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PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PROJECT BANGLADESH 5329 (Exp.1)

Assistance to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar

Duration of project	Twelve months
Total cost to WFP	2 134 308 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	33 000

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar equalled 42.20 taka in December 1996.

For relevant statistical data, please consult the WFP country profile for Bangladesh, which is available on request.

ABSTRACT

In 1991-92, a large number of the Muslim Rohingya minority from Myanmar sought refuge in the southern part of Bangladesh. At the height of the refugee situation, a total of over 250,000 refugees were registered. As the numbers rose, the Government of Bangladesh requested international assistance. WFP, in close cooperation with the Government and UNHCR, provided emergency food aid to the refugees under emergency operation (EMOP) No. 4999 and extensions from April 1992 to December 1993. Continued assistance was provided during 1994-96 under PRO No. 5329.

The Government had originally envisaged the completion of repatriation by the end of 1996. However, the application of stricter criteria by the Government of the Union of Myanmar resulted in a smaller number of people than anticipated being cleared for repatriation in 1995 and 1996. The Government has therefore requested continuation of WFP's assistance for the remaining refugees over a period of six months, from 1 January to 30 June 1997. It is estimated that about 33,000 refugees will still remain in the country at the beginning of 1997. With a projected monthly repatriation of 3,000 from January to June, an average of 24,000 is considered for the feeding programme during that period. In addition, contingency support is proposed until the end of 1997 for the 15,000 refugees expected to remain in Bangladesh after 1 July.

Considering prevailing malnutrition rates, in addition to the basic general rations, WFP will continue to provide additional food for malnourished children and adults at risk under supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes. Under this project WFP will supply the following food commodities: 4,662 tons of wheat (to repay 3,330 tons of rice to be advanced from government stocks), 227 of pulses, 156 of vegetable oil, 74 of salt, 154 of sugar and 475 of blended food.

In addition to the WFP food assistance, UNHCR will supply 66 tons of condiments and 15 tons of dried skimmed milk. A number of NGOs also provide assistance for the refugees in the health, nutrition and sanitation sectors.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

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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.: 5228-2641).



