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Agenda Item 9

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Reports of the Executive Director on
Operational Matters

For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's Website (<http://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Emergency Operations Approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO (1 January–30 June 2016)

1. At its Third Regular Session of 2001, the Board asked to be regularly informed about emergency operations (EMOPs) approved jointly by the Executive Director (ED) and the Director-General (DG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. Since the Second Regular Session of 2002 this information has been provided twice a year.
2. This report covers EMOPs approved between 1 January and 30 June 2016, as shown in the attached tables. Table A lists EMOPs with a food value of more than USD 3 million approved jointly by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO. Table B lists EMOPs with a food value of less than USD 3 million approved by the Chief of Staff under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. Table C lists EMOPs approved by Regional Directors (RDs), Country Directors (CDs) and/or the Director of Emergencies under authority delegated to them by the Executive Director.
3. During the period under review, a total of eighteen EMOPs were approved: five by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO; seven by the Chief of Staff; and six by Regional Directors, Country Directors or the Director of Emergencies. These operations provide food assistance to about 1.9 million people at a food cost of USD 80 million. The total cost to WFP is USD 132 million.

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EMOPs Approved Jointly by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO

4. **Haiti EMOP 200949 (15 March 2016–14 September 2016)** responded to protracted El Niño-induced drought, which had exacerbated food insecurity. In line with the Government's response plan, the operation aimed to address the immediate needs of drought-affected populations through: i) unconditional cash and food transfers; ii) cash-for-assets activities encompassing watershed management and soil conservation; and iii) blanket supplementary feeding to mitigate acute malnutrition during the lean season. This EMOP aimed to support 1 million beneficiaries with 10,548 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 81.5 million.
5. **Papua New Guinea EMOP 200966 (25 April 2016–31 August 2016)** aimed to mitigate the impact of a rapidly deteriorating food and nutrition situation resulting from El Niño phenomena, which seriously disrupted agricultural production and livelihoods and led to food and water shortages. Through general food distributions consisting mainly of rice, this EMOP focused on supporting 180,000 beneficiaries in highly vulnerable areas with 5,400 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 13.5 million.
6. **Swaziland EMOP 200974 (1 June 2016–31 March 2017)** aims to assist populations severely affected by the devastating impact of El Niño. As the crisis unfolded, the Prime Minister declared a national state of emergency on 18 February 2016. An estimated 320,000 people affected by the drought are in need of food assistance in 2016, with this number likely to rise at the peak of the lean season. EMOP activities aim to: i) deliver food and cash-based support to drought-affected populations; ii) provide technical assistance to the National Disaster Management Authority to enhance early warning systems and bolster national disaster preparedness and mitigation measures; and iii) address the food security and nutrition needs of groups affected by HIV/AIDS. In total, this EMOP will provide life-saving assistance for 150,000 beneficiaries with 12,264 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 13 million.
7. **Ecuador EMOP 200665 (21 April 2016–20 July 2016)** supported vulnerable populations in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake that struck the Esmeraldas and Manabí areas of Ecuador on 16 April 2016. Government reports indicated significant loss of life and household assets, destruction of essential infrastructure, and food and water shortages. Using high-energy biscuits, general food distributions and/or cash-based transfers, this EMOP supported 260,000 beneficiaries with 33 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 11.4 million.
8. **Fiji EMOP 200957 (21 March 2016–30 June 2016)** responded to the category 5 tropical cyclone Winston, which hit Fiji on 20 and 21 February 2016. Humanitarian impact indicated devastation over a wide geographical area, affecting several islands and severely damaging crops. Cash-based transfers in the 12 most cyclone-affected areas in Northern, Eastern, Western and Central divisions aimed to assist 60,000 beneficiaries who were registered in the Government's social safety net schemes. Logistics support addressed shortfalls in local storage capacity for relief items and helped restore communication infrastructure for remote island locations. The total cost was USD 2.8 million.

EMOPs Approved Under the Delegated Authority of the Chief of Staff

9. **Sri Lanka EMOP 200990 (15 June 2016–15 September 2016)** responded to the impact of severe tropical storm Roanu, which hit Sri Lanka on 15 May 2016 causing widespread damage to homes, infrastructure and agricultural production. Many people lost all their personal and productive assets and were forced to live in temporary accommodation. The Disaster Management Centre stated that 22 of the country's 25 districts were severely affected by floods and landslides. Through the Government's Samurdhi social safety net system, this EMOP aimed to deliver cash-based assistance to 40,000 beneficiaries in the most affected areas, at a total cost of USD 2.3 million.

10. **Paraguay immediate-response (IR)-EMOP 200937 (1 February 2016–30 April 2016)** aimed to restore basic livelihoods and provide emergency assistance in response to the 11 January 2016 floods, which caused extensive loss and destroyed critical food and income sources for 166,000 people in seven departments of Asunción. At the Government's request, and based on the findings of a WFP rapid assessment, the EMOP used cash-based transfers to address the immediate food needs of 33,525 people in five camps in Asunción. Targeting focused on areas with access to supermarkets and reduced presence of local authorities. The total cost was USD 1.5 million.
11. **Nigeria IR-EMOP 200965 (1 April 2016–30 June 2016)** aimed to strengthen preparedness and readiness for the planned scale-up of WFP operations in response to the crisis in northern Nigeria. To ensure continuous analysis of the food security situation and the displacement crisis, WFP: i) developed an access strategy; ii) carried out a rapid needs assessment; iii) deployed a multi-functional mission to assess transfer modalities in rural areas; and iv) expanded mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping activities. The total cost was USD 300,000.
12. **Central African Republic IR-EMOP 200955 (28 March 2016–28 June 2016)** aimed to reinforce WFP's preparedness and response capacities following further violence and displacements in the Central African Republic. The operation focused on: i) developing and implementing an emergency preparedness and response package; ii) ensuring comprehensive monitoring of the in-country food security situation; and iii) assessing the feasibility of implementing a cash-based intervention. The total cost was USD 275,653.
13. **Colombia IR-EMOP 200916 (8 February 2016–8 May 2016)** aimed to minimize the effects of El Niño-induced drought in Colombia. The impacts of extreme weather events on livelihoods and food and nutrition security include disrupted income-generating opportunities, irregular harvests and rainfall patterns, water shortages, reduced crop yields and the loss of livestock. To address in-country capacity gaps, interventions included: i) supporting the Government in needs and market assessments in affected areas; ii) establishing an early warning system to assess El Niño's impacts on food security; iii) strengthening institutional capacities in contingency planning and risk analysis; and iv) developing systems to disseminate knowledge of effective preparedness actions at the departmental and regional levels. The total cost was USD 211,111.
14. **Ecuador IR-EMOP 200915 (1 February 2016–30 April 2016)** aimed to bolster the Government's preparedness capacities in response to El Niño phenomena. Extreme variations in climate will continue to have medium- and long-term impacts in Ecuador, particularly on livelihoods and food and nutrition security. Heavy precipitation along the country's coast resulted in widespread flooding and landslides. Following the development of a joint strategy with the Government's Risk Management Secretariat, the EMOP aimed to: i) strengthen local capacities in needs assessment; ii) assess the logistics capacity of the Risk Management Secretariat and recommend improvements; iii) support the development of a preparedness plan in response to El Niño phenomena; and iv) produce technical materials for needs assessments and preparedness activities. The total cost was USD 208,251.
15. **Southern Africa IR-EMOP 200979 (26 May 2016–25 July 2016)** aimed to strengthen the preparedness capacities of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC's) El Niño Logistics and Coordination Centre. With southern Africa facing the driest growing season in 35 years, drought emergencies have been declared in Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, and SADC's rapid assessments indicated that 32 million people were food-insecure. Aiming to enhance the coordination of El Niño mitigation activities, the EMOP supported SADC by recruiting: i) a senior advisor; ii) a food security analyst; iii) two logistics/transport experts; and iv) a communications and information technology expert. The total cost was USD 145,762.

EMOPs Approved Under the Delegated Authority of Regional Directors, Country Directors and/or the Director of Emergencies

16. **Nigeria IR-EMOP 200969 (1 May 2016–30 June 2016)** responded to the critical needs of highly food-insecure children affected by conflict in northeastern Nigeria. With the Boko Haram conflict resulting in the displacement of 2.2 million people in Nigeria, nutrition assessments in camps in the Maiduguri area suggested that an alarming number of children were suffering from acute malnutrition. The latest rapid food security assessment indicated that 500,000 people were severely food-insecure. Using blanket supplementary feeding based on specialized nutritious products, this EMOP aimed to meet the requirements of 54,000 children aged 6–23 months in vulnerable wards and camps in the Maiduguri area, with 300 mt of food and at a total cost of USD 1.5 million.
17. **Armenia IR-EMOP 200968 (25 April 2016–25 July 2016)** responded to heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces on 2 April 2016 along the southern, southeastern and northeastern parts of the Line of Contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. In the event of re-escalation of the conflict, it is anticipated that massive displacements would require a significant scale-up of humanitarian assistance. A major scale-up of preparedness measures was therefore needed to ensure that WFP has the capacity to launch a comprehensive emergency response operation swiftly. Measures included the deployment of: i) an emergency coordinator to foster inter-agency coordination; ii) a mission to conduct market assessments and a feasibility study of cash-based transfers; iii) a mission to identify information technology gaps and propose corrective measures; and iv) the logistics cluster team to carry out a countrywide supply chain assessment. The total cost was USD 280,347.
18. **Lesotho IR-EMOP 200939 (18 February 2016–17 May 2016)** addressed the emergency needs of drought-affected populations in the Mafeteng and Mophale's Hoek districts of Lesotho. In November 2015, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee indicated that 460,000 people were at risk of acute food insecurity. On 22 December, the Government declared a state of emergency and sought the support of the international community in mitigating the effects of El Niño. Reports indicated that communities were adopting negative coping mechanisms including skipping meals and selling productive assets. WFP targeted 20,920 beneficiaries for monthly cash-based transfers, facilitating access to basic foods on local markets. The total cost was USD 1 million.
19. **Fiji IR-EMOP 200952 (1 March 2016–31 May 2016)** aimed to provide life-saving assistance to populations affected by the devastating impact of category 5 tropical cyclone Winston. The Government reported that 350,000 people had been affected. Damage amounted to USD 500 million, including widespread destruction to infrastructure, homes and the agriculture sector. The EMOP carried out rapid assessments and assisted 7,000 of the most affected beneficiaries through cash-based transfers, at a total cost of USD 714,311.
20. **Swaziland IR-EMOP 200954 (15 April 2016–14 July 2016)** responded to El Niño-induced drought, which had resulted in increased food insecurity and reduced crop yields. The Prime Minister declared a national state of emergency on 18 February 2016, and launched a National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. The Swaziland Vulnerability Assessment Committee projected that more than 300,000 drought-affected people were in need of immediate food assistance, with impacts on pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years of age being of particular concern. Drought mitigation activities focused on supporting 72,000 beneficiaries in the most affected regions of Lubombo and Shiselweni through household rations consisting of cereals, pulses and oil. The EMOP aimed to distribute 959 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 680,078.

21. **Nepal IR-EMOP 200983 (1 June 2016–31 August 2016)** aimed to deliver emergency assistance to drought-affected populations in the Karnali region who were suffering from an acute food crisis. Government reports indicated that 150,000 people in the five Karnali districts required immediate food and nutrition support. Life-saving assistance was provided in Jumla and Mugu districts through blanket supplementary feeding consisting of SuperCereal for 21,335 beneficiaries. The EMOP distributed 192 mt of food, at a total cost of USD 350,771.

Trend Analysis

22. The value of the EMOPs approved by the Executive Director or under her delegated authority during the period covered by this report represents a decrease of USD 162 million compared with the USD 294 million approved during the same period in 2015.

EMOPs APPROVED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2016										
Approving authority	Project number	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project title	Tonnage (mt)	Food cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
TABLE A: EMOPs APPROVED JOINTLY BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO										
ED/DG	200949	RBP	Haiti	Emergency response to drought	10 548	52 449 227	81 528 700	1 000 000	06/04/2016	179
ED/DG	200966	RBB	Papua New Guinea	Food assistance to El Niño affected populations in Papua New Guinea	5 400	3 780 000	13 547 574	180 000	10/05/2016	126
ED/DG	200974	RBJ	Swaziland	Swaziland EMOP – emergency assistance to drought-affected population in Swaziland	12 264	9 022 626	13 035 856	150 000	01/06/2016	300
ED/DG	200665	RBP	Ecuador	Emergency food assistance to populations affected by earthquakes in Ecuador	33	7 924 060	11 374 263	260 000	26/04/2016	89
ED	200957	RBB	Fiji	WFP food assistance, emergency logistics and telecom capacity in support of the Government of the Republic of Fiji's response to tropical cyclone Winston	-	1 373 600	2 826 073	60 000	29/03/2016	99
Subtotal Table A					28 245	74 549 512	122 312 466	1 650 000		

EMOPs APPROVED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2016										
Approving authority	Project number	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project title	Tonnage (mt)	Food cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
TABLE B: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF										
Chief of Staff	200990	RBB	Sri Lanka	Targeted emergency cash assistance to the most vulnerable in support of the Government of Sri Lanka's response to the flood and landslide disaster	-	1 800 000	2 277 257	40 000	23/06/2016	90
Chief of Staff	200937	RBP	Paraguay	Emergency response to flood-affected families in Paraguay	-	1 108 455	1 470 624	33 525	28/01/2016	89
Chief of Staff	200965	RBD	Nigeria	Emergency preparedness activities in Nigeria	-	-	300 000	-	08/04/2016	89
Chief of Staff	200955	RBD	Central African Republic	Emergency preparedness activities in the Central African Republic	-	-	275 653	-	08/03/2016	90
Chief of Staff	200916	RBP	Colombia	El Niño special preparedness activities in Colombia	-	-	211 111	-	10/02/2016	90
Chief of Staff	200915	RBP	Ecuador	El Niño special preparedness activities in Ecuador	-	-	208 251	-	27/01/2016	89
Chief of Staff	200979	RBJ	RBJ	Augmentation of WFP support to the SADC secretariat and member states in response to El Niño-related drought	-	-	145 762	-	01/06/2016	59
Subtotal Table B					-	2 908 455	4 888 658	73 525		

EMOPs APPROVED 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2016										
Approving authority	Project number	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project title	Tonnage (mt)	Food cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
TABLE C: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS, COUNTRY DIRECTORS OR THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCIES										
DIR. EMER	200969	RBD	Nigeria	Life-saving support to highly food-insecure young children affected by conflict and insecurity in northeastern Nigeria	300	789 000	1 500 000	54 000	15/04/2016	59
DIR. EMER	200968	RBC	Armenia	Special preparedness activities in Armenia	-	-	280 347	-	28/04/2016	90
RD	200939	RBJ	Lesotho	Emergency assistance for vulnerable households affected by El Niño drought conditions in Lesotho	-	816 000	1 000 000	20 920	17/02/2016	89
RD	200952	RBB	Fiji	Fiji emergency response to tropical cyclone Winston	-	330 400	714 311	7 000	04/03/2016	90
RD	200954	RBJ	Swaziland	Emergency assistance to vulnerable households affected by El Niño-induced drought in Swaziland	959	437 903	680 078	72 000	29/03/2016	89
CD	200983	RBB	Nepal	Karnali drought response	192	153 600	350 771	21 335	12/05/2016	90
Subtotal Table C					1 451	2 526 903	4 525 508	175 255		
TOTAL					29 696	79 984 871	131 726 631	1 898 780		

Acronyms Used in the Document

CD	Country Director
DG	Director-General of FAO
ED	Executive Director
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IR	immediate response
RBB	Bangkok Regional Bureau (Asia)
RBC	Cairo Regional Bureau (Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia)
RBJ	Johannesburg Regional Bureau (Southern Africa)
RBP	Panama Regional Bureau (Latin America and the Caribbean)
RD	Regional Director
SADC	Southern African Development Community