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**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 16 - 18 May 2001

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

For information*



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2000)— DJIBOUTI 06266.0 (former WIS no. 6266.00)

Assistance to Refugees

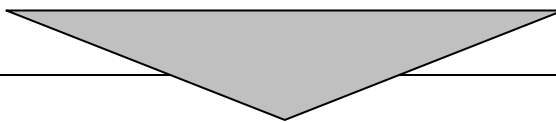
Number of beneficiaries	24,000 refugees
Women	12,977
Men	11,023
Duration of project	Eighteen months (1 September 2000–28 February 2002)

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	4,341,565
Total food cost	2,153,073
Total cost to UNHCR	2,900,000
Total cost	7,241,656

*In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it in advance of the meeting and the chair accepts the request on the grounds that this is a proper use of Board time.

Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

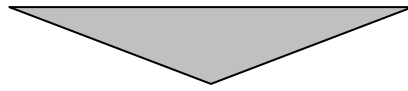
Director, Africa Region (OSA): Mr M. Aranda da Silva tel.: 066513-2201

Programme Adviser, OSA: Mr T. Pakkala tel.: 066513-2371

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



Draft Conclusion



The Board took note of the provision of food assistance to 24,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees in two camps through:

- a general ration ;
- a therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children;
- a supplementary feeding programme for children and expectant and nursing mothers; and
- a monthly take-home ration to girls with regular school attendance.

1. The first refugees arrived in Djibouti as a consequence of civil conflict in northern Somalia, including Hargeisa, in 1988. Most of this group of refugees are from the Issas clan and are closely related to half of the Djiboutian population.
2. A second influx of Somali refugees occurred at the end of 1991, when fighting in Somalia intensified. Most of these Somalis either have remained in the refugee camps or are living as “self-settled” urban refugees in the town of Djibouti. Many more refugees, Ethiopians from the Ogaden area, arrived in Djibouti in mid-1991 as a result of the Ogaden war in Ethiopia.
3. UNHCR established four camps in rural areas to house the refugees: Ali Addeh, Aour Aoussa, Assamo and Hol Hol. Aour Aoussa closed in February 1995 and Assamo closed in April 1997, following the repatriation of 32,024 Ethiopian refugees. The remaining Ethiopian refugees are mainly families of former soldiers from the Mengistu era.
4. For a period of 18 months, 1 September 2000 to 28 February 2002, WFP, through the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Victims of Disaster (ONARS), will provide food assistance to 24,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees in two camps, Ali Addeh and Hol Hol.
5. WFP provides the refugees with the basic food they need for survival through the monthly distribution of a general ration. This consists of 12.75 kg cereals, 1.5 kg pulses, 1.5 kg Famix or corn-soya blend (CSB), 0.75 kg oil, 0.3 kg sugar and 0.15 kg salt.
6. In addition to the general ration, WFP, together with its partner organizations, UNHCR and ONARS, provides assistance through a therapeutic feeding programme for severely malnourished children. A supplementary feeding programme has been established for children graduating from the therapeutic programme and for expectant and nursing mothers and the sick.
7. To encourage school attendance and reduce the student drop-out rate, especially among girls, a monthly take-home ration of 1 gallon of vegetable oil is given to some 750 girls



who regularly attend school. Girls in the camps are often taken out of school so that they can assist with work in the home and/or travel to the town of Djibouti in search of work.

8. Other organizations working in the camps include UNESCO and the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA), a non-governmental organization. UNESCO, with UNHCR, provides primary education. AMDA provides medical services to the camps and has trained at least five community health workers in each camp.
9. The overall situation in northwest Somalia, although improving, remains largely unfavourable for repatriation. Northwest Somalia lacks basic socio-economic infrastructure such as water supplies, roads, schools and medical facilities, but there is another difficulty that is even more serious: the areas to which the refugees would return are littered with anti-personnel land-mines.

