

STATEMENT OF DALY BELGASMI, REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
ODC  
WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD  
14-17 NOVEMBER 2011

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

>>**Regional Trends/Challenges (slide 2)**

- The **global economic crisis** and the **Arab Spring** have sharpened the **challenges** faced by countries in the MENA region. The **disruptions in tourism, investment, and agriculture and production sectors**-have led to a sharp decline in regional growth during in 2011 and subsequent increase in unemployment.
- According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), national economies are expected to contract by 2 to 3 percent this year, if not more. These developments come against the region's existing challenges such as **climate change** and **natural disasters**. This is all adding to the vulnerability of the already food-insecure people.

>> **Risk, Emergency preparedness, WFP's ROLE**

- This year has been a challenge in terms of foreseeing crises **in unpredictable environments**. There was little warning with regard to the 'Arab Spring', yet WFP responded promptly and efficiently to the **immediate food security challenges** resulting from the North Africa Crisis and the unrest in Syria and Yemen. In **Central Asia**, WFP continues to play an active role in the Regional Risk Assessment forum which places focus on the regional dimension of risks and their required responses. WFP and FAO are co-leading the food security pillar.
- **WFP plays a major role in stabilization and stands in solidarity with recovery efforts in the region, through supporting the longer-term reform of the regional food system while addressing short-term humanitarian and livelihood needs.**

- ODC has recently finalized the **WFP MENA Strategy for 2011-2014** which intends to provide support in eight countries serving **approximately ten million beneficiaries** in the MENA region. The focus of the strategy includes: stabilizing the food supply, scaling-up and reforming safety nets, promoting nutrition and health, and tackling unemployment. **We continue to adjust our strategy based on honest lessons learnt in the field.**
- The strategy was drafted in line with the UNDG Regional Framework for the MENA region as partnerships are truly key to enhancing **WFP preparedness** given the volatility of the situation.

### >> **WFP's Response in 2011/Planned Response in 2012 (slide 3)**

- In **2011**, WFP addressed the food security needs of **9 million** beneficiaries through **33 operations**.
- Since the beginning of the **North Africa Crisis**, WFP has been instrumental in supporting the overall humanitarian response through the **logistics and ICT services**. Logistics support included the road, sea and air transportation of goods.
- During the first days of September, WFP- chartered ships delivered more than 523,000 litres of water on behalf of UNICEF to Tripoli, immediately after the water crisis was announced. Additionally, WFP and the Logistics Clusters completed the transport of medical supplies on behalf of WHO. The **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)** continues to provide support to UN and NGO agencies for voice and data connectivity in Benghazi and Tripoli.
- In **Libya**, new corridors were established under challenging conditions to be at the forefront of the humanitarian response. **More than 1.1 million people in** Misrata, Nafusa Mountain, Sirte, Bani Walid and southern territories have received support. More food is on the way to all critical locations. Food insecurity in Libya continues to

be an issue. WFP plans to undertake a cash and voucher intervention with Libyan partners targeting the most vulnerable in a sustainable manner and in line with government priorities.

- Additionally, WFP continues to provide support to refugees, returnees and third country nationals (TCNs) in Tunisia and Egypt. In **Tunisia**, WFP managed one of the biggest operations serving approximately 2,5 million meals at camps and Djerba airport to more than 74,000 beneficiaries. WFP had also provided a total of 65,000 TCNs stranded at the Egyptian border with cooked meals.
- **WFP's focus in the near future is to support the stabilization process in the following transitional phase.** WFP will continue providing recovery support to the most vulnerable returnees and their families. Today, we will present to you later our plans for the Egypt programme.
- In addition, a joint WFP/FAO PRRO is planned to providing assistance to the disadvantaged Tunisian rural communities affected by food insecurity caused by the current economic and political transition in the country. The programme is driven by the demands of the Tunisian people.
- **WFP Syria** is scaling up its response to people affected by the unrest by implementing a three month emergency response for 50,000 beneficiaries.
- In **oPt**, WFP plans to support the re-establishment of agricultural livelihoods and food security in communities most affected by the conflict through conditional voucher transfers, school feeding and support to the Palestinian economy through prioritization of local purchases.
- Sustainable interventions continue to support the recovery process in **Iraq**. The national school feeding programme was launched with the start of the new academic year 2011/2012 with the aim of providing

snacks to over 550,000 primary school children. Cash-for-work activities address the immediate food needs of 10,000 vulnerable families affected by conflict and to support their resettlement and rebuild their livelihoods.

- **Yemen** continues to face an increasingly complex and deteriorating humanitarian situation. Today we will submit Budget Revision 3 in order to extend the seasonal emergency safety net for 1.2 million and assist 21,000 newly displaced families. However, given that a full-scale humanitarian crisis has become apparent, WFP is planning to conduct a forth budget. I will share more details later.
- Our operation in **Tajikistan**, where a quarter of the population remains food insecure, has launched a project on child nutritional support. We are shifting the programmatic focus from Vulnerable Group Feeding to Food For Work projects designed to enhance communities' resilience to climate change and food insecurity.
- In **Kyrgyzstan**, WFP concluded its Emergency Operations in June 2011 and moved to a two year PRRO. Although the PRRO fore sees a gradual move away from humanitarian support to vulnerable groups by expanding FFW / FFT project, the food-security situation will remain extremely fragile in the years to come.
- In **Armenia** the school feeding programme is in a critical phase of handover to the government. The programme is an exemplary case of a sustainable WFP regional intervention and may require additional funding to ensure its full sustainability.

## Funding

- In order to successfully implement the WFP ODC strategy in 2012 and address the needs of 9 million beneficiaries in 2011 in an effective and adequate manner, ODC requires US\$ 752.1 million. To date, the shortfalls of our operations in 2011 alone are US\$ 162.1 million or 27 percent.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.  
Thank you.