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INFORMATION NOTE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SECURITY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

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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 point 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).



BACKGROUND

1. At its Annual Session in 2003, the Executive Board received the “Information Note on the Implementation of New Security Management Arrangements” (WFP/EB.A/2003/8-D), which reported on accountability in the United Nations system, development of WFP’s Corporate Security Management Policy, and WFP’s funding of its share of the budget of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD); at that time the Secretariat also indicated its intention to inform the Board periodically of progress. The Biennial Programme of Work for 2004–2005 (WFP/EB.1/2004/10-A) approved by the Board scheduled the Secretariat’s update on this important topic for its Annual Session each year.
2. At its First Session of 2004, the Board also took note of the information presented concerning WFP’s Security Upgrade Programme, for which the Board had authorized the Executive Director to allot US\$20 million (2003/EB.3/6i), and looked forward to a progress report at the 2004 Annual Session (2004/EB.1/26).
3. The purpose of this document is to inform the Board of progress made on WFP’s Security Upgrade Programme since February 2004 and to provide an update on WFP’s share of projected costs for 2004–2005 in the United Nations Security Management System.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WFP SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

4. **Security assessments:** Site and threat assessments have now been completed in 36 countries, focusing initially on those at highest risk, the Humanitarian Response Depot (Brindisi) and WFP Headquarters. Assessments are planned for the remainder of 2004 in an additional 27 countries and for the WFP offices in New York, in cooperation with UNSECOORD, and Washington, in cooperation with the World Bank. Priority will be given to WFP offices in United Nations houses or joint premises shared with other agencies. Assessments for the remaining 20 WFP countries are scheduled for the first half of 2005; the Country Team Threat and Risk Assessments requested by UNSECOORD will serve until that time.
5. In order to utilize resources effectively, site security assessments and country-level threat assessments are conducted by WFP regional security advisers (RSAs), field security officers (FSOs) or external security professionals engaged as WFP consultants as part of the same mission to a particular country. Where possible, WFP seeks to conduct these missions jointly with UNSECOORD and the other field-based agencies.
6. **Physical security improvements:** Funding has been provided to install shatter-resistant film on the windows of all WFP offices worldwide, following the instruction of the Executive Director. Installation started in areas at security phase III or above as a priority, and is currently in progress or has been completed in 51 countries, including WFP Headquarters and the Washington liaison office. Price quotations have been requested for an additional 18 countries; 19 other countries and liaison offices are in the process of finalizing their requirements. It is planned that installation at all WFP locations will be completed before the end of 2004.



7. Physical security improvements include shatter-resistant film for vehicles and improved access-control systems and protective measures for facilities as appropriate. Relocation of the main entrance gate at Headquarters will be completed this year; installation of a global access-control system will start at Headquarters in 2004 and roll out to major WFP offices worldwide in 2005.
8. **Field security improvements:** The level of compliance with Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) in all WFP country offices is under review, with the aim of achieving 100 percent compliance by the end of the year. A MOSS check-list is being prepared for distribution to all country offices to help them to identify remaining items to be addressed. To date, funds have been provided to 34 country offices that have identified their needs for additional security equipment.
9. Achieving MOSS compliance has proved elusive for WFP and all United Nations field-based agencies. Reasons for this include (i) escalating security phases, which increase MOSS requirements, (ii) the burden of additional protective measures for facilities and staff, (iii) the need to replace broken, obsolete or lost equipment, for example after an evacuation, and (iv) funding constraints, because reaching and maintaining 100 percent MOSS compliance in some high-risk duty stations goes beyond the usual level of direct support costs (DSC).
10. With regard to the flow of security information to and from the field, all country directors have been reminded to designate a security focal point from among their senior international staff in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Executive Director's circular 2003/001 and to ensure that local security coordination cells are activated, with the involvement of UNSECOORD and FSOs.
11. **Staff personal safety:** WFP believes strongly that security training helps to increase awareness and save lives. The following training initiatives have been funded by the Security Upgrade Programme: (i) ship and port security: 20 FSOs and logistics officers, (ii) air security: 20 FSOs and air operations staff, (iii) X-ray machine and improvised explosive devices: 18 guards and mail room staff, and (iv) close protection: three guards. Development of courses for hostage survival and firearms training for guards is underway; the module for medical trauma training for FSOs has been intensified as part of their annual refresher workshop. Completion of the UNSECOORD CD-ROM *Basic Security in the Field* continues to be mandatory for all staff prior to travel to an area under a security phase. Also under this category, additional body armour and ballistic blankets for vehicles have been provided to ten country offices.
12. **Security resources:** An RSA has been added to each of the six regional bureaux. New FSO posts have been created in 12 high-risk countries, as opposed to the seven originally envisioned; recruitment is 50 percent completed. A Headquarters-based security analyst has taken up duties to collect and interpret information from the field with a view to projecting changes in threat levels at WFP duty stations around the world; a Chief of Headquarters Security will join WFP in June to liaise with the host Government, Member States and international organizations on mitigating risks to WFP staff arising from situations of insecurity.



UPDATE ON FUNDING OF THE WFP SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

13. Following the Board's decision at its Third Session in October 2003, the Executive Director allotted US\$20 million to the WFP Security Upgrade Programme for the 2004–2005 biennium. These funds were earmarked for the main areas of the Security Upgrade Programme, for which progress has been reported above.
14. As of mid-May 2004, 62 percent of the allotted amount, US\$12.4 million, has been committed; current indications are that total costs will reach US\$16.8 million by the end of 2004, 84 percent of the total allotted.
15. The trend reported to the Board at its First Regular Session in February 2004 continues: actual spending is generally within the amounts planned, but two categories — field security improvements and security resources — are requiring more than estimated, primarily because of MOSS requirements, which have increased as a result of (i) increased levels of global insecurity and (ii) recruitment of security staff, which has proceeded faster than planned because of effective use of the WFP security roster system.
16. At the current rate of expenditure, the original allotment of US\$20 million is expected to be fully utilized by the end of the first quarter of 2005. One-time security upgrades such as installing shatter-resistant film and reinforcing the Headquarters main entrance will have been completed by that time, but ongoing security requirements such as maintenance of MOSS will require subsequent funding through DSC, donor funding or some other mechanism. All security resources involving staffing have already been committed at least to the end of 2005, in accordance with WFP's policy of offering two-year fixed-term contracts. Security-related staffing required in the next biennium will be included in the Management Plan for 2006–2007.

UPDATE ON WFP'S FUNDING OF ITS SHARE OF THE UNSECOORD BUDGET FOR 2004–2005

17. The 2004–2005 Management Plan approved by the Board made provision for US\$15 million to cover WFP's share of UNSECOORD costs, the Malicious Acts Insurance Policy (MAIP), and contributions to United Nations Reform (Common Premises and Services). Some initial funding has been made available from the DSC Advance Facility; discussions are underway regarding raising donor support for these important activities.
18. The budget for UNSECOORD for the 2004–2005 biennium approved by the General Assembly (A/58/6, Sect. 31) is US\$86.8 million, compared with US\$55.4 million for the last biennium; the largest part of this increase is the result of full funding of 100 FSO and 200 local-level posts for the biennium. The United Nations' share, for United Nations Headquarters costs for managing the United Nations Security Management System, is US\$14.8 million, funded from the United Nations Regular Budget. The remaining US\$71.9 million consists of field-related support costs apportioned among participating organizations.
19. WFP's share was projected by UNSECOORD to be 10.8 percent of field-related costs, or US\$7.7 million for the biennium, based on the results of a worldwide census in July 2003 of United Nations staff on all contract types in non-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) duty stations. According to its records, WFP had about 13 percent of United Nations field staff at that time, so its cost share would be higher; WFP also provided US\$9.4 million in the Management Plan for 2004–2005



approved by the Board. This amount does not include premiums for MAIP, which are billed and paid separately.

20. In order to cover all its staff around the world, WFP currently participates in the United Nations MAIP and has a supplementary policy of its own. However, because of different staff distribution and risk profiles, MAIP premiums through the United Nations policy have doubled and the number of exclusions has increased. An analysis by WFP insurance experts in OTI concluded that insurance cost increases could be minimized if WFP would itself maintain a single MAIP. Arrangements have been made to put this in place by the end of the year; UNSECOORD has been notified.
21. As a result of the recommendations in the “Report of the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel in Iraq” subsequent to the bombing of the United Nations premises in Baghdad on 19 August 2003, the Secretary-General appointed a professional change manager to examine the United Nations Security Management System with a view to increasing its effectiveness. Any change in UNSECOORD’s structure would affect WFP’s share of costs, so the US\$15 million provided for this item for the current biennium would change accordingly. The change manager’s report will be completed in July; any cost implications for WFP will be known afterwards.

THE WAY FORWARD

22. The Executive Director will continue to consult with Member States, the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of United Nations agencies so that the General Assembly may consider revisiting the funding of the United Nations Security Management System from the United Nations regular budget.
23. The Headquarters and Field Security Branch of the Management Services Division will continue to monitor implementation of the WFP Security Upgrade Programme; the Secretariat will report to the Board on further progress, including funding, at the First Regular Session in February 2005.
24. As indicated in its Programme of Work, the Secretariat will update the Board at its Annual Session each year on implementation of new security management arrangements in the United Nations system, including WFP’s financial obligations towards the United Nations Security Management System and UNSECOORD. The Secretariat will report any significant changes in WFP’s share of costs or in the cost-sharing mechanism to the Board at the subsequent session.
25. The responsible WFP divisions — HR, ICT, MS, OD and OT — will follow up the recommendations of the meeting of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network hosted by WFP in Rome on 10–14 May 2004 and support policy recommendations to the High-Level Committee on Management.
26. WFP will continue to contribute to the United Nations Security Management System at the inter-agency level, in particular in the areas of air safety, telecommunications, training and emergency response.



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

DSC	direct support costs
FSO	field security officer
MAIP	Malicious Acts Insurance Policy
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OTI	Legal and Insurance Service (WFP)
RSA	regional security adviser
UNSECOORD	Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

