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Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 27–28 May 2004

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 5

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2003) – BANGLADESH 10045.2

Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

Number of beneficiaries	22,000 (11,970 women; 10,030 men) 4,500 host population (50 percent women)
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Duration of project	12 months (1 January–31 December 2004)
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Cost (United States dollars)

Total food cost	1,428,135
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Cost to UNHCR	1,445,712
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Total cost to WFP	2,004,281
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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 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, Asia Regional Bureau (ODB): Mr A. Banbury

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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. During the latter part of 1991, people of the Rohingyas ethnic minority in Myanmar began to cross the border into neighbouring Bangladesh following alleged religious and ethnic persecution. Within months, the officially recognized Rohingya refugee population had increased to almost 250,000.
2. Repatriation began in September 1992; by mid-1997 fewer than 25,000 Rohingyas remained in camps in Bangladesh. Since then, the pace of repatriation has slowed considerably, reflecting the complicated issues surrounding the remaining refugees. In addition to registered refugees, there are also 200,000 unregistered refugees living in Bangladesh, primarily in and around Cox's Bazar, who do not receive support.
3. There is little likelihood of a durable solution for the remaining 22,000 Rohingya refugees, who live in two camps. The Government of Bangladesh continues to hold the position that repatriation remains the most desirable solution, and that local integration is not an option; the Government of Myanmar has recently cleared an additional caseload of refugees for repatriation. WFP continues to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in its continuing bilateral negotiations with both governments.
4. Under the current one-year phase of the protracted relief and recovery operation, which ends in December 2004, WFP assists 22,000 refugees and 4,500 members of the host population through a general food ration, targeted selective feeding programmes and an expanded school-feeding programme. A limited number of food-for-training and related activities have been undertaken, mainly targeting women and girls, to encourage efforts toward self-reliance and contribute to the well-being of the refugee community. A small food-for-work programme aims to improve relations between refugees and the host population living near the camps.
5. In line with the recommendations of a joint UNHCR/WFP food needs assessment mission in July 2002, the food basket remains unchanged. It consists of rice, pulses, blended food, vegetable oil, sugar, salt, dried skim milk and fortified biscuits. The per capita daily general food ration amounts to 2,160 kcal.
6. 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 the transport, delivery, storage and distribution of WFP-supplied food aid and subsequent reporting at the camp level.
7. The Department of Health provides health services. International non-governmental organizations, such as Concern organize selective feeding programmes and implement community development activities, self-help projects, skills training and primary education, with the support of UNHCR. Regular coordination meetings are held at the local and central levels with the government institutions concerned and implementing partners to improve coordination.

