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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

**Rome, 9–12 June 2008**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.A/2008/11-C/4**  
25 April 2008  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2007) — NIGER 10611.0

### Improving the Nutritional Status and Reinforcing Livelihoods of Vulnerable Populations

Number of beneficiaries	1,929,000
Duration of project	24 months (October 2007–September 2009)
WFP food tonnage	49,952 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	18,537,908
Total cost to WFP	44,831,742

\* 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.

Regional Director, OMD\*:            Mr M. Darboe            tel.: 066513-2201

Senior Liaison Officer, OMD:        Mr T. Lecato            tel.: 066513-2370

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).

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## ABSTRACT

1. The population of Niger remains one of the poorest and most food-insecure in the world, even though there have been improvements in the food security and malnutrition situation since the 2005 food crisis, which was caused by a bad lean season compounded by disruptions to regional markets and poor food habits in a context of extreme poverty and structural food insecurity. The situation remains extremely volatile, and food security crises could be repeated in the near future because the root causes of food insecurity have not changed. The latest joint vulnerability and food security survey indicated that 33 percent of households remain food insecure, of which 12 percent are severely food insecure.<sup>1</sup>
2. The global acute malnutrition rate among children under 5 decreased from 15.3 percent to 11 percent<sup>2</sup> in 2005–2007 as a result of large-scale nation-wide interventions to treat malnutrition. Despite this improvement, the acute malnutrition rate is still above the World Health Organization critical level, and the level of stunting among children under 3 is an alarming 45 percent.<sup>2</sup>
3. WFP's strategy for protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10611.0 is based on food security and nutrition assessments and the mid-term review of the current PRRO 10509.0. The strategy is in line with the Government's priorities in (i) the Plan of Action for Vulnerable Populations, (ii) the Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Accelerated Development, (iii) the Rural Development Strategy and (iv) the Health Development Strategy. The PRRO has been designed to complement the resources and capacity of the Government's national food security mechanism.
4. The PRRO has the following objectives:
  - contribute to the stabilization and improvement of the nutritional status of children under 5 and mothers;
  - protect livelihoods and reinforce the capacity of vulnerable populations to withstand shocks; and
  - reinforce national capacity to establish and manage food security and nutrition programmes.
5. Through PRRO 10611.0, WFP will continue to provide supplementary feeding for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, and will increase efforts to prevent malnutrition. Villages in remote and food-insecure areas that are not adequately served by markets will benefit from cereal banks. Food-for-training in the PRRO areas will communicate essential health and nutrition messages, support improved literacy and numeracy and improve the management of cereal banks. PRRO 10611.0 includes a relief component for natural disasters and lean season initiatives for the most vulnerable populations.

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<sup>1</sup> Government/WFP/FAO/UNICEF/FEWS-NET/CILSS Joint Vulnerability and Food Security Assessment, December 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Government/UNICEF/WFP/Helen Keller International Nutritional Survey, November 2007.



6. WFP will assist the units of the national food security mechanism responsible for the collection and analysis of data, pipeline management, food storage and management of food crises; this will include training and joint exercises in food security and vulnerability assessment, market surveillance, and monitoring and evaluation missions. WFP will also support the Government in capacity-building and development to prepare for a gradual hand-over of nutrition and health activities.