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PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 6

For approval



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION – AFGHANISTAN 10233.0

Food Assistance to Re-establish Livelihoods and Household Food Security in Afghanistan

Total number of beneficiaries*

Year 1 (1 April 2003–31 March 2004) Year 2 (1 April 2004–31 March 2005) **9,243,000 (4,665,700 women)** 6,005,500 (2,990,872 women) 5,277,500 (2,600,300 women)

Duration of project

Two years (1 April 2003–31 March 2005)

Cost (United States dollars)					
Total cost to WFP	337,543,553				
Total food cost	158,448,979				
Total food requirements	618,989 mt				

*Where beneficiaries differ in Year 1 and Year 2, they are summed for the two years. In order to avoid double counting, where beneficiaries are the same in Year 1 and Year 2, they have been counted only once.

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Note to the Executive Board

This document is submitted for a	pproval by the Exect	utive Board.
The Secretariat invites members of the Be nature with regard to this document to con- below, preferably well in advance of the Boar	ntact the WFP staff	
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Executive Summary

The return to peace has permitted significant achievements in Afghanistan: 3 million children have returned to school since March 2002; 1.7 million refugees had returned by the end of October. The role of the state has been re-established and is being felt in the provinces. Regulatory processes are taking hold. Women are being given a voice again. Educational, social and health indicators remain alarming for most of the population, however, especially women and girls, after 20 years of war and recent severe drought that has only recently abated in some parts of the country.

The Government is striving for a future where humanitarian assistance will be unnecessary and where a market economy will provide a reasonable quality of life. The vision is simple: a prosperous country where citizens are not threatened by poverty or illiteracy. In the meantime, however, food aid helps people achieve sustainable food security.

This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) has been designed through consultation within the framework of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghanistan (TAPA) and in support of the nation-building objectives of the National Development Framework (NDF) and the emerging National Strategy for Social and Livelihood Protection.

The PRRO is designed to contribute to protection and re-establishment of livelihoods and household food security. It will continue to provide relief assistance and support the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan to achieve recovery objectives and humanitarian goals.

Food-for-work (FFW) activities will target able-bodied men and women with family rations. Non-formal education (NFE) activities will target vulnerable women, adolescent girls and ex-combatants. Food for education and training (FFE) will target schoolchildren in food-insecure communities and teachers nationwide. A percentage of the food will be used for relief to vulnerable people, including returning refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), the malnourished and households without income earners. The operation will strive for gender mainstreaming.

The PRRO will extend from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005, to coincide with agricultural production and the Afghan budget year. A flexible assistance framework will allow response to immediate needs. Quarterly government reviews open to partners and donors will provide a forum for programme revision and shape the programme beyond the first year, ensuring that food aid is used efficiently.

The PRRO is intended to reach 9,243,000 beneficiaries; the food commitment will be 619,000 metric tons (mt).

Draft Decision

The Board approves PRRO Afghanistan 10233.0—"Food Assistance to Re-establish Livelihoods and Household Food Security in Afghanistan" (WFP/EB.1/2003/6-A/3).

^{*} This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



"Our vision is of a prosperous, secure Afghanistan... This new Afghanistan would bring prosperity to its trading partners and stability in this region of the globe."

-H.E. Hamid Karzai, Tokyo, January 2002

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Context

- Afghanistan has recently emerged from a 23-year crisis that included civil conflict, the downfall of the Taliban regime in November 2001 and a three-year drought that persists in some places. During this crisis, the ability of ordinary Afghans to maintain minimum household food security was seriously compromised. WFP's response has been to provide increasing emergency assistance. Most recently, emergency operation (EMOP) 10155.0 targeted more than 9 million beneficiaries with 550,000 mt of food.
- 2. Afghanistan has changed dramatically since the EMOP began in April 2002. The Transitional Islamic Government, elected in June 2002 for 18 months, has a vision of an Afghanistan with good governance, an enabling environment for private-sector investment and an adequate standard of living. The Government has developed a National Development Framework (NDF) and a National Development Budget (NDB) for 2002/2003, with indicative figures for the following year.¹ The NDF calls for systematic provision of basic social services, creation of livelihoods and environmentally sustainable development.

Situation Analysis

- 3. The people needing food assistance struggle with high levels of poverty, poor nutrition and health practices, limited access to education and medical services and high levels of morbidity and mortality. Illiteracy is 48.1 percent for men and 78.1 percent for women.² Life expectancy is 43 years for women and 41 years for men. Maternal mortality is the highest in the world, at 1,600 per 100,000 live births. Infant and child mortality are third highest in the world: 165 infants out of 1,000 die in the first year; 256 out of every 1,000 children die before the age of 5. Safe drinking water is available in only 19 percent of rural communities.³
- 4. Chronic malnutrition affects over 50 percent of children under 5, leading to stunting. Acute malnutrition, causing wasting, is below 10 percent but may be higher among urban populations during the summer, when diarrhoea increases, and in remote communities. Anaemia affects up to 65 percent of children under 5 and 70 percent of expectant mothers. Micronutrient deficiency symptoms such as goitre and night blindness result from lack of foods rich in iodine, vitamins A and C and iron/folic acid.⁴



¹ The Afghan year 1382 runs from 22 March 2002 to 21 March 2003; 1382/1383 comprises the budget year.

² UNESCO, 2000.

³ UNICEF, 2002; TAPA Health and Nutrition Sector Paper, November 2002.

⁴ UNICEF, 2002; TAPA Health and Nutrition Sector Paper, November 2002.

- 5. Communicable diseases, poor nutrition and pregnancy complications account for most avoidable morbidity and mortality. Non-medical factors contribute to poor health and nutrition, however, including poverty, limited access to healthcare, gender discrimination, inadequate household food security and poor water and sanitation.
- 6. Despite agricultural improvements this year, many rural Afghans face another year of hunger and food insecurity. In August, the crop and food supply assessment mission (CFSAM) conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP with Ministry of Agriculture participation forecast national cereal production at 3.59 million mt, an 82-percent improvement over 2001 but 4 percent below 1998, the year before the drought. A cereal deficit of 1.38 million mt was estimated for 2002, of which 900,000 mt are expected to enter Afghanistan commercially.⁵ WFP's vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) Unit's countrywide assessment of rural populations in July–September 2002 revealed that 4.3 million people in the rural settled areas will not have access to sufficient resources to meet basic food needs.⁶
- 7. Drought-affected areas include the southern and eastern provinces and the central highlands. Pockets of acute food insecurity exist in Badakshan and Baghlan provinces. Ghor, Saripul, Faryab and Farah provinces continue to experience high levels of food insecurity.
- 8. Many rural livelihoods have been shattered and coping mechanisms exhausted, even in areas with improved harvests, leaving populations at risk. Productive assets have been depleted, land has been sold or mortgaged, debt has accumulated and livestock have been lost to drought or exchanged for basic necessities. Employment opportunities are limited and seasonal; traditional income-generating activities such as carpet weaving have been severely eroded. Families have separated as men migrate in search of opportunities. In remote villages, access to food markets is often impossible because of poor roads, limited purchasing power and ethnic tensions.
- 9. In urban areas, 10 percent of the population consists of households without an income earner and headed by widows, orphans or disabled, aged or chronically unemployed people. Once household assets have been sold, families resort to begging, sending children out to work or even selling them—especially girls.
- Education is in a critical position after years of neglect and policies that discouraged it. Considerable improvements have been made through the back-to-school campaign, but 1.5 million children are still not enrolled. There is a shortage of qualified teachers, especially women, because of low wages and poor training opportunities.⁷
- 11. Women and girls are a lost generation because of their exclusion from public life by the Taliban. The departure of the Taliban has fundamentally changed political structures that restricted women's access to education, employment and services, but women still require special support if they are to become agents of change.



⁵ Central Statistics Office (CSO) population data was used for both studies. CFSAM figures included urban and rural areas; VAM figures used only the rural settled populations, resulting in the slight difference.

⁶ Afghanistan Countrywide Food Needs Assessment of Rural Settled Populations, 2003–2003. WFP VAM Unit and partners, November 2002.

⁷ UNICEF study, 2002.

Government Recovery Policies and Programmes

- 12. The Government's NDF consists of three pillars: humanitarian needs combined with human and social capital, physical reconstruction and natural resources, and private-sector development. There are 12 focus areas, including refugee returns, education and vocational training, health and nutrition, and livelihoods linked to social protection. Reconstruction through labour-intensive job creation and rehabilitation of infrastructure is a priority.
- 13. The Government is guiding recovery based on NDF priorities with a view to progressive capacity-building among government counterparts and the future handover of responsibilities to appropriate authorities. It is launching social-support programmes, including a national microfinance scheme, the area-based development programme to support recovery programmes, capacity-building for government authorities, long-term macroeconomic planning, the National Solidarity Programme (NSP), which finances villages for community-based development, and the National Emergency Employment Programme (NEEP) at the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, which will include FFW.

Rationale

14. Peace, stability and a legitimate government committed to recovery and reconstruction provide the right conditions for WFP to shift its assistance to support them. Aspects of the emergency still exist, but the situation has stabilized sufficiently for investment in recovery. Significant improvements are apparent throughout the country, resulting from increased agricultural production after years of instability and drought. Food aid will support the efforts of Afghans determined to improve their lives. People are making commitments to a better future. Some households are taking risks in doing so: for example, returnees are moving back to their homes and cultivating fields that were formerly mined.

RECOVERY STRATEGY

- 15. The recovery strategy supports activities that will contribute to long-term development of the Afghan people and reduce vulnerability to shocks. The PRRO framework allows flexible shifting of resources between activities, depending on needs and the availability of other inputs and resources. Food aid will complement other assistance, focusing on food-deficit areas.
- 16. The PRRO will employ approaches such as FFW, FFT and FFE to help to rebuild human and physical capital.

Beneficiary Needs

- 17. The following beneficiary groups were identified through stakeholder meetings and WFP's needs assessments: (i) returning refugees, (ii) displaced persons, (iii) households without income earners, (iv) vulnerable people, (v) rural settled populations in food-insecure areas, (vi) schoolchildren and teachers, (vii) women and adolescent girls, (viii) ex-combatants, (ix) expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5, and (x) vulnerable groups in institutions: orphans, malnourished children, the elderly, handicapped people, tuberculosis (TB) patients and patients in hospital.
- 18. The PRRO seeks to offer the assistance required by each group: FFW will target able-bodied men and women with family rations; NFE will target vulnerable women, adolescent girls and ex-combatants; and FFE will target schoolchildren in food-insecure

communities and teachers nationwide. A percentage of the food will be used for relief activities for returning refugees, IDPs, malnourished people and households without income earners.

19. WFP will work with the National Surveillance System, ministries and implementing partners to identify these needs promptly, as explained in "Intervention Approaches".⁸

The Role of Food Aid

- 20. Food aid will be directed to food-deficit areas or areas where markets are difficult to reach or where households do not have cash. It will help vulnerable people to protect and re-establish livelihoods and household food security. In districts where there has been minimal food production, food aid will meet basic food needs and support vulnerable, disabled and disadvantaged people.
- 21. Food aid will permit poor households to meet critical food needs and allow other available resources to be used to purchase productive assets and repay outstanding debt. Food enhances women's position in households through control over an essential commodity.
- 22. It will be an incentive for getting children and teachers to schools and for FFW activities, and will act as an income transfer to poor people who create communal assets.
- 23. Food aid is only one input, however: it must be combined with other resources in a coordinated approach to address underlying causes of hunger and poverty. The levels of food aid proposed for rural settled populations represent approximately half of the needs. Cash-for-work projects supported by the Government will target communities where cash interventions are an appropriate response to supplement livelihoods.
- 24. Food aid will be delivered to beneficiaries, so as not to disrupt local markets. WFP will explore local purchase of food in surplus areas. Assistance will be provided primarily during winter and pre-harvest. Quarterly reviews will ensure that food is meeting needs effectively.

Intervention Approaches

- 25. The overall approach is to help food-insecure communities to supply their needs and improve their livelihoods. Food aid will be directed to areas with the highest food insecurity, identified on the basis set out below.
- 26. During the annual harvest, FAO and WFP conduct a CFSAM in selected districts to gauge potential national yields. A planting survey is undertaken before the summer harvest. A winter planting survey and gender-sensitive household food security assessment have been added this year, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 27. To understand how this affects farmers, the annual VAM countrywide assessment of rural settled populations is conducted to provide an understanding of the food-security situation between primary harvests, so that WFP and its partners can determine levels of food insecurity, prioritize areas and allocate resources.
- 28. Information is collected in villages through group interviews and questionnaires; it is supplemented by information from the Afghanistan Information Management System (AIMS), the Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis Unit (LVAU) of the Ministry of Rural

⁸ The surveillance system, a livelihoods-based food security and nutritional approach, is a cooperative endeavour of the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Agriculture; it aims to find early signs of food insecurity.



Reconstruction and Development, partners, VAM monitors, field observations, secondary data sources and remote sensors.

- 29. In 2002, VAM teams collected information on crop and livestock production and income, which was quantified and converted to a cereal-value equivalent. Countrywide analysis ranked areas and communities in five levels of food security, from acute food insecurity meeting up to 25 percent of needs to food security meeting 100 percent of requirements (see Annex V).
- 30. A model was then developed to determine numbers of people to be targeted, converting the food gap into a monthly equivalent, shown below:

Food security class	% of district population to be assisted	Months of assistance		
Acute food insecurity	80	10		
Very high food insecurity	60	8		
High food insecurity	40	5		
Moderate food insecurity	20	2		
Food secure	0	0		

- 31. This was translated into a recommended food-aid response at the sub-district level to meet minimum food needs. In areas of acute food insecurity, for example, food aid will meet part of the nutritional requirements and prevent malnutrition; in less food insecure areas, it will protect households from depletion of productive assets.⁹
- 32. In collaboration with partners, the VAM Unit conducts emergency food needs assessments and rapid emergency food needs assessments, used following sudden emergencies. A household-economy approach is used to identify underlying causes of food insecurity.
- 33. After geographical targeting, beneficiaries are targeted according to type of intervention (see "Beneficiary Needs and the Food Basket").
- 34. In 2003, an urban food security assessment will be carried out to discover how households obtain food and income. The aim is to develop criteria for targeting vulnerable and food-insecure households in urban areas.
- 35. A targeting study during the first quarter of the PRRO will review methods such as self-targeting, community-based targeting and government targeting to determine the best way to target beneficiaries for the various activities.
- 36. Food aid will be used to address the problems of women, building on their important role in food security, and to provide girls with skills enabling them to fulfil traditional roles and empowering them for a different future. Women's participation in project implementation will be encouraged through programmes such as bakeries, kitchen gardens and reforestation nurseries.

⁹ Afghanistan Countrywide Food Needs Assessment of Rural Settled Populations, 2002–2003.WFP VAM Unit, November 2002.



Risk Assessment

- 37. Successful implementation depends on certain assumptions, the most important of which is that stability in Afghanistan will continue. Another is that there will not be another drought or natural disaster. If the rains fail, agricultural production could plunge to the levels of the past four years and food aid would again be needed for life-saving interventions.
- 38. Pipeline breaks may lead to delays or failures in food distribution. If complementary non-food inputs are not provided as planned, targets will be compromised.

Goals and Objectives

- The overall goal is to contribute to protection and re-establishment of livelihoods and 39. household food security within the context of the NDF.
- The immediate objectives are to: 40.
 - a) assist food-insecure families to meet basic food requirements;
 - b) support returning refugees and IDPs reintegrating into their communities and support IDPs in camps;
 - c) rehabilitate malnourished children and expectant and nursing mothers by providing supplementary food assistance;
 - d) improve retention rates of TB patients and support health and social institutions through food assistance for families of TB patients and caregivers in therapeutic feeding centres;
 - e) increase children's enrolment, attendance and retention in basic education, address short-term hunger to improve learning and reduce the gender gap in primary schools;
 - f) increase the number of primary-school teachers and improve the quality of teaching;
 - g) improve the capacity of vulnerable groups to cope with food insecurity through creation of assets or acquisition of skills; and
 - h) provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN BY COMPONENT

Main Programme Components

41. The main programme components are: a **relief component** as a safety net for extremely vulnerable people and a recovery component to enable people to move from crisis to recovery and development.

Beneficiary Needs and the Food Basket

The proposed food basket aims to meet the nutritional needs of beneficiaries with a balance of fat, protein and calories from 1,800 kcal to 2,100 kcal. Different combinations have been selected depending on nutritional needs and type of intervention. The number of beneficiaries and tonnage required are detailed in Annex III. The proposed food basket and ration scales are detailed in Annex IV.



Selection of Activities

Relief Component

Returning Refugees

- 43. An estimated 1.5 million Afghan refugees are still in Pakistan; 2 million are in Iran. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) predicts that 1.2 million people will return to Afghanistan in 2003 and 1 million in 2004. To assist them, 150 kg of wheat per family (average six members) will be provided to returning refugees close to their destination, as agreed by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and UNHCR. The ministry will be encouraged to assume responsibility for managing food assistance to returnees.
- 44. Additional assistance will be provided to returning families for three months on a self-targeting basis through FFW, NFE and FFE as the families reintegrate into communities. This will require support to help with shelter and economic opportunities in line with government reintegration policy. Support will be provided by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, UNHCR and UNDP, funded by donors partly through special initiatives.

IDPs

45. Conflict, ethnic discrimination and drought caused the displacement of many Afghans. About 300,000 people will return to their homes in Year 1; 200,000 will receive food assistance in camps. In Year 2, the number of IDPs requiring assistance is projected to drop to 150,000 returnees and 50,000 in camps. Other IDPs are reached through recovery programmes. Food assistance to people in camps aims to meet nutritional requirements through a full food basket. A 150–kg package of wheat is provided once to each returning family close to its destination. A strategy is being developed to allow IDPs to return safely and with dignity to their homes so that camps can be closed. Emphasis is placed on supporting reintegration through investment in returnees' places of origin, consistent with government reintegration policy.

Vulnerable Rural Households

- 46. In Year 1, 30,000 vulnerable rural households accounting for 180,000 people are expected to benefit from relief food distribution linked to FFW; in Year 2 the numbers will be 27,000 households and 162,000 people. These are the 10 percent of the population who cannot participate in FFW but who live in the same communities. The enriched rations provided are expected to meet food requirements for up to five months.
- 47. Beneficiaries are selected by communities in the following categories:
 - drought-affected landless or small landholder farmers;
 - families without income earners;
 - households headed by elderly or disabled people;
 - ➤ widows;
 - ➤ orphans;
 - seasonally unemployed people; and
 - > people surviving mainly on charity.



Vulnerable Urban Households

- 48. The number of urban vulnerable has increased dramatically, given that 50 percent of returning refugees in 2002 settled in urban centres. The needs of the estimated 360,000 vulnerable people in Kabul, Mazar, Kandahar, Faizabad, Jalalabad and Herat—10 percent of their population—will be addressed in Year 1 through a social safety-net programme in collaboration with municipalities and the Ministry of Urban Development. The targeted population for Year 2 is 270,000, assuming that some families will have moved away, back to rural areas. Households have been identified through WFP surveys in cities where the Programme has provided assistance. The VAM Unit is leading a nationwide urban survey with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development and the Ministry of Urban Development that will establish criteria to select households for assistance.
- 49. Women's bakeries have been the flagship of the WFP-supported programme for the urban vulnerable, demonstrating WFP's commitment to women's empowerment, community participation and the creation of work opportunities. Bread produced by these bakeries is subsidized for the urban poor, especially families without income earners. The bakeries have evolved into semi-autonomous activities that generate income for the widows who bake bread. WFP will continue to provide fortified wheat flour.

Assistance to TB Patients and Their Families

50. There are an estimated 70,000 patients per year, 70 percent of whom are women; many more remain undetected; an estimated 30 percent of those affected die. Providing food helps to increase the retention rate of patients in treatment. Patients and their families will receive food rations for eight months through this programme, which is implemented with the Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Support to Caregivers of Children in Therapeutic Feeding

51. The Ministry of Public Health and partners aim to expand the capacity for treatment of severe malnutrition in hospitals and clinics (Phase I) and to establish protocols for clinic and community-based management of severe malnutrition (Phase II). UNICEF will provide therapeutic food and medical commodities for treating severe malnutrition; WFP will provide a food ration for caregivers during treatment and recovery. About 25 patients at a time can be treated for one month in the 20 hospitals with these programmes, about 5,000 patients each year.

Supplementary Feeding

52. According to UNICEF, there are an estimated 130 supplementary feeding programmes in the country addressing high levels of moderate malnutrition and preventing acute malnutrition among children under 5. The need for supplementary feeding is expected to decrease as food production increases, drought ends in the north and the economy recovers. The Ministry of Public Health will select priority areas for continued programmes. UNICEF and WFP will collaborate—with UNICEF providing Unimix, and WFP providing wheat-soya blend (WSB), oil and sugar—to support the programmes for an estimated 20,000 children according to national protocols; each will cover half of the target population.



Food Assistance to Institutions

53. Food assistance will continue for 10,500 hospital patients, orphans and street children while the Government improves its capacity to feed patients in institutions. WFP will work with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and partners. The food basket is intended to provide minimum nutritional requirements. Complementary food such as milk, eggs and vegetables will need to be provided by institutions or communities. An exit strategy will be designed to phase out institutional feeding by the end of the PRRO.

Recovery

FFE

54. The Afghan back-to-school campaign in 2002 was a great success: 3 million children out of the eligible 4.5 million returned to school. But 1.5 million children are still not enrolled and gender parity has not been achieved, except in Kabul City, where girls constitute 45 percent of schoolchildren. The south has the lowest proportion of girls—10 percent. Food aid will be an incentive for participation in education and help to rebuild educational infrastructure, enhance knowledge and skills and support teachers. The Ministry of Education and WFP, with UNICEF's participation, will implement the following activities where (i) the area is food insecure, (ii) school enrolment is low, (iii) the gender gap is high and (iv) there are many returned refugees and IDPs.

Food for Schoolchildren

- 55. Food assistance will be provided for 1.1 million children in Year 1, 60 percent at school to address short-term hunger, 40 percent as a take-home ration as an incentive to attend school. The number will increase to 1.2 million in Year 2. Biscuits are preferred for practical reasons—logistical problems of setting up bakeries, time taken from classroom work and distribution of bread on the required scale. Take-home rations of 4 litres of oil per month will be given as an incentive for girls where a gender gap of 15 percent or more exists. WFP will work with the Ministry of Education in developing sustainable strategies for nationwide school feeding.
- 56. Communities are engaged through parent-teacher associations, which will be strengthened by cash or in-kind contributions from community members and supported by provincial governments.
- 57. Where intestinal parasites are found, deworming will be integrated into school-feeding programmes by the Ministry of Public Health and WHO, and anti-worm tablets will be distributed. The programme will be in phases, with a pilot phase in some WFP-assisted schools. WHO has developed educational materials; the programme will be managed by a school-health unit in the Ministry of Education.

Food for Teachers

58. There are only 100,000 teachers in Afghanistan, of whom only one third are women; 128,000 teachers are required. Salaries are low and irregular, averaging US\$43 per month. Teachers often serve in remote areas with limited facilities. Many are working in sectors where they receive better salaries. The Government and international donors wish to attract qualified teachers back to the classroom as soon as possible. Food rations will be provided as a salary supplement to teachers—100,000 in Year 1 and 110,000 in Year 2—to attract and retain them, especially women. The programme will be administered by the Ministry of Education with WFP support, starting in WFP-assisted schools and involving



70,000 teachers; others will be gradually added. The Ministry of Education will be responsible for implementation.

Food for Teacher Training

59. The quality of teaching is a related problem. To address this, food will be provided as an incentive for 20,000 teachers attending training courses, including trainees at the 14 government teacher-training institutes, and teachers, particularly women, working in other sectors who attend refresher courses. Trainees at institutes on long-term courses will receive food on-site; a take-home family ration will be provided for those on short-term courses. Support will be coordinated with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, which will provide cash grants until the Government can take over.

FFT, NFE and Vocational Education

- 60. Building human assets is essential. Take-home rations will be an incentive for the poor to participate in NFE such as literacy and vocational skills training. Up to 75,000 trainees per year will be targeted—women, girls, young unemployed people and ex-combatants— and will receive food assistance depending on their training programme.
- 61. WFP will work with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and partners. Training will aim to build marketable skills. Partners will be expected to determine the market viability of income-generating activities before submitting proposals for food aid.
- 62. The Ministry of Women's Affairs has created women's centres throughout the country to provide functional literacy and other training. Food aid will help poor women to participate.
- 63. Health and nutrition education, supported through the Ministry of Public Health, will include training community outreach workers in infant feeding practices, local food production, primary health care and nutrition linked to supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes. Women will be trained through women's committees to establish kitchen gardens.
- 64. WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education will support an adolescent rapid learning programme to help people—especially girls—who are overage for their grade to learn life skills; three years of primary school will be completed in 18 months. The skills will reflect traditional roles and girls' need for empowerment to take on new roles.

FFW

- 65. FFW will meet immediate food needs and contribute to infrastructure and livelihood development. Activities will focus on communal responses to needs, supporting NDF. People will be asked to select activities that focus on natural resources development, especially reforestation, and development of alternative livelihoods. Access to clean drinking water and irrigation will be priorities.
- 66. FFW will assist rehabilitation or construction of 800 schools. Currently, 1 million children attend schools with minimum facilities; another 2 million study in "learning spaces", often in the open or in tents, with little or no furniture or learning materials. A recent UNICEF study identified 5,063 school buildings; the need is for 7,563. More than 2,500 school buildings need to be constructed; the rest need repair and many need safe drinking water and sanitary facilities. School selection will be undertaken with the Ministry of Education, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in food-insecure areas identified by VAM.



- 67. Women are expected to benefit from 50 percent of immediate and long-term benefits from assets created at the community level, in line with the Enhanced Commitments to Women. Communities will select the assets to be created through separate committees of women and men in order to have 50 percent representation by each.
- 68. FFW will be used to create sustainable community assets based on stringent standards and work norms and requiring strong technical input. Works will be undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, the Ministry of Irrigation, FAO and UNICEF.
- 69. In support of the National Strategy for Livelihood Protection, which includes food-based and cash-based employment generation, FFW will complement initiatives such as the National Emergency Employment Programme and the National Area-Based Development Programme.
- 70. FFW will be limited to areas of acute and very high food insecurity where households meet less than 50 percent of caloric requirements. The Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development will assist in targeting, using as indicators cereal prices, market availability and trade routes in food-insecure areas. As its role diminishes, WFP will assist the ministry in taking over responsibility for managing FFW through capacity-building.
- 71. Wages will be below casual labour rates so that FFW is largely self-targeting and does not compete with other work. FFW activities are targeted through community participation, allowing villagers, including women, to agree on projects to be supported and determine who should participate. Potential beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries meet where WFP or partner staff explain the criteria for selection of projects and beneficiaries; communities then assist with screening.
- 72. During Year 1, a total of 300,000 able-bodied people will participate in FFW; 270,000 will participate in Year 2, assuming that the economy will have improved. Given families of six, 1.8 million beneficiaries will be reached in Year 1 and 1.62 million in Year 2.

Activity Approval Mechanisms

- 73. To qualify for assistance, activities should meet NDF priorities and WFP policies and be accepted by the provincial coordinating bodies. They must be designed to reach vulnerable people in food-insecure areas and assist the recovery of Afghanistan through rebuilding sustainable livelihoods. Some activities will be acceptable as a safety net.
- 74. Proposals are submitted to WFP area offices for assessment and review by a project approval committee (PAC). Government officials have recently been invited to participate in the PAC process, with the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development taking the lead. Once a project is approved, a tripartite Letter of Agreement will define roles and responsibilities of the Government, WFP and the partner; it will include requirements related to WFP's Enhanced Commitments to Women, results-based management, logistics and reporting.
- 75. A quarterly review with the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development, open to partners and donors, will provide a forum for programme revisions. The ongoing WFP/Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development capacity-building exercise at the central and provincial levels is strengthening coordinated government input to planning and approval processes.



Institutional Arrangements and Selection of Partners

- 76. The Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development is taking the lead in setting food-aid policy and addressing inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral issues relating to food security in the Inter-Ministerial Commission. The National Livelihood Protection Working Group is coordinating food assistance and providing guidance regarding the use of food to address vulnerabilities, support livelihoods and provide social protection.
- 77. The LVAU, coordinated by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development with representation from the Ministries of Agriculture, Public Health and Urban Development, provides support to coordinating and policy-making bodies. WFP's activities will be linked to the National Solidarity Programme.
- 78. Other collaborating ministries include Education (MOE), Refugees and Repatriation (MORR), Reconstruction (MOR) and Women's Affairs (MOWA).
- 79. WFP assistance is provided within the framework of TAPA and in collaboration with UNICEF, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), FAO, WHO and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA). Memoranda of Understanding and Letters of Agreement have been signed with partners.
- 80. Lack of sufficiently experienced and well educated Afghans has meant that WFP has often used international staff and consultants. Until the Government and partners have strengthened their capacity, WFP staffing requirements are substantial: 50 regular international staff, 20 United Nations Volunteers, many of whom will be seconded to the Government, and 80 national Professional and General Service support staff.
- 81. More than 180 international and national NGOs are implementing WFP-assisted activities; they will continue under the PRRO. WFP has established a ranking system to ensure that partners are legitimate and effective. About US\$2 million has been included in the budget to support partners in implementing and monitoring activities.
- 82. WFP will provide tools, cooking equipment and promotional and educational materials for agriculture, health and education activities, totalling approximately US\$2.8 million to support partners, especially national ones, with limited resources.
- 83. A bimonthly food-aid forum chaired by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development and WFP facilitates coordination among partners for managing and monitoring food aid and distribution.

Capacity-Building

- 84. The Government is trying to build its capacity. The United Nations is supporting it by providing technical expertise, computers, infrastructure and training. WFP plans the following activities to support capacity-building:
 - a) inclusion of government officials in project design, approval, implementation and monitoring to increase ownership and gradually transfer responsibility for food assistance;
 - b) training of Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development staff, two in each of the 32 provinces, in vulnerability analysis and monitoring, and seconding staff to an LVAU in Kabul;
 - c) seconding a national Professional officer from the VAM Unit to the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development to conduct training and build capacity in food security and assessment;



- d) seconding a national Professional officer to enhance the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development's capacity for monitoring and evaluation (M&E); the ministry will increasingly assume vulnerability assessment and analysis functions and support monitoring of livelihoods in collaboration with WFP;
- e) sending a consultant on the pastoral nomads to the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development to support planning of assistance for pastoralists—development of policy, resource allocation and advocating inclusion of pastoralists in the National Livelihood and Social Protection Strategy;
- f) training Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development staff in English and computer skills; translating documents and training material into Dari and Pashto;
- g) holding gender workshops for Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development staff to strengthen their ability to address gender issues, and encouraging the ministry to identify a gender officer;
- h) creating a unit in the Ministry of Education to strengthen its capacity to implement FFE in the framework of the national strategy for education; and
- i) seconding national Professional officers—a woman and a man—to the Ministry of Education to focus on women's literacy and strategy for sustainable school feeding.
- 85. WFP participates in capacity-building for local partners, including training in FFW, which involves improved monitoring and greater technical and managerial capacity. WFP will explore possibilities for working with women's groups with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the gender network.
- 86. About US\$200,000 has been budgeted to support the Government and partners with capacity-building and the costs of implementing and monitoring PRRO activities.
- 87. Development of WFP national staff is a priority as a means of building national capacity. Many staff recruited during the emergency require training to ensure adequate knowledge and skills for the PRRO. Training plans for this year include organizational skills, monitoring and evaluation, project management, English, report writing, gender sensitization and computer training. The budget is US\$262,000.
- 88. WFP is exploring development of in-country flour milling and fortifying and the feasibility of using it to produce biscuits. The budget is US\$1 million.

Logistics Arrangements

- 89. Logistics in Afghanistan are complex, with transport operations in six neighbouring countries. Delivery must take account of security, terrain and climate during winter. Transport requires close monitoring and commodity tracking.
- 90. Food is received by sea through Pakistan and the Baltic ports. The Iran corridor is utilized when there is congestion in Pakistani ports. Cargo can be routed overland through the Black Sea/Georgia/Caspian Sea/Turkmenistan corridor, providing essential flexibility.
- 91. Logistics staff are maintained in Islamabad to manage overland transport contracts, communications and financial transactions.
- 92. Commodities are currently stored in transit warehouses in Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan before transport to Afghanistan, because Afghan transporters must be used inside the country. WFP maintains external logistics offices managed by international staff in Peshawar, Quetta, Turkmenabad, Termez and Osh. Traffic from Osh



to Ishkashim for delivery to northeastern Afghanistan will be progressively reduced, and terminated when the route from Tajikistan is opened.

- 93. WFP's 360 trucks are deployed at its area offices in Afghanistan for difficult destinations. The trucks are essential to provide additional capacity and act as regulator of the private transport market. They provide immediate-response capacity in case of humanitarian disasters.
- 94. Collaboration and participation by Afghan authorities in WFP logistics activities will be promoted, particularly with the Ministry of Transport in warehousing procedures, transport contracting, transport tariffs and commodity tracking.
- 95. Landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) costs are based on the assumption that 70 percent of the tonnage will be transported through Pakistan, the cheapest supply route. The transport budget foresees improvement of warehouses and construction of new facilities in Kabul and Kandahar and at final distribution points (FDPs).
- 96. Food movements in Afghanistan from extended delivery points (EDPs) or FDPs to beneficiaries will be undertaken by partners. The delivery points will be as near as possible to the beneficiaries to facilitate collection, especially by women.
- 97. The commodity movement processing and analysis system (COMPAS) has been installed in external hubs and area offices. Data are centralized in the Kabul country office to improve WFP's ability to track commodities; a back-up system is maintained in the regional logistics office.
- 98. Local purchases of cereals in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Pakistan are expected to cover 20 percent of requirements.
- 99. The special operation supporting the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) will be renewed as long as air services are required. UNHAS currently provides domestic flights and services to Dubai, Islamabad and Dushanbe. The Government is expected to take these over, starting with international services.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 100. The PRRO will further strengthen the results-based M&E currently used for EMOP 10155.0.The new M&E guidelines will ensure stakeholder participation in measuring the outcomes of WFP's food assistance.
- 101. WFP will monitor outputs and outcomes. Actual achievements will be measured against planned outcomes through:
 - a) the M&E system where food-aid monitors gather information against activity baselines, entered daily into the Afghanistan country office results database (ACORD) for weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports;
 - b) the livelihoods-based food security and nutrition national surveillance system at the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development;
 - c) VAM tools;
 - d) quarterly WFP/Government reviews;
 - e) mid-term evaluation; and
 - f) studies by partners.



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- 102. Before the PRRO is launched in April, the country office will conduct gender-sensitive baseline studies for all programme areas. Baselines that will serve as a sample for expansion have been completed in areas where the school-feeding programme operates. They are used to measure enrolment by gender, age, attendance and teacher/student ratio.
- 103. WFP and Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development staff will be trained in participatory techniques and concepts of results-based monitoring, data collection and analysis to understand how food assistance is used by households. Post-distribution monitoring will be improved. Linkages will be established with VAM assessors to enhance understanding of the relationship of food aid to food security.
- 104. The five area offices, the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development and line ministries will monitor progress of implementation, the effectiveness of the food-aid response to vulnerability and the appropriateness of activities. Regular field-monitoring visits will document progress and lessons learned. Women will continue to be employed as food-aid monitors so that women's voices can be heard. The Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development and partners will be encouraged to increase their women staff, providing support for *maharams* (male relatives) to travel. Indicators for measuring outcomes will be included in WFP's database.
- 105. WFP's data are gender disaggregated, but data in national monitoring systems need to be disaggregated to understand the impacts of interventions on women and men. As national monitoring capacity is developed, attention to gender will be included. WFP will assist in the process, starting with the gender-baseline pilot project under the Gender Policy 2003-2007. A national gender officer will assist implementation of this policy in WFP.
- 106. Quarterly reviews and a mid-term evaluation will be conducted.

Security Measures

- 107. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) field operations support United Nations organizations in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Mazar and Jalalabad. WFP deploys field security advisers to provide additional security. Movements of United Nations staff into and inside Afghanistan require security clearance by the UNSECOORD field officer. This security structure will be scaled down, with core structures maintained throughout the PRRO, as the security situation stabilizes. Security arrangements will continue as circumstances require.
- 108. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) patrols Kabul and surrounding areas; its mandate extends until 31 December 2003; the Government is training a national army and strengthening its security service.

Exit Strategy

109. The NDF is a step in the direction of economic reform; it is intended to lead to sustainable growth and a gradual rise in the living standards of the poorest people. Scarcity of domestic resources and very limited foreign investment are obstacles to implementation, however. Food aid will continue until government capacity grows and alternative social protection instruments are established. WFP assistance is likely to be needed until refugees have returned, political stability has been achieved, markets have expanded, infrastructure projects are under way, agricultural productivity has increased, women are economically active and capacities have been built at all levels. Once political, economic and security conditions permitted, the PRRO strategy would enable WFP to phase in a development programme.



- 110. Continued support for Afghanistan by the international community and humanitarian agencies within the NDF is essential to help the country make a sustainable transition from relief to recovery and development and to reduce its dependence on international assistance.
- 111. Food-aid interventions will be reviewed quarterly by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development on behalf of the Inter-Ministerial Commission. Where food aid is no longer needed, it will be reduced or phased out.
- 112. The Government has requested United Nations agencies to develop a transitional strategy to increase its ownership of programmes. The Government is increasingly involved in food assistance, so WFP will phase out its involvement in day-to day implementation of food assistance. It will continue to advise ministries concerned with food-aid.

Contingency Mechanisms

113. Agricultural recovery in 2002 is fragile. The security situation remains unpredictable, despite efforts to ensure stability. In addition to planned relief and recovery components, food will be used for relief assistance for emergencies. WFP will complete and periodically update a contingency plan with ministerial counterparts linked to the Afghanistan Office of Disaster Preparedness.

RECOMMENDATION

114. The PRRO is recommended for approval by the Executive Board within the budget provided in Annexes I and II.



ANNEX I

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN							
	Quantity (mt)	Average cost (per mt)	Value (US dollars)				
WFP COSTS							
A. Direct operational costs							
Commodity ¹							
– Wheat	386 412	147	56 802 564				
 Wheat flour 	110 139	236	25 992 804				
– Pulses	12 941	338	4 374 058				
 Vegetable oil 	61 698	761	46 952 178				
– Sugar	1 107	275	304 425				
– WSB	11 750	373	4 382 750				
 Iodized salt 	2 650	100	265 000				
– Biscuits	32 292	600	19 375 200				
Total commodities	618 989		158 448 979				
External transport			40 230 245				
Total LTSH			78 500 187				
Other direct operational costs			6 846 104				
Total direct operational costs			284 025 515				
B. Direct support costs			31 435 749				
C. Indirect support costs (7.0% of total direct costs)			22 082 288				
TOTAL WFP COSTS			337 543 553				

¹ This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The mix and quantities of commodities, as in all WFP-assisted projects, may vary depending on availability.



ANNEX II

DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US dollars)					
Staff					
International Professional staff	11 001 492				
National Professional staff	1 820 000				
National General-Service staff	6 126 375				
Temporary assistance	153 500				
Overtime	378 469				
Incentives (hazard pay and rest and recuperation)	1 962 110				
International consultants	1 141 600				
United Nations Volunteers	1 204 000				
Staff duty travel	907 798				
Staff training and development	262 000				
Subtotal	24 957 343				
Office expenses and other recurrent costs					
Rental of facility	978 600				
Utilities (general)	288 100				
Office supplies	303 900				
Communication and IT services	1 425 199				
Insurance	4 000				
Equipment repair and maintenance	335 075				
Vehicle maintenance and running costs	687 900				
Other office expenses	439 850				
United Nations organizations' services	309 400				
Subtotal	4 772 024				
Equipment and other fixed costs					
Vehicles	866 500				
TC/IT equipment	431 882				
Furniture, tools and equipment	408 000				
Subtotal	1 706 382				
TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	31 435 749				



ANNEX	
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Activity	Proposed number of recipients Proposed number of beneficiaries*							Food requirements (tons)								Require-
Male Female Total	Total	Male	Female	Total	Wheat	Wheat flour	Pulses	Veg. oil	Sugar	WSB	lodized salt	Bis- cuits	Total	ments vs. total (%)		
A. Relief																
Urban vulnerable (bakeries)	0	60 000	60 000	172 800	187 200	360 000	0	73 584	0	0	0	0	1 150		74 734	12
Rural Vulnerable (10% of FFW)	0	57 000	57 000	164 160	177 840	342 000	17 442	0	698	523	0	1 744	87		20 494	3
Institutional caregivers at TF centres	7 140	13 860	21 000	7 140	13 860	21 000	0	1 341	307	230	77	767	38		2 759	0
Supplementary feeding	6 800	13 200	20 000	6 800	13 200	20 000	0	0	0	18	24	114	0		156	0
IDP feeding (camp)	96 000	104 000	200 000	96 000	104 000	200 000	0	31 938	3 650	2 738	913	9 125	456		48 819	8
Returnee package	204 000	221 000	425 000	1 224 000	1 326 000	2 550 000	63 750	0	0	0	0	0	0		63 750	10
Subtotal relief	313 940	469 060	783 000	1 670 900	1 822 100	3 493 000	81 192	106 863	4 654	3 509	1 013	11 750	1 732	0	210 712	34
B. Recovery																
FFW	484 500	85 500	570 000	1 641 600	1 778 400	3 420 000	174 420	0	6 977	5 233	0	0	872		187 502	30
FFT/NFE	37 500	112 500	150 000	216 000	234 000	450 000	27 300	0	936	702	0	0	0		28 938	5
School feeding (boys and girls)	432 000	288 000	720 000	432 000	288 000	720 000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32 292	32 292	5
School feeding take- home (boys and girls)	288 000	192 000	480 000	288 000	192 000	480 000	103 500	0	0	0	0	0	0		103 500	17
Take-home ration (girls) **	0	480 000	480 000	0	480 000	480 000	0	0	0	33 120	0	0	0		33 120	5
Food for teacher training	12 000	8 000	20 000	12 000	8 000	20 000	0	3 276	374	234	94	0	47		4 025	1
Food for teachers	66 000	44 000	110 000	316 800	343 200	660 000	0	0	0	18 900	0	0	0		18 900	3
Subtotal recovery	1 320 000	730 000	2 050 000	2 906 400	2 843 600	5 750 000	305 220	3 276	8 287	58 189	94	-	919	32 292	408 276	66
Grand total (A+B)	1 633 940	1 199 060	2 833 000	4 577 300	4 665 700	9 243 000	386 412	110 139	12 941	61 697	1 107	11 750	2 650	32 292	618 989	100

* Categories in which beneficiaries in Year 1 and Year 2 differ have been summed in 24 month figures; the larger figure is included for categories in which the same beneficiaries receive assistance in both years.

** Take home beneficiaries are already included in the school feeding line above and therefore have not been included again in the subtotal.

// day	WFP/EB.1/2003/6-A/3
1 120	
1 256	

16CEF
1
Feel

PROPOSED FOOD BASKET										
	Food ration (kg)									
Activity	Unit	Wheat	Wheat flour	Pulses	Vegetable oil	Sugar	WSB	lodized salt	Biscuits	Kcal/ day
Urban vulnerable (bakeries)	day		0.32					0.005		1 120
Rural vulnerable *	day	6.00	_	0.24	0.18	_	0.60	0.030		1 256
Institutions/caregivers at TF Centres/Yr 1**	day		0.35	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.10	0.005		2 035
Institutions,/caregivers at TF Centres/Yr 2	day			0.04	0.03	0.01	0.10	0.005		810
Supplementary feeding	day				0.03	0.04	0.19	_		1 129
IDP feeding (camp)	day		0.35	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.10	0.005		2 035
Returnee package	one-time/hh	150.00		-	-					N/A
FFW	day	6.00		0.24	0.18			0.03		1 130
FFT/NFE***	day	3.50	_	0.12	0.09	_	_	-		2 125
School feeding (boys and girls)	day		_		-	_		-	0.100	_
School feeding take-home (boys and girls)	month	12.50								N/A
Take-home ration (girls)	month				4.00					N/A
Food for teacher training	day		0.35	0.04	0.03	0.01		0.005		1 620
Food supplement for teachers	month				10.00					N/A

*Rural vulnerable people are living in communities where FFW is provided and receive the same family ration plus WSB. They are expected to meet remaining food requirements from other family and community support.

**Daily ration will be reduced to 810 kcal in Year 2 as Government takes greater responsibility.

***Participants receive adjusted family rations (three people).



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of WFP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

ANNEX V

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ACORD	Afghanistan country office results database
AIMS	Afghanistan Information Management System
CFSAM	crop and food supply assessment mission
COMPAS	Commodity Movement Processing and Analysis System
EDP	extended delivery point
EMOP	emergency operation
FDP	final distribution point
FFE	food for education and training
FFT	food for training
FFW	food for work
IDP	internally displaced person
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
LVAU	Livelihoods Vulnerability Analysis Unit
NDB	National Development Budget
NDF	National Development Framework
NEEP	National Emergency Employment Programme
NFE	non-formal education
NGO	non-governmental organization
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
TF	therapeutic feeding
TAPA	Transitional Assistance Programme for Afghanistan
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Services
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSECOORD	Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator
VAM	vulnerability analysis and mapping
WHO	World Health Organization

