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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) – DJIBOUTI 10544.0

Food Assistance to Vulnerable Groups and Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	44,500
Duration of project	24 months (1 April 2007 – 31 March 2009)
WFP food tonnage	21,403 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food costs	7.2 million
Total cost to WFP	14.9 million

* 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. Djibouti, a disaster-prone low-income food-deficit country with a population of 800,000, is ranked 148th of 177 countries in the 2006 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report. Recurring droughts, floods, earthquakes and health hazards affect agricultural production; 74 percent of the population live on less than US\$3.3 per day; 42 percent live on less than US\$1.8 per day. WFP has been assisting refugees and drought-affected populations since 2000.
2. Five years of insufficient rainfall have reduced available pasture land, which has negatively affected the rural population's main source of income – animal husbandry. The situation is exacerbated by a reduction in remittances because of a government salary block and price rises in Djibouti city.
3. The WFP emergency food security assessment in September 2006 estimated that 20 percent of the population are food-insecure and vulnerable. In the northwest, 50 percent of households indicated that they had been forced to migrate to find pasture for their animals. The 2007/08 rains are expected to be normal, but households will continue to require assistance to rebuild their livelihoods.
4. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is designed to assist food-insecure households through targeted relief distribution during lean periods and through food for assets and food for training during the rest of the year. A safety net will assist vulnerable people; current assistance for refugees will continue. Capacity-building for institutions and communities will be a priority; gender will be mainstreamed. The gradual shift from targeted relief to recovery, with emphasis on sustainable activities, will enable the rural population to improve its food security. The development of collaborative programmes will lead to integrated longer-term development programmes, enabling a gradual reduction and eventual phase-out of food aid.
5. The PRRO is consistent with Djibouti's United Nations Development Assistance Framework and addresses the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in reducing hunger, gender inequality and child mortality. It supports the Government's priorities to address poverty and food insecurity and to improve living conditions as reaffirmed in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
6. An average of 44,500 beneficiaries will be assisted during PRRO 10544.0. The food requirement is 21,403 mt valued at US\$7.2 million; the total cost to WFP is US\$14.9 million. PRRO 10544.0 is in line with WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.