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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 6–10 June 2011

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2011/11-C/1
21 April 2011
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2010) — MADAGASCAR 200065

Response to Recurrent Natural Disasters and Seasonal Food Insecurity

Number of beneficiaries	516,000 (yearly average)
Duration of project	2 years (1 July 2010–30 June 2012)
WFP food tonnage	32,795 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	11,918,508
Total cost to WFP	24,936,793

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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ABSTRACT

1. In Madagascar a combination of tropical storms and cyclones along the eastern coast and recurrent and prolonged drought, particularly in the rural south, contributes significantly to food insecurity and malnutrition. In the last four decades, the country has been afflicted by more than 50 natural disasters. In the south, chronic food insecurity exacerbates vulnerable communities' risk of malnutrition, and coping mechanisms are stretched to the limit. Recent studies showed that a combination of decreased income, limited access to loans, asset depletion and poor diet directly affects 720,000 people in the area. Among communities elsewhere in the country, cyclones and floods exacerbate an already fragile situation, affecting an average of 300,000 people each year.
2. Through protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200065, WFP and its cooperating partners are responding to the urgent needs of the communities most affected by natural disasters. WFP's contribution to capacity development and strengthening the resilience of communities is crucial to achieving future stability. Under the PRRO, WFP pre-positions food in disaster-prone areas, allowing timely responses. When a cyclone occurs, the PRRO supports the most vulnerable with food assistance, complemented by early recovery operations through food for work (FFW).
3. FFW activities are carried out during the lean season, when the impact of drought and food insecurity is greatest; they enable households to consume acceptable levels of food, thus minimizing unhealthy coping mechanisms. FFW helps communities to develop community-based assets that increase resilience to weather-related disasters, including through water harvesting, road repairs and the development of farm infrastructure such as irrigation channels, dams and wind barriers.
4. Through the PRRO, general food distributions (GFDs) are provided to the most vulnerable and those deemed unable to carry out FFW activities. A total of 200,000 vulnerable people will benefit from a combination of FFW and GFD, depending on available resources. Activities are implemented through partnership agreements with local and international non-governmental organizations, and are monitored through a results-oriented monitoring and evaluation system. The PRRO addresses WFP Strategic Objectives 1 – Save lives and protect livelihoods; 3 – Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods; and 5 – Strengthen capacity to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies.
5. The socio-political crisis that began in 2009 and led to the suspension of external development aid to Madagascar has had a significant impact on the level of support provided by the international community. Important social development projects have been suspended in the south, further aggravating the vulnerability of rural communities. To the extent the situation allows, the PRRO endeavours to develop the capacity of local partners, including the Government, to develop policies aimed at safeguarding and improving national food security. Conditions are unlikely to improve while Madagascar's political situation remains in stalemate and international funding is frozen. Potential security issues arising from the political situation are closely monitored, with some parts of the country already under United Nations Security Phase I. WFP complies with minimum operating security standards.