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Agenda item 11

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2007) — ECUADOR 10443.0

Food Assistance for the Refugee Population Affected by the Internal Conflict in Colombia

Number of beneficiaries	38,950
Duration of project	36 months (December 2007–November 2010)
WFP food tonnage	6,084 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	5,671,359
Total cost to WFP	7,520,031

* 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. Ecuador receives more refugees from the internal conflict in Colombia than any other country in Latin America: 50,250 applied for asylum in Ecuador between 2000 and June 2007. They cannot work in Ecuador while their applications are being processed, which takes nine months, and so depend on assistance for their survival.
2. The Ecuadorian Government estimates that there are 250,000 Colombians who have not requested asylum because of fear or lack of knowledge; this non-registered group also needs protection and assistance.
3. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10443.0 is in line with the objective of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address malnutrition among the refugees and contributes to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 1 and 7. It also incorporates experience and best practice from previous emergency operations (EMOPs) 10279.0 and 10381.0.
4. Most of the refugees live in poor communities near the northern border or in marginal urban areas. The host communities have scarce economic resources: 83 percent of the population lives on less than US\$2 per day in areas lacking basic services. To improve refugee living conditions and facilitate integration with host communities, it is essential to include the local population in PRRO 10443.0.
5. The PRRO has two components:
 - relief, which will guarantee food assistance for refugees and registered asylum seekers until their applications are processed and facilitate their integration into the labour market (Strategic Objective 2); and
 - recovery, which will promote access to public services such as education and professional training with a view to assisting women in particular in integrating into host communities, with emphasis on promoting mother-and-child health (Strategic Objective 2).
6. PRRO 10443.0 started on 1 December 2007 to assist 9,100 beneficiaries in 2008, 10,700 beneficiaries in 2009 and 11,650 beneficiaries in 2010. The food tonnage is 6,084 mt, which will be locally purchased. Food costs are US\$ 5.7 million; the total cost is US\$7.5 million.
7. PRRO 10443.0 faces a severe lack of funds: only 6 percent of the total is currently financed. The Ecuador country office is looking for new funding from the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the Government of Spain and other donors. Food is available for beneficiaries only until the end of April 2008.