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EVALUATION REPORTS

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1. The Executive Director is submitting to the Executive Board for its consideration five evaluation reports. These cover a wide spectrum of WFP's interventions: two are of complex ongoing emergency operations, one of which is entirely devoted to relief activities (Great Lakes) and one which also involves rehabilitation (Angola); one is of an ongoing rehabilitation programme, which still retains an emergency response facility (Cambodia); one is a mid-term evaluation of a rural development project (Viet Nam); and there is a thematic evaluation of WFP's projects that are targeted to the special needs of mothers and children. Each of the evaluations provides lessons on the need for sound project/programme design, including well defined objectives and beneficiary targeting, appropriate monitoring systems and complementary inputs, as well as a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all the actors concerned.
 - a) Angola 5602—"Relief and post-emergency operations in Angola: a joint WFP/NGOs/IFRC evaluation" examines the coordination and collaboration between WFP and the NGOs, as well as IFRC. The exercise was a useful experiment in terms of the participation of all partners (NGOs, IFRC and WFP, as well as beneficiaries) in the evaluation. The strengths and weaknesses, and the quality of complementarity were found to change as the operation attempted to move from relief to rehabilitation and development activities.
 - b) "Interim Study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis" provides an initial study of the joint efforts by UNHCR and WFP to enhance coordination in the field, through various new and innovative technologies and management systems.
 - c) The mid-term evaluation of Project Viet Nam 4617—"Rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes" assesses the contribution that WFP food aid has made to improving the economic security of the project beneficiaries. These activities were found to be well conceived and targeted, however, the lack of technical maintenance and some difficulties with food management might have reduced the effects of the project. Improvements in monitoring were also recommended.
 - d) Cambodia PRO 5483—"Programme for rehabilitation" focuses on various key issues relating to the targeting exercises, the processes/institutions, the appropriateness and quality of assets created, and the transferability of the approach to the design of similar projects. The pioneer strategies are recognized, as are the efforts made to overcome weak initial formulation. More consideration needs to be given to differentiating between emergency assistance and support to development activities, as well as to the monitoring of effects.
 - e) Lessons learned from food aid contributions to MCH: how to address critical food needs of women and children combines the findings of an exhaustive desk review of recently approved VGF projects and the subsequent on-site evaluations of projects in Pakistan, Viet Nam, Malawi, and Tanzania. The evaluation underlines the importance of food assistance to vulnerable women and children. Operational issues examined related to the design of the projects, including targeting and monitoring (both of which should be better focused on food aid issues), and the extent to which the critical needs were met in refugee situations; problems of assessment and timeliness were observed.



2. Factors contributing to the achievements of the WFP interventions which emerge from the findings of the evaluations are various, and include the increased importance given to targeting of the beneficiary and a more genuine assessment of needs, as well as the coordination and collaboration with other implementing partners, in particular those offering technical assistance and inputs.

