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MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRRO 103121

**Assistance to Populations Affected by
Conflicts and Poverty**

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

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 points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, Performance and Accountability Management Division: Ms R. Hansen 066513-2008

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



BACKGROUND

1. This document presents the Secretariat's response to the recommendations of the Summary Evaluation Report Republic of the Congo PRRO 103121.
2. The Secretariat recognizes the importance of improving the effectiveness of future interventions and will address the issues identified.
3. The Secretariat's responses to the recommendations are provided in the attached matrix.



**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRRO 103121**

Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
1. There is a general need to consolidate the type of activities supported by food for work (FFW) and the executing agents mobilized to implement them. Management capacities must be monitored through follow-up both in the field and in reporting tools.	Country office	<p>New project forms for FFW requests have been sent to cooperating partners. In such a small country office, lack of direct support costs funding leads to a reduction of monitoring and evaluation (M&E); the budget revision in March 2009 partially resolved this situation.</p> <p>The consolidation of reporting tools will be addressed through the new coordination unit (see recommendation 3).</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>April 2010</p>
2. FFW activities should complement the other activities being supported in order to create synergies. For example beneficiaries of HIV/AIDS activities could be supported through FFW, in income-generating activities such as small trading or arts and crafts.	Country office	FFW activities are selected on the basis of synergy with projects of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular the fight against cassava disease. Linkages between HIV/AIDS activities and food for training are being explored.	Ongoing
3. To ensure the smooth running of the whole PRRO it is essential that the coordination and cooperation mechanisms are in place and truly functional. For better implementation of M&E, it is essential that a unit be created for this purpose so that implementation bottlenecks are quickly identified and addressed.	Country office	Under the new WFP development project from April 2010 to December 2013, a new coordination unit will be established: it will be led by the Ministry of Planning and will include technicians from the departments of health, education and agriculture; special attention will be given to M&E.	April 2010
4. To maintain a high attendance rate in WFP-assisted schools, it is essential to resolve the logistics obstacles that hamper the regular and complete distribution of food up to the final distribution points.	Country office	<p>Pointe Noire is the entry port for food; goods forwarded to the Brazzaville region rely on <i>Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan</i> (CFCO) train services, but obsolete locomotives and lack of wagons means that transit times vary from 8 to 21 days. Distribution to extended delivery points (EDPs) is constrained by the poor state of roads, especially during the rainy season.</p> <p>The main actions to date are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ rehabilitation with CFCO of four wagons totalling 180 mt capacity; ➤ identification of truckers working in remote villages; and ➤ a cost-effectiveness study for a truck operated by the country office for transport to remote villages in the Pool region. 	<p>August to October 2009</p> <p>Done</p> <p>December 2009</p>



**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRRO 103121**

Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>5. Considering that school feeding has a positive effect on school enrolment and attendance, particularly for girls, and that efforts are still needed to support the Republic of the Congo in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, the next WFP food-for-education (FFE) intervention should maintain the present level of assistance to basic education through school feeding at pre-primary and primary levels. Studies should be conducted to ensure that FFE can continue to play a useful role in the education sector.</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>The country office will identify reference schools for monitoring and regular data collection to measure the impact of school meals in schools with and without school feeding.</p> <p>The ongoing comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment will help to identify the most food-insecure areas where WFP assistance will target children and support education.</p> <p>The same level of assistance for basic education will be maintained during the next FFE.</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>November 2009</p> <p>April 2010</p>



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CFCO	<i>Chemin de Fer Congo-Océan</i>
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFW	food for work
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation