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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 17 - 19 May 2000**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

**Agenda item 7**

***For information***

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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1999)— GUINEA-BISSAU 6154.00

### Assistance to Vulnerable Groups and Recovery Activities

Number of beneficiaries	93,100
Duration	Eighteen months (January 2000–June 2001)
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Total cost to WFP	5,678,894
Total food cost	2,034,490

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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(s) 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 Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).



1. The internal conflict which started in June 1998 in Guinea Bissau lasted until May 1999, when the ruling Government was defeated. The war caused the destruction of infrastructure, collapse of governmental and administrative structures and disintegration of the social fabric. In a country which was before the civil war ranked 163<sup>rd</sup> out of 174 countries on the Human Development Index, the crisis aggravated the prevailing social and economic problems. Poverty and unemployment were widespread; access to food was difficult, causing nutritional problems among the most vulnerable populations. As a result of insecurity and difficult living conditions, the war and its aftermath led to a major displacement of the population, estimated at about 350,000–430,000 people. The population fled out of Bissau, the major battlefield, mainly to other parts of the country and to the neighbouring countries of Gambia, Guinea and Senegal, and further to seek asylum in Cape Verde and Portugal.
2. WFP has been distributing food to internally displaced persons and returnees through emergency operation (EMOP) 6033.00, approved in August 1998, in partnership with NGOs and other organizations. These include the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Caritas, Evangelical Church, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).
3. The PRRO will pursue the shift of strategy initiated under the EMOP for WFP assistance to be better targeted. The overall objectives are to support the reconciliation and reconstruction efforts of the Government, and to assist vulnerable groups. Through its immediate objectives, the PRRO will contribute to improving the nutritional status of the most vulnerable population, improving pupils' and families' food consumption by promoting school enrolment and attendance—particularly for girls—assisting the economic reintegration of demobilized soldiers, and increasing food security in rural communities.
4. About 93,100 beneficiaries are targeted, of whom some 65 percent are women and girls.