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PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 8



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PROJECT IRAN 5950¹

Food assistance and support for repatriation to Iraqi and Afghan refugees in Iran

WFP food cost	4 320 000 dollars
Total cost to WFP	5 850 000 dollars
Government contribution (ITSH)	1 560 000 dollars
UNHCR costs	13 390 000 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	88 000 in refugee camps (30 000 to be repatriated)
Duration	Twelve months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

¹ Given the complementary nature of logistics operations and the harmonization of food rations in WFP feeding operations for Iraqi and Afghan refugees in Iran, the two PROs - 4161 and 4258 - were merged into a single PRO. This rationalizes management arrangements for the country office as well as at WFP headquarters.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document contains recommendations for review and approval by the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

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BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

Iraqi refugees

1. The first major influx into Iran of some 50,000 Iraqi refugees began after civil disturbances in northern Iraq during 1988. The inflow of refugees continued in 1989 and 1990, with their number reaching 105,000 at the beginning of 1991. The most significant influx occurred after the Gulf war in 1991, as a result of the Kurdish uprising in the north and civil strife affecting the Marsh Arabs in the south. Over a period of two months, 1.2 million Iraqi refugees were reported to have entered Iran.
2. Most Kurdish refugees voluntarily repatriated during the second half of 1991, after a general amnesty was announced by the Government of Iraq. Nevertheless, around half of the total Iraqi refugee population remained in Iran, mainly for political and socio-economic reasons. Since then, very limited repatriation has occurred.
3. There was an additional influx of Iraqi Kurds in the autumn of 1996, following hostilities between the Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. For the period September to November 1996, there was an average of around 40,000 additional refugees, though at the height of the influx some 70,000 additional Iraqi Kurds crossed the border. By mid-December 1996, almost all of these additional refugees returned to Iraq.
4. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNHCR estimate the total number of Iraqis currently living in Iran to be 600,000, mostly of Arab origin. Of these, some 480,000 are refugees from the 1971-75 period, while the remaining 120,000 are refugees from the 1987-91 Iran-Iraq war, residual refugees from the Gulf war, and a small number of residual refugees from the September 1996 influx. Of these 120,000 people, some 65,000 live in 27 camps and are receiving WFP/UNHCR assistance. Only those unable to achieve self-reliance are accommodated in camps. WFP has also been supporting repatriation efforts, jointly with UNHCR.
5. Since November 1988 WFP has been providing assistance to Iraqi refugees living and registered in camps in Iran through a series of three emergency operations (EMOPs) and five PROs, for which a total of around 133,000 tons of basic food commodities has so far been delivered. PRO Number 4161.04 was approved by the Executive Board in October 1996; through a budget revision, it covers assistance until the end of March 1998.

Afghan refugees

6. The first major influx of Afghan refugees into Iran started in 1979, with the intensification of fighting within Afghanistan caused by the intervention of the military of the former Soviet Union. The Government estimated that 2.9 million Afghans entered Iran at that time, but after the repatriation of nearly 1.5 million Afghans (WFP and UNHCR provided repatriation grants to 568,000 returnees since 1992), the Government estimates that 1.4 million registered Afghans were still in Iran in mid-1997.
7. WFP has been providing food assistance to Afghan refugees in Iran since 1987 through an EMOP and eight PROs, for which a total of around 183,000 tons of basic commodities has been delivered so far. PRO Number 4258.07 was approved by the Executive Board in October 1996; through a budget revision, it covers assistance until the end of March 1998.



8. WFP had initially been assisting those living in rural settlements established by the Government in the eastern provinces. In 1992 and 1993, WFP food was reaching around 200,000 Afghan refugees in Khorassan, Sistan/Baluchistan and Kerman. However, most refugees from the rural settlements had been repatriated by 1994; consequently, WFP assistance was scaled down to 22,000 persons remaining in formal refugee camps. Since then, the number in the camps has remained roughly stable. Between 1995 and 1997, WFP continued to provide food assistance to approximately 22,000 Afghans in six refugee camps. As with the Iraqi refugees, only those unable to achieve self-reliance are accommodated in camps. WFP has also supported repatriation efforts, jointly with UNHCR.

General

9. In addition to WFP commodities, some supplementary food aid has been supplied by the Iranian Red Crescent Society in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and some local and international NGOs. UNHCR has provided assistance for care and maintenance support, including health, sanitation, water-supply, educational infrastructure and income-generating activities.
10. For both Iraqi and Afghan refugees, those living outside the camps are largely considered self-reliant, earning their livelihoods in various types of occasional trades, businesses and jobs in towns and cities. Afghan refugees generally have less difficulty than Iraqi refugees in integrating into the local economy because they usually speak Farsi.

GOVERNMENT POLICY/ACTIONS

11. The government agency responsible for refugees is the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA). BAFIA has requested the continuation of WFP support to maintain the supply of basic food commodities for Iraqi and Afghan refugees in the camps, and as an incentive for repatriation.
12. The Government has continued a liberal stand in providing asylum to Iraqi and Afghan refugees. However, its policy is to repatriate refugees to their country of origin when conditions permit.
13. Refugees face great difficulties in finding jobs, reflecting the lack of growth in the Iranian economy. Increasing unemployment in Iran has prompted the Government to limit the access of refugees to the labour market. A stricter implementation of labour laws in early 1997 has resulted in fewer jobs for refugees, both Iraqis and Afghans.
14. Nevertheless, refugees at large have access to subsidized bread, are able to send their children to Iranian state schools, and have access to health facilities (though an increasing number of health services now require some payment). The food and health subsidies are estimated to cost the Government 27 dollars per refugee per year. UNHCR is providing some support to government education and health services outside the formal camps, where there are high concentrations of refugees.
15. In mid-1997, the Ministry of the Interior announced plans to issue new unified temporary cards to all refugees, replacing the existing permanent and temporary cards, as well as issuing cards to those without documents. Thus, all refugees in Iran are being registered or re-registered, and refugees formerly holding expired temporary identification cards will be permitted to stay until the newly issued cards expire. However, holders of the new refugee



identification cards will be required to report their places of residence to local BAFIA offices every six months.

16. Most refugees are integrated into rural or urban settlements, and some rural settlements are mainly or entirely inhabited by refugees, especially in eastern Iran. However, the refugees receiving direct assistance are in formal refugee camps, managed by BAFIA with support from WFP and UNHCR (government support to the camps is described below in the section on non-food inputs).

DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

17. The refugees in the camps face difficulties similar to those of the refugee population outside camps in terms of self-reliance: labour opportunities are diminishing and labour laws are being implemented more strictly.
18. The Government's policy is to support the repatriation of refugees when security conditions allow return to their place of origin. BAFIA, WFP and UNHCR are supporting repatriation efforts. The Government does not intend to allocate land to refugees.
19. BAFIA is not against the principle of food for work, but would only consider food-for-work activities in addition to the monthly care and maintenance rations. WFP's policy, as well as its overall resource base, would not allow food for work as additional food to the full monthly rations which are provided to all inhabitants of the camps.
20. The limited opportunities for refugees in camps to become self-reliant are partly due to the lack of marketable skills of many of the refugees. Training courses and income-generating activities are being supported by UNHCR in cooperation with the relevant technical agency of the Government of Iran. The skills and experience will not only assist refugees in the rehabilitation of their houses and community infrastructure, but also facilitate eventual economic self-reliance upon repatriation.
21. Training courses generally engage men in carpentry, electrical work and brick-making. Income-generating activities for girls and women in the camps reflect the cultural restrictions on employment outside the camps. Women and girls are trained in crafts (such as kilim and carpet-weaving, and clothes-making) for a period ranging from two to six months; they receive a small cash stipend and the opportunity to gain a certificate from the Iranian crafts authority.
22. Trained refugees receive wages comparable to earnings in Iranian society. Market research has been undertaken to ensure that products can be sold competitively. Each workshop is guided by a committee composed of representatives of the male and female refugees involved in the activity, the camp management and UNHCR.
23. Although there are education facilities in all the camps, parents have tended not to send their girls to school, especially in the Afghan camps. The gender gap in education is wide: on average, boys registered at school account for 12 percent of the total camp population, while girls account for only five percent. The gap is wider at higher grades, with girl students tending to drop out of secondary school. To address this imbalance in 1997, WFP introduced a food incentive to encourage families to send their daughters to school. The "oil-for-schooling" scheme consists in the distribution of vegetable oil (around 4.5 kg a month) to each girl who attends school regularly, for an academic year of nine months. A container of oil has a high income-transfer value, around 7.3 dollars, and is easy to carry. It



can be the factor deciding whether families keep their daughters working at home or send them to school.

24. The attendance of girls at school is expected to reach 10 percent of the camp population in 1998, compared with 12 percent for boys. Thus, some 8,500 beneficiaries will be receiving a total of 344 tons of edible oil during the period of this PRO.

OBJECTIVES OF WFP ASSISTANCE

25. The objectives of WFP assistance in Iran are in line with the core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities: a) food aid is provided to save lives in a refugee situation; b) food aid is essential for social and humanitarian protection; and c) food aid improves the nutritional status and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times of their lives. The relief food assistance is coordinated with relief assistance provided by other humanitarian organizations.
26. A joint WFP and UNHCR mission visited refugee camps in May 1997 to assess the food needs of refugees in Iran. UNHCR is supporting government initiatives in education and training activities, and contributing to increased self-reliance through income-generating projects.

BENEFICIARIES

Refugee feeding in camps

27. The total number of refugees in Iran is estimated at two million - 600,000 Iraqis and 1.4 million Afghans. However, WFP assistance in monthly rations has been restricted to the 88,000 refugees living in the 33 camps recognized by UNHCR and BAFIA. All people within the camps receive WFP food assistance: full rations are provided for each individual registered.
28. When food supplies additional to the WFP commodities are available, such as family food parcels supplied by the Iranian Red Crescent or NGOs, the camp management distribute these commodities to the most vulnerable families. Criteria used to define vulnerability include as priority groups households headed by women, and physically handicapped or ill people, acknowledging their limited capacity to pursue labour opportunities inside and outside the camp.
29. In the Iraqi camps, the population is estimated to be 50 percent female and 50 percent male, with an average family size of seven. In the Afghan camps, the population is estimated at 45 percent female and 55 percent male, with an average family size of six.
30. The numbers of people in both Iraqi and Afghan camps have stabilized, with the changes in the past two years having been minor. Temporary shelters were set up for the short-lived influx of refugees in late 1996, but nearly all of them returned to Iraq before the end of the year.
31. Government statistics verified by UNHCR indicate that in mid-1997 there were 64,485 Iraqi and 22,704 Afghan refugees living in camps established by the Iranian Government and supported by UNHCR. The table below shows the refugee camp populations by province:



BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEE POPULATION	
Province	Number of refugees
Iraqi refugees	
Khuzestan	23 608
West Azerbaijan	16 551
Fars	7 394
Kermanshah	5 781
Kurdistan	4 979
Lorestan	2 923
Central	2 595
Zanjan	484
Tehran	170
Total Iraqis	64 485
Province	Number of refugees
Afghan refugees	
Kerman	10 538
Sistan Baluchistan	5 265
Central	2 826
Semnan	2 191
Bushehr	1 884
Total Afghans	22 704

32. The total number of refugees in camps rose by one percent between 1996 and 1997. Repatriation was very limited and there was net population growth (births minus deaths) as well as net movements to the camps. Some refugees are experiencing difficulties in coping independently within Iranian society and have moved into the camps because basic food and services are provided.
33. In general, the camps are located far away from neighbouring villages and towns. Nevertheless, around 30 percent of adult male refugees living in the camps have been able to find some employment outside the camps; of these, under 20 percent have permanent employment, and the rest are occasional labour. Daily wages range between three and five dollars. Refugee women, both Iraqi and Afghans, seldom work outside the camps due to cultural restrictions.
34. The WFP/UNHCR joint mission was able to visit seven out of the 33 camps. Conditions for refugees have changed little in the past year and are not expected to improve in 1998. Thus, WFP and UNHCR continue to recommend that WFP food assistance of monthly rations be provided only to the populations in formal camps. For a one-year period (1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999), the target population for this assistance is 88,000 refugees.



Repatriation

35. Repatriation efforts are aimed at the entire refugee population. As less than five percent of the total refugee population reside in camps, most of the people repatriating are from the non-camp population. There has been no reduction in the camp populations as a consequence of repatriation in the past two years. Unless repatriation far exceeds expectations, repatriation is unlikely to result in a net reduction in the camp populations.
36. WFP plans to continue to support UNHCR efforts in voluntary repatriation to both Iraqis and Afghans. However, the projections for repatriation in 1998 are lower than expected in recent years. In the past two years, the actual repatriations have fallen far short of the forecasts.
37. Progress in repatriation has been slow in 1996 and has been diminishing further in 1997, as shown in the table below. By the middle of 1997, the initial forecast of 10,000 Iraqis and 300,000 Afghans for repatriation was reduced to 5,000 Iraqis and 25,000 Afghans. There is normally an increase in the number of repatriations at the end of the school year, with a peak in July and August. The number of Afghans and Iraqis repatriating in the months of July and August was double the average for the period January - September, but was still much lower than expected.

PROGRESS IN THE REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES, 1992-1997						
Refugees	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 (Jan-Sep)
Afghans	6 925	337 495	121 402	91 657	8 367	1 578
Iraqis	0	0	2 290*	1 691	1 414	3 878
Total	6 925	337 495	123 692	93 348	9 781	5 456

* September–December 1994.

38. Some of the Iraqi refugees living in the West Azerbaijan and Kurdistan provinces seem to be willing to return to Iraq if the security situation allows safe transit and resettlement, and provision for food security is made. Since the United Nations Security Council Resolution (SCR) 986 was implemented, WFP provides a two-month ration to returnees to northern Iraq, pending their registration for SCR 986 food entitlements. Returnee lists are submitted to WFP by the Government and verified by UNHCR. BAFIA and UNHCR had expected a further 3,000 Iraqis to repatriate in the last four months of 1997, but renewed fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq has stalled the repatriation process. Repatriations of Iraqi refugees are predominantly by families. In 1997, the repatriations were 51 percent women and 49 percent men.
39. In Afghanistan, fighting continues between the Taliban and opposition forces; furthermore, the Government of Iran has shown reluctance to repatriate Afghans to Taliban-controlled areas of Afghanistan. Afghan refugees returning to their country of origin can benefit from the large-scale WFP activities inside Afghanistan, for which the commitment is around 170,000 tons of food a year, with target beneficiaries numbering 1.5 million. In Afghanistan, WFP supports: relief feeding of the internally displaced and vulnerable groups; subsidized bread sales to vulnerable groups and the urban poor; labour-intensive food-for-work rehabilitation activities (as long as men and women benefit equally); and



food-for-training activities. Sixty percent of Afghan returnees are male and 40 percent are female: a relatively large proportion of the returnees are single men.

40. Given the limited repatriation in the past two years and little change in the political conditions in neighbouring countries, the expectations for repatriation in the immediate future are much lower. Thus, the forecast of repatriation for 1998 agreed by WFP and UNHCR is for 10,000 Iraqis and 20,000 Afghans. If repatriation were to progress at a faster rate than forecast, WFP would revise the size of this PRO through a budget revision. If the number of returnees were greater than what could be addressed by a budget revision, WFP would approve an emergency operation (EMOP) to cover the extra needs. The Government has indicated that in such an event, it could loan wheat to WFP for repatriation, to be reimbursed through food supplied by the EMOP; this would allow repatriation efforts to proceed without delay.
41. WFP and UNHCR will continue to set up contingency resources for the voluntary repatriation of Iraqi and Afghan refugees, prepared in collaboration with the Government of Iran. WFP provides 50 kilograms of wheat for each person repatriating; this has a local value of around 14 dollars, similar to the total cost to WFP. UNHCR will supply plastic sheeting as well as cash grants (which were 25 dollars per person in 1997). Based on the planning figure of 10,000 Iraqi and 20,000 Afghan returnees for a 12-month period, WFP will allocate 1,500 tons of wheat for this purpose.
42. The International Organization for Migration assists in repatriation by arranging convoys for returnees to the Border Exit Points in Kurdistan and West Azerbaijan provinces for Iraqi Kurdish refugees, while Afghan returnees are transited through Border Exit Stations in Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchistan provinces.

NON-FOOD INPUTS

43. The Government provides the non-food inputs and external services essential for the refugees in camps, with some international assistance. Support is mainly from UNHCR, and some assistance is provided by national and international NGOs.
44. The camps are generally maintained in good condition. Where the winters are harsh, the camps generally have concrete houses or prefabricated dwellings. With support from UNHCR, the Government has provided the camps with schooling, health services, fuel and electricity, sanitation, and other basic infrastructure.
45. Cooking facilities and fuel (kerosene) are provided for households in the camps. This has reduced the over-exploitation of firewood supplies in the vicinity of the camps. Drinking-water is adequate. The camp health centres have nurses and the services of a doctor either full time or for visits. Family planning services are also available. UNHCR has increased its support to the health centres because government subsidies for health services have been cut back.
46. The refugee operation is implemented by the Government through national and regional government structures: at the national level, it is coordinated by BAFIA, which is part of the Ministry of the Interior; in the provinces, it is coordinated by the regional offices of BAFIA. Thus, the Government provides the administration and management services for all activities in the refugee camps. In addition to assistance from international and national aid organizations, the Government provides some complementary food and non-food items, such as soap and detergent, water containers and kitchen utensils.



MODE OF IMPLEMENTATION

47. BAFIA has overall responsibility, from the receipt of WFP commodities at the port of entry through to the distribution of monthly rations to the refugee camps. Internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) costs are borne by the Government of Iran, except for the food for repatriation. The ITSH costs for commodities allocated for repatriation are borne by WFP. UNHCR carries out food distributions for repatriations.
48. The Government covers the cost of milling the wheat. Refugees pay a nominal amount for bread in order to recover the baking costs. Refugees in the camps are issued with wheat flour or bread (three 100-gram loaves per person a day). There are bakeries in most refugee camps. The other WFP food commodities (i.e., rice, pulses, edible oil and sugar) are distributed as bulk rations, free of charge, and are distributed directly to the heads of households as monthly rations.
49. Coordination and reporting on commodity utilization have improved following the establishment of a national-level Food Committee, composed of the BAFIA Deputy Director, the WFP Country Director and the UNHCR Representative. This committee reviews beneficiary figures, data collection, recording, procedures, distribution mechanisms, and related camp issues. Coordination of NGO activities is supported by the International Consortium for Refugees in Iran (ICRI), which meets regularly for the sharing of information and facilitates international NGO operations with the Government.

FOOD AID STRATEGY

50. All imported WFP food aid is delivered to the ports of Bandar Abbas and/or Bandar Imam Khomeni, where it is handed over to the government authority (BAFIA). WFP bulk wheat is delivered to the State Organization for Grain (SOG), which then releases an equivalent amount of wheat flour from its facilities, as close to the refugee camps as possible. SOG maintains a countrywide network of silos; this arrangement considerably reduces internal transport costs. Using these facilities, WFP has been able to borrow wheat from the Government when there have been breaks in the WFP food pipeline. For other food commodities delivered by WFP for refugee camps, BAFIA arranges transport to provincial and district-level warehouses for ultimate delivery to the refugee camps. UNHCR has supported the construction of additional warehouses in the camps.
51. Following the intervention of WFP and UNHCR in 1996, BAFIA has set up Food Committees at the refugee camp level. These committees ensure women's participation in the group representation which is in control of food distribution. The WFP/UNHCR joint mission noted that although the Food Committees had been set up, the main influence within the refugee communities remained with the traditional leaders, such as the elders and members of the clergy. WFP requested the camp managers to ensure that the Food Committees are acknowledged as the forum for food issues. Food Committees have taken some basic steps to ensure transparency: they have been ensuring that per capita food entitlements are known to every refugee in the camps and that refugees now have individual cards which state their entitlements and record the rations provided.



PERFORMANCE MONITORING

52. Reporting on the use of WFP food is undertaken by the camp authorities, under the guidance of WFP and UNHCR staff. Reporting on food distributions and beneficiaries has been inadequate in the past. However, BAFIA has responded to WFP's requests and camp authorities have improved refugee registration procedures and reporting. Nearly all the camps visited by a joint WFP/UNHCR mission in mid-1997 collected disaggregated data on beneficiaries as well as food distributions and stocks. The population data are usually split into gender, age and households. Food distribution data are recorded monthly. Schoolchildren are also listed by age and gender, with details on school attendance for the oil-for-schooling scheme.
53. WFP is urging BAFIA to ensure that the good examples of reporting procedures are followed by all the camps. Furthermore, the process of collation and aggregation of statistics available at the camp level still requires more attention, and WFP has offered to support BAFIA further in this process. UNHCR maintains "camp profiles", which involve a systematic collection of data from each camp. The profiles contain detailed information on the population, the health facilities, food basket, water supplies, sanitation, shelter, education, community-based services, access to work and job opportunities, logistics assistance received, investment per capita, and priority needs.
54. WFP is pursuing further improvements in the monitoring of performance indicators. WFP and UNHCR, in collaboration with BAFIA, ensure greater reliability in the production of more comprehensive monthly reports compiled into quarterly Situation Reports and Food Availability Status Reports. This would include the standard commodity data and beneficiary data, i.e.: a) for commodity data: deliveries of WFP commodities, and quantities released under borrowing or exchange arrangements; deliveries from other sources (e.g., NGOs); quantities distributed; remaining stock balances; and b) for beneficiary data: numbers of beneficiaries by country of origin and disaggregated by gender.
55. The food basket and the use of the food at the household level will be monitored by WFP monitors through rapid appraisal: for example, the proportion consumed, traded or exchanged, and other sources of food. Similarly, WFP monitors will review food security variables which affect the household's consumption of food additional to that provided by WFP, such as income from labour, food prices and physical access to the market. Results of nutritional surveillance in camp health centres will be monitored by regular visits and, subject to clearance by the Government, a nutritional survey conducted for camp residents (see the section on nutritional considerations and food basket below). For the oil-for-schooling scheme, the impact will be measured by assessing the incremental attendance of girls at the schools as a result of the food incentive, i.e., the "before and after" situation.
56. WFP will locate a field officer in western Iran, to help improve monitoring and reporting on project implementation. UNHCR has agreed that the monitor will be based in one of its offices in western Iran.

NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FOOD BASKET

57. The health centres visited by the joint WFP/UNHCR mission reported that the levels of malnutrition recorded in the refugee camps were not abnormally high relative to those prevailing in Iranian society. Nevertheless, although cases of severe malnutrition were very rare, some cases of moderate malnutrition have been recorded, especially among expectant



and nursing mothers and infants. These at-risk groups are under regular surveillance. Doctors and health assistants from the Ministry of Health advise that the cases of malnutrition tend to be the result of poor preparation of food rather than inadequate quantity or quality of food. The Ministry of Health encourages breast-feeding among refugees in the camps. The health centres in the camps provide limited quantities of infant formula milk only for infants who do not receive adequate nutrition from their mothers' milk. Infant formula is supplied by the Ministry of Health or through donations by NGOs.

58. The joint mission proposed to BAFIA that a nutrition survey be undertaken within the camp populations by an NGO in 1998. If so warranted by the survey, WFP and UNHCR will arrange for the provision of additional food. Any increase in additional basic food commodities (cereals, edible oils and fats, pulses and other sources of protein, blended foods, salt, sugar and high-energy biscuits) would be mobilized by WFP. If complementary foods (such as local fresh foods, spices, tea and dried/ therapeutic milk) were needed, these would be mobilized by UNHCR, as prescribed in the WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding.
59. For this PRO, the WFP/UNHCR joint mission recommended no further change in the ration scale. In 1997, the rations for Afghan refugees were increased to equal those for Iraqi refugees. Thus, the daily food ration provided by WFP for all the camp population (Iraqis and Afghans) will continue to be composed of wheat (350 grams), rice (100 grams), edible oil (20 grams), pulses (30 grams) and sugar (15 grams). It is equivalent to around 1,900 kilocalories and 50 grams of protein per person per day. The local value of the WFP monthly ration is around 7.3 dollars per person.
60. Iran is a food-deficit country and the prices of commodities in the domestic market have not generally been competitive with international purchases. WFP has been able to borrow wheat from the Government. This loan facility will continue for WFP in the event that the requirements for wheat for the refugee camp populations exceed the WFP commodities available in the country at the time.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

61. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board:
- a) approve the continuation of food assistance to Iraqis and Afghans in refugee camps in Iran, based upon a daily per capita ration for an estimated 88,000 refugees, over a period of 12 months, from 1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999 (16,543 tons);
 - b) approve the continuation of the oil-for-schooling scheme for girls for the camps (344 tons); and
 - c) approve the continuation of the voluntary repatriation programme in Iran through the provision of wheat for a returnee plan estimated for 10,000 Iraqis and 20,000 Afghans (1,500 tons).
62. The total food requirement for the PRO is 18,387 tons, at a total cost to WFP of 5,847,793 dollars. Details are provided in Annexes I and II.



ANNEX I

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN			
	Quantity (tons)	Average cost per ton	Value (dollars)
Direct operational costs			
Commodities ¹			
– Wheat	12 742	168	2 146 140
– Rice	3 212	278	892 936
– Edible oil	987	695	685 965
– Pulses	964	450	433 800
– Sugar	482	335	161 470
Total commodities			4 320 311
External transport		49.43	908 813
LTSH			127 500
ITSH		85	
Subtotal direct operational costs			5 356 624
Direct support costs (see Annex II for details)			103 500
Total direct costs			5 460 124
Indirect support costs (7.1 percent of total direct costs)			387 669
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS			5 847 793

¹ This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The precise mix and actual quantities of commodities to be supplied to the project, as in all WFP-assisted projects may vary over time depending on the availability of commodities to WFP and domestically within the recipient country.



ANNEX II

DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS (<i>dollars</i>)
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Staff costs

International	
United Nations Volunteer (14 months)	–
National professional officers	19 000
Local staff and temporaries	47 500
Subtotal	66 500

Travel and DSA

International	–
In-country	15 000
Subtotal	15 000

Office expenses

Rental of facility	4 500
Utilities	–
Communications	2 000
Office supplies	1 000
Equipment repair and maintenance	500
Subtotal	8 000

Vehicle operation

Maintenance	6 500
Fuel	2 000
Subtotal	8 500

Equipment

Communications equipment	3 500
Other equipment (equipment for sub-office)	2 000
Subtotal	5 500

TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS	103 500
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