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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 22 - 24 May 1996**

# **INFORMATION NOTE**

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**PROJECT SUDAN 4168 (Exp.4)**

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## **FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIAN AND ERITREAN REFUGEES**

1. The project was recommended for approval by the CFA at its Fortieth Session. However, at the Executive Board meeting in spring 1996, WFP would make available information concerning the results of the census/registration exercise to be carried out in late November 1995, progress achieved in the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Ethiopia and Eritrea and discussion of the issue of possible self-reliance of long settled populations.
2. A census/registration exercise for refugee camps in Eastern Sudan was carried out jointly by UNHCR, WFP and the Commission for Refugees (COR) from 23 March to 8 April 1996.
3. Following identification and registration, new ration cards were issued. The preliminary figures (not yet formally approved by COR) indicate 139,912 refugees.
4. No activity concerning the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees took place due to the lack of a tripartite agreement demanded by the Government of the Sudan and declined by the Government of Eritrea; an undetermined number of Eritrean refugees informally crossed the border into their home country.
5. As of April 1996, 19,396 Ethiopian refugees had been voluntarily repatriated, the great majority of whom were from WFP-assisted camps. UNHCR Khartoum plans to repatriate another estimated 30,000 from urban areas (not assisted by WFP) during 1996.

