects for approval. The situation at Ethiopian refugee camps remained highly volatile; even if a peace settlement in Sudan allowed for Sudanese nationals to return, they would not all return at once. Rations had recently been cut and women and children had been badly affected. Ethiopia was an extremely poor country suffering from food problems of its own. As far as the Great Lakes Regional project was concerned, the number of refugees in the Tanzanian component had increased dramatically, which partly accounted for the requested budget increase.
12. The President shared his personal impressions of WFP operations in Ethiopia, following his visit to the country. He had been impressed by the dedication of WFP staff there and noted the catalytic effect of WFP's work in the country.
13. The Board expressed its support for all three projects. There had been a sizeable increase in the number of displaced persons in northern Uganda since late 2002, and WFP was doing excellent work there; it was hoped that any peaceful settlement in the Sudan would have a knock-on effect in that country. Given that WFP hoped to enhance its development

* The Representative of Uganda stated that the primary cause of food insecurity were the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) "terrorist" activities and that Uganda's political leadership had been heavily involved in trying to relieve the plight of the displaced persons in the camps.



role in Uganda, the Ugandan Government should be urged to make a firmer financial commitment. Close observation of the evolution of refugee numbers in the Great Lakes Region was urged. Although repatriation was always desirable, it was important to give refugees reliable information about the conditions in the areas to which they wished to return. Transport facilities needed to be improved to avoid situations whereby refugees sold food rations to pay for transportation.

14. Drought still posed a threat in Ethiopia despite recent rainfall; United Nations agencies formed a safety-net in that country, but HIV/AIDS was a major problem. It was encouraging that the Ethiopian Government had recognized the severity of the refugee problem on its territory. The importance of results-based management was stressed; all project reports should contain a matrix. Indicators should be presented in such a way as to enable a comparison of situations before and after WFP interventions. Commodities should be purchased on regional or local markets where possible and the issue of human capacity building needed to be fully addressed. The involvement of local communities in PRROs needed to be stepped up. It was asked whether the recommended daily intake (RDI) of vitamin A was assured in Ethiopia. Nutritional issues should in general have been addressed more fully. Donors were urged to make cash donations in addition to food donations to stimulate local economies. Further information was requested concerning the influx of refugees from Eritrea. It was pointed out that the number of refugees in Malawi had increased considerably.
15. The Secretariat confirmed that the Ugandan Government was already assisting WFP with its work, particularly by guaranteeing security. The Government was also making contributions to the school feeding programme and helping with transport. A matrix was available for Uganda and would be distributed. It was agreed that inclusion of such matrices should become standard practice in similar documents. Clarification of the number of street children and orphans receiving assistance in Uganda was provided, as requested. The vegetable oil distributed in Ethiopia was vitamin A enriched but when rations were cut, as had been the case recently, the RDI would not be met. Large numbers of Eritrean students had recently sought asylum in Ethiopia.

ASIA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO—OPERATIONAL MATTERS

16. Mr A. Banbury, Regional Director, Asia Bureau (ODB), outlined the issues currently facing the Asia region and the main priorities for WFP. In Myanmar, emergency assistance was targeting a limited number of former poppy farmers and their families in a remote location who were facing difficulty in converting to traditional crops.
17. In Nepal, the situation caused by the insurgency was deteriorating at an alarming speed and creating major challenges for the government and the international community. WFP was trying to conduct its activities in areas where the government had lost control. It had updated its contingency plans, would conduct a comprehensive review mission to reassess its activities, and was playing an active role in United Nations discussions aimed at restoring peace and security in the country.
18. The Regional Director had recently paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), focusing on improving monitoring and operating conditions and on food-insecure regions: a need for large-scale emergency operations had been identified in the country, where lack of food was leading to environmental problems in rural and urban areas. There was no long-term agricultural development plan in DPRK. Economic reforms had had a negative impact on factory workers in particular. Less than 20 percent of the food aid requirements were currently met. WFP hoped for confirmation of the



announcement by the Japanese Government to provide food aid. The humanitarian disaster caused by the train accident in DPRK had met with a swift response by WFP, which would meet the food aid needs of victims for six months.

19. An EMOP in Timor Leste was about to be concluded, but the country's government wanted WFP to stay. Since the topographical and logistic conditions meant that project costs were comparatively high, WFP would be consulting with potential donors to decide whether its continued presence was feasible. With regard to the Philippines, needs were great in Mindanao because the conflict there had worsened chronic poverty; no visit would be possible until the security situation permitted it, but WFP might decide in the future to take action. An assessment mission would be conducted with other actors.
20. WFP would be sending a delegation to the forthcoming International HIV/AIDS Conference in Bangkok; the Regional Director pointed out the particular nature of the HIV/AIDS phenomenon in Asia. WFP was co-sponsoring with the Government of India the Regional Ministerial Consultation on Maternal and Child Nutrition in Asian Countries, in New Delhi, in September 2004; the Indian Government would be defraying some of the costs.
21. Concern was voiced over the low resourcing of several WFP operations in the region. Announcements were made of bilateral humanitarian support given to DPRK following the train disaster there. The Secretariat underlined the fact that resources for WFP flagship development programmes in Asia fell far short of the expectations of governments, beneficiaries and WFP itself; much was being done to address that problem. WFP was strongly committed to cooperating with other United Nations agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Myanmar, and was focusing its efforts on preventing a new refugee crisis.

Protracted relief and recovery operation—Myanmar 10066.2 (2004/EB.2/7)

22. The Country Director, Myanmar, presented the document "Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation — Myanmar 10066.2" (WFP/EB.2/2004/4-B/1). He reminded the Board of the acute problems facing Myanmar, one of the poorest countries in the world, and of the difficulties affecting the regions and populations targeted by the PRRO under consideration. Despite extreme poverty, harsh climate and political status, successes had been achieved as a result of the WFP project. He added that immediate food assistance had been requested by the Myanmar authorities following a recent cyclone that had triggered floods, resulting in loss of life and human suffering.
23. The Board approved the PRRO, especially in view of the severe conditions experienced by its beneficiaries. The Board sought further information about the political status of the beneficiaries along with reassurances that the current regime in Myanmar would not benefit from WFP aid or hamper WFP operations. Concerns were expressed about the fact that the beneficiaries might return to Bangladesh as refugees if conditions deteriorated or if government policies changed, and about reports of enforced labour in the regions covered; WFP should assist the reintegration of returnees in northern Rakhine State. It wanted to know more about ways in which WFP intended to cooperate with other partners, particularly United Nations agencies, to promote the goal of development in Myanmar. Concerning the PRRO, more description of the risks and negative impacts would be useful, along with more detailed development of the causes of food security problems in the regions covered. It was pointed out that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was active in Myanmar and would be a useful cooperation partner.



24. With regard to the issue of enforced labour, ILO was already following up with the Government on the implementation of an action plan; the United Nations country team was monitoring the situation with WFP Yangon. The Chinese authorities were thanked for their logistical support and the Japanese Government for their financial contribution. The populations concerned in Myanmar were allowed to work but their ability to travel was severely restricted. Although WFP and other international organizations cooperated with the Myanmar authorities, there was no government interference in WFP's food aid operations, as the beneficiaries were identified and directly assisted by WFP, which had its own food warehouses.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO—OPERATIONAL MATTERS

25. The Secretariat provided an overview of the situation of three countries with WFP operations in the West Africa region.
26. In **Liberia** there was clear progress, with the likelihood of a durable peace. Low funding, stemming partly from fading media attention to Liberia's situation, was a serious problem and would force WFP to reduce rations from early June. There were also critical problems in the pipeline situation. WFP was concerned that these factors could negatively affect the ongoing peace process.
27. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the same progress in the peace process was not apparent. The large flow of people into neighbouring countries was likely to have serious economic and social implications. Clearly, without a political solution the humanitarian situation could not improve. Funding however was adequate.
28. In **Chad**, WFP operations were directly linked to the situation in Darfur, and the refugee situation was becoming increasingly difficult. WFP approved an EMOP in September 2004 with projections of 110,000 refugees, a figure that could rise to 200,000. Setting up camps was challenging because of the lack of water and remoteness of the area. Donor response had been quick and mainly in cash, permitting WFP to launch a major operation of local and regional purchases, and deliver the required tonnage before the rainy season. Despite local purchase of most of the food basket, the operation had high costs because of logistic difficulties, the distances involved and the need to comply with security requirements. WFP was approving a budget revision. Chad also represented a low-tonnage/high-cost situation, and the many DSC needs of the country could not be covered by the tonnage produced. The Secretariat concluded that the best solution to the situation in Chad was a solution in Darfur.
29. It was subsequently announced at the meeting that a peace agreement had just been signed in Darfur. The Secretariat, Board members and observers congratulated the Government of Sudan on this milestone. The peace process was extremely important and had far-reaching implications for the country and its neighbours.

Draft country programme—Sierra Leone 10333.0 (2005–2007) (2004/EB.2/8)

30. In its presentation of the draft country programme for Sierra Leone (2005–2007), the Secretariat noted the high quality of the document, which included inputs from FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), partners on the ground and the Government. The Government was, in fact, highly concerned about food security issues and had paid considerable attention to the programme's design. The programme had three basic activities: (i) support for basic education, (ii) integrated mother and child health and



nutrition (MCHN) and (iii) food for recovery and development (FRD). It would be integrated with the interventions of other partners, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and was linked with the PRRO to be reviewed by the Board in October. Sierra Leone ranked last on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) human development ranking, but the situation was improving under the Government's positive leadership.

31. The Board was supportive of the move in the country programme from a relief to a recovery-and-development mode of operation, and felt that the three proposed activities would help the country to progress in this direction. WFP's presence in the country was important at this transitional time, given the acute insecurity of the groups being targeted and the devastating consequences of ten years of war, including the massive displacement of people and destruction of infrastructure. The Board was pleased to note that the three Rome-based agencies, WFP, FAO and IFAD, were cooperating effectively in Sierra Leone. FAO had participated in the formulation of the draft country programme, and IFAD would be closely involved in its implementation. The Board also supported WFP's intention to work with the World Bank and NGOs on HIV/AIDS activities. The Board and the President considered the PRRO to be a good example of WFP transitional aid and of great importance for the promotion of humanitarian work for peace.
32. Regarding the programme's support for basic education, the Board suggested that the school feeding strategy should include an information programme promoting the participation of girls and young women in the education process. This would be consistent with government measures to increase enrolment, including free schooling for girls, free uniforms and no examination fees. The Board saw the large number of illiterate young people in the country as a "ticking time-bomb" and suggested that the programme should be more specific as to how it would target this group. It was pleased that special mention had been made of non-formal education for over-age children, a group often excluded from schooling. It was also pleased with the programme's attention to quality issues, which it considered to be extremely important.
33. The Secretariat took note of several interventions supporting greater cooperation with the South-South Cooperation (SSC). An SSC/FAO programme was already active in Sierra Leone, with SSC activities limited to capacity-building and training. The Secretariat agreed that such collaboration could be useful and confirmed that Sierra Leone had strong capacity to use technical assistance. Regarding the Board's suggestion that WFP coordinate with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which was also investing in the education sector in Sierra Leone, the Secretariat confirmed that the country programme would have strong links with that agency, as it would have with the Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development (CORAD), which had a local programme with a strong livelihood component. The Secretariat agreed that the experience of pilot projects on activities relevant to the country programme, such as preventive action on MCHN, should be examined.
34. The Secretariat shared the Board's concerns about escalating shipping costs, pointing out that they were the highest in WFP history. Normally shipping was centralized and costs were calculated centrally. The Secretariat confirmed that WFP had made use of local purchasing and would continue to do so. The regional purchasing programme was the largest ever, partly due to large existing surpluses in the region. Even the PRRO was benefiting from local purchases, despite the logistic complications. A policy of local purchasing made sense given the increased costs of shipping. German funding in this area was important.



35. Replying to a question on the institutional capacity within the country to handle some of the programme's activities, the Secretariat informed the Board that as a facilitating measure, WFP would provide specific capacity-building. Sierra Leone would also benefit from the capacity-building programmes run by FAO and UNDP. It was WFP's experience, for example in Mali, that a small amount of funding for capacity-building in areas such as vulnerability analysis and mapping could have great impact and provide enormous benefits.
36. The Secretariat assured the Board that it would look into various technical questions left unanswered, including the issue of stronger links between programme inputs and outcomes, particularly in the case of nutrition-related results, and that the Board's comments would be reflected in the final document.

MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL PORTFOLIO—OPERATIONAL MATTERS

37. Mr K. Adly, Director, Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Regional Bureau (ODC), gave an overview of current events in the region. The Belgrade office had closed in March 2004, but arrangements had been made with the Serbia and Montenegro Government to give remaining refugees monetary support. An 18-month PRRO in Albania had recently begun; the impact of poverty on women was particularly heavy in the north, and emphasis was being placed on gender. In Georgia, WFP's PRRO activities had recently been extended to Abkhazia, where recovery and rehabilitation activities were limited and WFP had started free targeted distribution of flour following an 80 percent rise in wheat prices. A new EMOP had been launched in the northern Caucasus; many of the beneficiaries in Chechnya and Ingushetia were schoolchildren. Security had declined in both republics and a contingency planning mission would soon take place.
38. WFP was stepping up efforts to assist vulnerable people in Afghanistan, but food resources currently met needs; localized drought was expected after last year's good harvests, and the situation was being monitored. Despite the deteriorating security conditions in Iraq, distribution throughout the country by the public distribution system (PDS) had been maintained; should insecurity escalate, deliveries of commodities might be affected; everything would be done, in cooperation with the Iraqi authorities, to ensure that vulnerable groups were fed. A series of WFP studies would enable the food security situation to be managed. The current EMOP in the Occupied Palestinian Territories might have to be extended by two months because of slippage as a result of access problems following the recent incursions into the Gaza Strip; WFP had assisted the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) by distributing bread. Changes in voluntary repatriation schedules for displaced refugees in Pakistan would affect implementation of a PRRO. Presentation to the Board was postponed pending further tripartite review of the voluntary repatriation plan.

Protracted relief and recovery operation—Algeria 10172.1 (2004/EB.2/9)

39. The Regional Director then presented PRRO Algeria 10172.1. The recent United Nations Security Council resolution had extended the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) mandate for six months to 31 October 2004, to enable the parties to reach agreement on the Baker Plan. Until then, WFP and the international community would have to continue their humanitarian assistance to refugees for some time. The number of refugees in Algerian camps had been reliably calculated.



Efforts had been made to improve coordination with other humanitarian organizations. Field monitoring confirmed that food diversion was insignificant.

40. The Board praised the PRRO as a well-structured project meriting full support and agreed that the refugees targeted were living in severe conditions, facing a harsh climate and malnutrition. Members added that the humanitarian crisis had lasted for three decades and that the beneficiaries depended solely on assistance from the international community. It was stressed that a large proportion of the refugees were young, which posed specific problems and called for more educational and training measures. Although the figures for refugee numbers were undoubtedly as accurate as possible, an up-to-date census was urged; the existence of contradictory official figures was flagged.
41. The increased physical presence of WFP and other humanitarian organizations in the camps was welcomed. It was recommended that post-delivery monitoring be further intensified. The importance of medical care, education and training was emphasized to ensure the most complete humanitarian response possible. Wherever possible, WFP should concentrate on income-generating activities in the refugee camps. The work done by the Algerian Red Crescent and other organizations was praised. The Secretariat was asked whether fresh donor pledges had been forthcoming and what would be done to encourage them. It was also asked why some recipients found the food rations inadequate. Requests were made to the international community to assist the Algerian Government. More details of the criteria for determining malnutrition and anaemia were requested. It was hoped that pipeline breaks could be avoided in the future. The improved storage system mentioned in the report was welcomed. It was pointed out that WFP acted as a catalyst.
42. The Secretariat repeated that it was satisfied with the current estimates of refugee numbers but would encourage a new census. Some food sales were inevitable, because beneficiaries often sold commodities to buy other foodstuffs, but there was no evidence of large-scale diversions. The request to balance food and non-food requirements had been noted; donors were urged to contribute to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) care and maintenance budget. Income-generating activities and training took place, but the difficult environment limited their expansion. Some countries and organizations had already made further food aid donations and pledges. The food rations were the bare minimum and were therefore found to be inadequate by some refugees, especially those feeding visiting relatives. Standard criteria were used to measure levels of malnutrition and anaemia, and efforts would be made to compare figures with baseline data concerning areas outside the camps where possible.

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO — OPERATIONAL MATTERS

43. In its introductory remarks, Mr Sackett, Regional Director, provided an update on the situation in southern Africa using data from recent FAO/WFP crop and food supply assessment missions and other statistics. The situation in the region was mixed. Compared with five-year averages, cereal harvests had fallen by 60 percent in Lesotho, and 40 percent in Swaziland and 20 percent in Malawi, but had risen by as much as 50 percent in Zambia and 10 percent in Mozambique. WFP had purchased almost 50,000 tons of food in Zambia in the first four months of 2004. Namibia too had had a better-than-average season. Nonetheless, WFP had considered it necessary to launch an EMOP in March to assist vulnerable people in the country's six northern districts.
44. The situation in Zimbabwe was unclear because of the cancellation of the FAO/WFP assessment mission. The Government's 2004 estimates for maize production were far above FAO/WFP estimates for 2003 and seemed inconsistent with (i) erratic rains



requiring multiple replanting of seeds, (ii) shortage of improved seeds, (iii) unavailability of fertilizer and (iv) lack of draught power for tillage. The Government had emphasized that no large-scale food aid would be required for the year ahead, although it expected WFP to continue smaller-scale assistance to schoolchildren, malnourished infants, HIV/AIDS orphans and elderly people. Despite existing WFP and government food stocks, there was a significant risk of acute food shortages from November to April, possibly affecting several million people; large additional donor pledges could be required at short notice.

45. The situation in Angola continued to be difficult due to the low level of contributions. Returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) had received only half rations since April. The food-for-education (FFE) programme currently assisted only 40,000 children compared with the 220,000 foreseen by the end of the year. Contribution levels had been affected by the lack of government support. WFP urged the Government to make good the commitment of US\$7.5 million it made in October 2003 to support the PRRO and possibly to increase support given the current high price of oil.
46. WFP would submit the Southern Africa Regional PRRO to the October Board rather than to the current session as planned. The extra time would allow WFP to incorporate more precise information on the outcomes of the FAO/WFP assessment missions and other relevant data. WFP considered a PRRO to be the most effective instrument to address the food security challenges faced by some countries in the region. These resulted from erratic weather, weakened governance capacity and HIV/AIDS, the “triple threat” that WFP and its United Nations partners were addressing in 12 southern and eastern African countries. The PRRO was expected to be implemented for three years from 1 January 2005. To cover the intervening period, WFP had extended the six-country regional EMOP. All Board members agreed on the decision to postpone submission of the Southern Africa regional PRRO to October to permit fine-tuning. The Board was pleased that the PRRO was the result of extensive consultation with all relevant partners.

Draft country programme—Madagascar 10340.0 (2005–2009) (2004/EB.2/10)

47. In introducing the Madagascar draft country programme for 2005–2009, the Regional Director pointed out that the new Government of Madagascar seemed committed to improving the lot of the country’s poor. The proposed country programme had been prepared in harmony with the Government’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which was supported by the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The education and health activities of the WFP programme would be concentrated in the country’s arid southernmost districts, while disaster-mitigation activities would target cyclone-prone eastern coastal districts. In March, the country had been hit by the most powerful cyclone in 20 years, highlighting the country’s susceptibility to natural disasters and making support for the programme even more compelling.
48. In their discussion, the Board noted that the Madagascar country programme supported the Government’s poverty and food-security priorities. It was also consistent with the corporate priority to assist government efforts to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.
49. Responding to Board observations, the Secretariat agreed that the budget allocations to the three activities of the Madagascar country programme could appear skewed to the detriment of nutrition activities. However, allocations also took account of implementation capacity and were consistent with the institutional constraints identified. The Secretariat took note of the suggestion that micronutrient fortification should be part of all three programme activities. It attached great importance to the inclusion of Vitamin A in the food basket and recognized the importance of iodine-based interventions. It would review



available data on iodine deficiency in coastal and inland areas of Madagascar and decide on the need to add iodized salt to the list of commodities. Concerning the value of food-for-work (FFW) activities in the short term as a bridge until the next harvest, the Secretariat explained that that would depend on the nature of the activities. An FFW activity involving rehabilitation of an irrigation system, for instance, was likely to have long-term benefits because a community would have a sustainable water system after a relatively small FFW activity. The Secretariat stated that it would look into and correct where necessary the other technical points noted by the Board.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

50. Ms Z. Mesa, ODPC Regional Director, gave an overview of the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, with particular emphasis on the disastrous flooding in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where WFP and its partners were taking immediate emergency measures. The Regional Director stressed that poverty had exacerbated the disaster in that poor people had no option but to reside in flood-prone areas. Transport for food and other aid was the immediate problem because roads had been swept away; electricity and water supplies were cut. Immediate assistance could be rendered using resources from the ongoing PRRO. About 20,000 people needed assistance.
51. There was a need to update the Haiti PRRO, which was only 28 percent financed. WFP was working with the World Bank on school feeding and social safety-nets; a needs assessment was about to start. The Colombia PRRO for people displaced by violence was being reviewed; good work with partners was ongoing. In Peru there was a need to enhance government technical capacities, but the project was successful and could be replicated. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP were working in partnership on complementary projects across the region. Successful operations were under way in Chile, Mexico and Brazil.

Joint field visit to Guatemala (2004/EB.2/11)

52. The representative of the Slovak Republic reported on the joint field visit to Guatemala. He stressed that the United Nations system had laid the framework for development, but that there was room for greater coordination among the agencies, especially a common budget and collaboration in working towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Guatemala needed support, even though official figures indicated that it was a middle-income country: there were many pockets of deep poverty, especially among indigenous people.
53. The Board expressed its appreciation for the regional presentation and the report on the joint field visit. Members expressed their solidarity with Haiti and the Dominican Republic in this time of crisis and pledged support; the representatives conveyed their gratitude and thanked the WFP teams for their sterling efforts. The vulnerability of many parts of the region to natural disasters was particularly noted. The need to establish disaster-mitigation and rapid-response mechanisms was seen as a priority for the region; capacity-building would be an essential feature of this. The Board recognized that income figures did not represent the full situation and that areas of deep poverty existed in the region, especially among indigenous peoples. The increasing involvement of private enterprise in humanitarian work was noted with appreciation. The need to keep the Central America area in mind was noted.



ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP (2004/EB.2/12)

54. The Secretariat presented the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) relevant to the work of WFP, set out in matrix format as requested by the Board.
55. The Board emphasized the importance of JIU's work in the framework of United Nations reform in terms of accountability. The Secretariat's response regarding the report on multilingualism was that documents were normally translated into the WFP working languages.

OTHER BUSINESS

56. In his announcements to the Board, the Executive Director paid warm tribute to three members who were stepping down and whose services to WFP over the years had been outstanding – Mr F. Kabuta (Japan), H.E. Anthony Beattie (United Kingdom) and Mr T. Lavelle (United States of America). He welcomed H.E. Romualdo Bettini (Italy) and Mr Y. Kuraya (Japan).
57. Regarding senior staff movements, the Executive Director stated that Mr Lopes da Silva was to be the new Sudan country director, Mr R. Ragan would be country director in DPRK and Mr Tun Myat would be at the New York office until his retirement in September after 30 years service with WFP.



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CORAD	Consortium for Rehabilitation and Development
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DSC	direct support costs
ECHA	Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFE	food for education
FFW	food for work
FRD	food for recovery and development
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IDP	internally displaced person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
MCHN	mother and child health and nutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODB	Asia Regional Bureau
ODC	Middle East, Central Asia and Eastern Europe Regional Bureau
ODK	East and Central Africa Regional Bureau
ODO	Office of the Associate Director of Operations
ODPC	Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau
OEDR	Division for Results-Based Management
OEN	Emergency Needs Assessment Unit
OEP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit
PDS	public distribution system
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSP	Strategy, Policy and Programme Support Division
RDI	recommended daily intake
SSC	South-South Cooperation
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework



UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAM	Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping Unit
WHO	World Health Organization

