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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 4–8 June 2007

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2007/10-B/2
27 April 2007
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – (1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2006) – ETHIOPIA 10127.2

Food Assistance to Sudanese, Somali and Eritrean Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	104,000
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2007–31 December 2008)
WFP food tonnage	58,572 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	34.2 million
WFP food cost	17.0 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.

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ABSTRACT

1. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10127.2 is designed to provide food assistance for refugees in Ethiopia hosted in seven camps. Sudanese refugees constitute 70 percent of the planned beneficiary numbers; Somalis and Eritreans make up the balance. Sudanese refugee numbers are expected to fall as a result of repatriation during the two-year life of the PRRO, but the process will be slow because the absorption capacity of the Sudan is limited. The number of Eritrean refugees coming into Ethiopia is likely to increase. If peace and stability in Eritrea and Somalia are not maintained, the refugee influx from these countries could be substantial.
2. The PRRO will provide refugees with basic monthly food rations. Supplementary food will be provided for malnourished children and other vulnerable people in the camps on the basis of nutritional status. Refugee children attending primary schools will receive school feeding rations. Some refugees and members of host communities could also benefit from participating in food-for-assets (FFA) activities to be piloted in selected refugee camps and impacted areas. Community-based participatory approaches developed through other WFP programmes will be used to increase synergies.
3. Two changes to the current food basket and ration scales are introduced in PRRO 10127.2 to improve the nutritional status of refugees in Ethiopia; the changes were recommended by a joint nutrition assessment mission by WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in December 2005 and an external mission that evaluated the current PRRO in March 2006. The rations proposed in PRRO 10127.2 include a 20 percent increase in cereals to compensate for milling costs and losses. Both missions recommended that blended foods should be introduced as part of the general rations to address micronutrient deficiencies observed in the previous food basket.
4. The PRRO is in line with WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4.