

## CD Board Speech

Madame la Présidente, je vous remercie de me donner la parole.

J'aimerais vous parler aujourd'hui du nouveau PRRO du PAM au Tchad. Ce pays, comme vous le savez, après de nombreuses années de difficultés, est en train de prendre une bonne direction – Le Tchad prend le chemin de la paix et du développement et cela nous donne de nombreuses possibilités pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et l'occasion de construire un programme innovant qui répondra mieux aux besoins de la population.

Mais avant d'aller plus loin dans la description du programme, j'aimerais vous présenter deux tchadiennes qui seront particulièrement impliquées dans sa mise en œuvre.

--Son Excellence Mme. **Mariam Nour**, tout d'abord est Ministre du Plan et de la Coopération Économique. Elle a été directrice de la FAO dans plusieurs pays et notamment en Mauritanie et au Mali)

--Ensuite, Son Excellence, Mme. **Baiwong Djibergui Amane** est Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement. Elle a travaillé en collaboration avec nous en tant que Ministre de l'Action Sociale cette année alors que 116,000 retournées de Centre Afrique sont arrivées au Tchad avec seulement quelques vêtements sur le dos pour tout bagage.

Dans un pays où la malnutrition chronique affecte 39% des enfants de moins de 5 ans, il est clair que la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et l'amélioration de la condition des femmes représentent des défis immenses.

Ces deux ministres, vont s'assurer que leur programme que nous mettons en oeuvre en commun produira tous les resultats attendus.

Members of the Executive Board, the new PRRO that I present today represents a **bold plan to shift from a relief to a resilience focus in Chad**. I say this is a bold plan, because, although Chad is a sea of calm, it is a landlocked country in a precarious environment. At each frontier there are conflicts or crisis that could easily spill over into Chad - a nation which is still emerging from many years of its own conflict and crisis.

**The shift from a relief to a resilience** focus requires nothing short of a paradigm shift in the way WFP does business in Chad. To that end, allow me to briefly describe what we will do differently in this PRRO, in order to deliver on our promise to make the shift in two short years.

First, **We will use markets to a much further extent that we ever could have imagined only five years ago in Chad**. The increased use of market-based mechanisms – including both the use of vouchers and the local purchase of

commodities – will help promote the development and integration of Chadian markets.

An **increased use of vouchers** will mean that we are helping small merchants while at the same time allowing Chadians, retournées and eventually refugees, to select the food that they want, and improve the efficiency of our operation by reducing significantly our dependency on the congested and expensive Douala corridor.

**Increased local purchases** in SURPLUS areas, to support distributions in DEFICIT areas, will also help integrate Chadian markets by building the linkage between surplus and deficit areas, however, our real focus is the smallholder farmer.

This year we bought a mere 100MT from the smallest of associations, including women's associations. The farmers loved it and have already promised that they will have much more to sell us this year. As described by one farmer, it is **“food by us, for us”**, meaning that WFP purchases ensure that Chadian's are growing food which can be used to feed fellow Chadians in deficits areas, such as the sahelian zone. We hope, with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, we can really build on this strategy in the next two years. And, while our focus will be on the smallholder farmers, we hope at the same time to do much larger local purchases from larger grain merchants in the surplus areas.

As you might expect, **a bold plan also needs new and specialized tools**. We are fully cognizant of the possible effects that an increased use of market-based mechanisms could have on local markets. Regional events will likely also impact Chadian markets. If borders are closed due to Boko Haram or Ebola, we will feel the impact in Chad.

So, we also have developed a new strategy for monitoring markets at the sub-national, national, and from the regional perspective. The pace of change in our programme– moving from direct distribution to market based tools – will vary in different areas of the country and will reflect local market and supply conditions. We will also have to watch the indicators, so that we are aware of when we need to readjust modalities: when cash is best, when vouchers will work, and when we need to revert to in-kind distributions.

With close to 500,000 refugees in Chad from Sudan and from Central African Republic, no paradigm shift would be complete without a **relook at how we assist long-term refugee populations**. In this vein, WFP Chad is implementing a joint pilot with UNHCR to find long-term solutions for old-case refugees.

Assistance to these populations will increasingly be based on **vulnerability and need, rather than refugee status**. In short, this means that assistance will be better targeted to refugee needs, rather than the fact that they are a refugees.

Although the longer term solutions will involve interventions well beyond food assistance, WFP is very much focused on better ways to serve a population that has –over 10+ years of displacement.

We have recently completed a re-targeting exercise in one of the camps which helped us recalibrate the assistance based on the vulnerability of the people. The most vulnerable now receive a larger ration than before, and better off families received reduced or no rations.

Hand in hand with this targeting effort, UNHCR will be implementing a biometrics registration system that is likely to begin in February of 2015, which will help us to further understand the current refugee population and their needs.

**Nutrition will also see innovation under this PRRO.** We will move from a lifesaving treatment approach more towards a **prevention approach**. Under past PRROs, treatment through facilities (health centers) has been the main focus. However, there were two main barriers to improved results : distance to health centers was too far, and there is lack of capacity at health centers to treat the large number of cases of malnutrition.

The ADDITION of **community-based initiatives**, including training and capacity building at the community-level, will hopefully reinforce center based initiatives – giving more than one way to attack the very severe malnutrition levels in Chad particularly in the sahalien zone.

~~Results from the latest nutritional survey indicate a continuing fragile situation, with several regions having rates near or above the emergency thresholds. More preoccupying, even in regions with seemingly lower prevalence, the survey reveals persisting pockets of acute malnutrition, with rates as high as 22% for some departments. This demonstrates the need for WFP to go beyond treatment and address prevention at the community level (possible cut)~~

**Food for Asset programming will also change under this PRRO.**

In past PRROs, the policy has been to implement asset building activities AFTER all the nutritional and refugee pipeline needs were met. As resources are always hard to come by, and the pipeline is always stretched, there was no concerted effort to create assets that could build resilience among some of the most vulnerable people. In other words, FFA was in our toolbox but was often viewed as a luxury we couldn't afford. Now we are looking at FFA as an important foundation on which we will build our resilience programming and we are looking at it from the community perspective.

In short, there has been a fundamental strategic shift in the way we think about building livelihoods;

~~1) we will use a community based participatory approach to identify priority projects~~

- ~~2) our focus will be on partnerships – we need others such as FAO to help us~~
- ~~3) we will build the capacity of local partners~~
- ~~4) the food ration will no longer be based on consumption requirements but rather will be linked to maintaining coping capacity and~~
- ~~5) we will ring fence a set of resources so that the necessary resources are available to capitalize on these efforts. (possible cut)~~

I must thank the FFA unit in Rome, especially Phillip Crahay and his team for the support on getting us to where we are today with FFA.

**Crosscutting to all of these new approaches and strategies is to make sure that we are hearing the needs of our beneficiaries, particularly the women.**

In Chad, food insecurity affects women in a disproportionate way compared to men, with women-headed households being 50% more likely to be food insecure and to engage in negative coping strategies to mitigate food shortage. We know that if the needs of women are not met, we will never achieve zero hunger in Chad.

A March 2014 gender assessment will guide our work on gender as we implement this new PRRO. Many thanks to the Gender Unit who came to Chad to help us understand the complexities of the situation in Chad. I invite you to please take a copy of the full report or a summarized version—copies are just outside the board room.

We are already putting words into action as recommended in the report— For example, we have amended our assessment tools to help capture data relating to gender. We have just recently developed new guidelines for FFA activities, which will look at the burden on women, given their high participation in FFA programs. Our nutrition programs will also include an education component for women beneficiaries, and we have established solid feedback mechanisms through which issues related to gender and protection will be addressed and followed up. ~~Finally, we will recruit a protection/gender consultant at the P4 equivalent level to make sure that all of these actions and others are firmly established into an implementable strategy. (cut last sentence)~~

Madam President, ladies and gentlemen. In closing allow me to share a small story.

Starting in January of last year, Chad welcomed 116,000 people from the Central African Republic, fleeing violence.

When the call came from the Government of Chad asking for our help, I quickly called my staff in the field who sadly announced that we had absolutely no food in our southern warehouses to feed these new arrivals.

As a team, we sat together and agreed the fastest way to get food to these people was through vouchers, although we had little to no experience with vouchers in Chad, we moved forward anyway.

We got help from the regional bureau and from headquarters and with only the experience of a small pilot under our belts, we now have a full blown voucher program in Southern Chad. Today, we are feeding over 75,000 people every month through a voucher mechanism.

I take the time to tell this story, because I believe that achieving zero hunger demands innovation, boldness and change. When we received the hungry people from CAR, we had to change how we do business, and we did.

I sincerely hope that the programme that I have presented to you today reflects the innovative spirit with which we are approaching this PRRO to better meet the very considerable needs of Chadians and refugees alike.

Thank you.