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*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2008) — GUINEA-BISSAU 10609.0

Relief, Rehabilitation and Transition

Number of beneficiaries	436,160
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2009–31 December 2010)
WFP food tonnage	17,268 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	11,493,780
Total cost to WFP	20,913,495

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

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ABSTRACT

1. Guinea-Bissau has faced a long period of political instability and deterioration since the 1998–1999 armed conflict. The socio-economic conditions resulting from the high levels of instability have led Guinea-Bissau to be ranked 175th out of 177 countries on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2007 human development index, compared to its pre-conflict ranking of 163rd of 175 countries in 1997.
2. WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture completed several food security monitoring (FSM) surveys in 2007 and 2008, which are the main supporting documents of this protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO). The surveys found that agricultural production remained below the pre-civil war level, while food insecurity in rural areas showed only slight improvements. The acute malnutrition and child mortality rates are particularly high in rural areas, where 11 percent of children are acutely malnourished. Guinea-Bissau's infant mortality rate is also disturbingly high: 223 deaths per 1000 live births. Moreover, health infrastructure and access to health care remain very poor, while the net primary school enrolment rate is 54 percent.
3. Building on previous operations, PRRO 10609.0 will assist vulnerable populations in progressing from a state of instability toward one of food security that will facilitate development. WFP will focus its assistance mainly on women and children in the Bolama, Biombo, Quinara, Tombali, Cacheu, Oio, Gabu and Bafata regions, which were identified as highly food-insecure by the 2007 and 2008 FSM surveys.
4. WFP assistance will contribute to Millennium Development Goals 2, 4, 5 and 6, the national development goals, and WFP Strategic Objectives 2 and 4 by: i) reducing food insecurity; ii) improving access to education and health services; and iii) achieving sustainable environmental outcomes. Activities will include food for assets, school feeding, mother-and-child health and nutrition, and nutritional support for people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The PRRO beneficiaries will include: i) children under 5; ii) pregnant and lactating women; iii) pre-school and primary schoolchildren; and iv) food-insecure households.
5. Because the PRRO aims to promote Guinea-Bissau's transition from reconstruction to development, it is important that groundwork be laid for transferring management of the operation to the Government. Capacity-building and assistance will be provided to the Government and cooperating partners in order to improve overall future implementation capacity. WFP's assistance to the country in the future will be adjusted to the continuously changing situation and needs on the ground, and assistance will be phased down as the Government increases its capacity and takes over activities.