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Agenda item 11

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) – LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC 10566.0

Assistance to Food Insecure Households Affected by Multiple Livelihood Shocks

Number of beneficiaries	272,000
Duration of project	Two years (1 April 2007 – 31 March 2009)
WFP food tonnage	10,044 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total food cost	3.5 million
Total cost to WFP	7.2 million

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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, ODB*: Mr A. Banbury Anthony.Banbury@wfp.org

Liaison Officer, ODB: Ms S. Izzi tel.: 066513-2207

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).

* Asia Regional Bureau



ABSTRACT

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a small, sparsely populated low-income food-deficit country.
2. Natural disasters and rapid implementation of certain national policies are affecting the livelihoods and food security of many poor households and communities. Droughts, flash floods and pest infestations regularly occur, requiring support to enhance livelihood resilience in the communities affected. There is unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination along the border with Viet Nam, which limits the availability of land to expand agriculture. Many communities in the north and east have lost a substantial part of their income as a result of the eradication of opium poppy cultivation; they have not yet been able to adjust their livelihoods. All over the country, the livelihoods of communities are affected by the village consolidation and resettlement policy through which the Government aims to creating conditions for the delivery of basic services. There is evidence that HIV/AIDS is a threat that would affect the food security of families of infected people.
3. Many poor rural communities face recurring and simultaneous livelihood shocks through natural disasters leading to crop losses and food insecurity, but policy-induced shocks have also caused communities to lose their livelihoods; they have not received the anticipated support through targeted interventions. Their meagre economic assets are being rapidly depleted, and they face an acute livelihoods and food-security crisis. There is a need for relief and recovery assistance to prevent hunger and to support recovery from these livelihood shocks.
4. The objectives of PRRO 10566.0 are to prevent deterioration of nutritional status, improve household food security and build livelihood opportunities by providing food assistance for 272,000 food-insecure people. This will be done through (i) relief assistance at critical times, (ii) physical and human asset creation through food for work (FFW) and food for training (FFT) and (iii) support for HIV/AIDS patients and their families with an incentive to adhere to their anti-retroviral treatment. These objectives will contribute to WFP Strategic Objective 2 and are in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2007–2011 and the 2006 Joint Statement on Aid Effectiveness in the Lao PDR.
5. WFP will collaborate with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, local departments of the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). During the course of the PRRO, WFP will focus on capacity-building for government staff at the district and provincial levels.