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# **WFP EMERGENCY RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN 1996**

**Agenda item 3 b)**

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## **REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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## OVERVIEW

1. WFP has become the principal international channel for the provision of food aid in emergencies for refugees and internally displaced persons. Relief food aid accounted for more than 70 percent of WFP's resources in 1996, when WFP provided relief assistance to 24.6 million people in 42 countries.
2. Nine out of every 10 tons of WFP relief assistance went to helping victims of conflict, the vast majority of them women and children. Of the 57 relief operations supported by WFP in 1996, six large-scale conflict-related operations (Great Lakes regional, Liberia/Sierra Leone, Angola, Afghanistan, Iraq and the former Yugoslavia) accounted for almost two thirds of all WFP relief food aid delivered during the year.<sup>1</sup>
3. Drought and sudden natural disasters (floods, storms, etc.) accounted for just over 10 percent of the relief food provided. Ethiopia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPR Korea) and Laos were affected by natural disasters in 1996, while countries in southern Africa received WFP relief assistance as a consequence of the drought that struck the region in 1995.
4. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for the major proportion of WFP's relief activities in 1996, receiving 56 percent of all relief food provided in the year. The Great Lakes region and the former Yugoslavia were the two largest recipients of WFP relief food in 1996, accounting for one third of all WFP relief deliveries (the Great Lakes region received 18 percent and the former Yugoslavia 16 percent of relief deliveries). Liberia (nine percent), Angola (seven percent), Afghanistan (seven percent), Iraq (six percent), Ethiopia (five percent) and DPR Korea (four percent) were also significant recipients of WFP relief aid.
5. Most relief operations in 1996 were in countries that were already recipients of WFP assistance. The only exception was the operation for victims of floods and food shortages in DPR Korea.
6. Food aid is usually the largest single component of the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals for complex emergencies issued by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). In 1996, WFP requirements accounted for 40 percent of the total resources requested in DHA appeals.
7. The overall availability of relief food reached 82 percent of needs in 1996. The new resourcing model, introduced on 1 January 1996, has increased donor confidence by providing greater transparency and accountability.
8. WFP's new resourcing model also gives donors greater ability to direct their resources to specific operations. Nearly all resources for emergency operations were directed, and half in the case of protracted relief operations. This led to some relief operations (particularly in Iraq and Iran) experiencing significant shortfalls in the course of the year, while other operations had substantial carry-over stocks and pledges from 1996 for distribution in 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this report, all references to tonnages and food values apply to actual deliveries made to active WFP operations in 1996.



9. A number of ongoing relief operations were jolted by dramatic changes, which required a rapid response by WFP, including at times a significant shift in WFP's strategy.
10. In April/May the sudden upsurge in the fighting in Liberia made irrelevant the demobilization and resettlement strategies devised in 1995. A new joint common strategy, developed in June by WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the main donors, stressed the need to strictly target assistance to genuine vulnerable groups, restricting activities to life-saving and life-sustaining programmes, and reducing to the barest minimum the level of food stocks and equipment kept in-country, so that the danger of expropriations by armed groups was lessened. Only towards the end of the year had conditions stabilized sufficiently for some cautious rehabilitation work to be renewed. From November 1996, WFP has supported the efforts of the international community to help members of factions, including child soldiers, return to civilian life.
11. The fall of Kabul to the Taliban in September and the ensuing restrictions on the freedom of women to leave their homes impaired WFP's rehabilitation work in Afghanistan, most of which is directly targeted to women and children. As a result, WFP has developed a new strategy for assistance to Afghanistan, which concentrates on targeted humanitarian relief.
12. WFP's vital relief work in Burundi for internally displaced persons and Rwandan refugees was severely constrained when, in response to the July coup in Burundi, an economic embargo was placed on the country by Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zaire, backed by several other African countries. The ban affected the importation of humanitarian food aid as well as fuel, with the result that WFP was forced to substantially curtail its operations in Burundi for some months, until WFP and DHA working in partnership were able to get the ban partially lifted. Being limited to using only those stocks that were already in the country, the WFP programme was confined to responding to the most urgent needs.
13. Contingency planning exercises and the various rapid response measures introduced by WFP spectacularly proved their value when the eastern Zaire crisis broke towards the end of the year. Given the regional approach to programming of resources in this operation, WFP had full flexibility in allocating donor contributions to any country within the Great Lakes region. In this way, the operation could respond rapidly to the massive cross-border population movements, particularly when hundreds of thousands of refugees streamed back to Rwanda from Zaire and later from Tanzania.
14. Special Operations (SOs) were once again a vital component in WFP's overall response to emergency situations. By constructing or improving basic infrastructure, SOs also serve as vehicles for rehabilitation and future development programmes.
15. In order to increase delivery capacity to eastern Zaire and Burundi and reduce costs, WFP provided assistance to upgrade the operations of the Tanzania Railways Corporation and increased the barge capacity on Lake Tanganyika by chartering barges and rehabilitating port infrastructure and equipment.
16. In response to the eastern Zaire crisis in November, WFP initiated the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC), originally set up in Kampala and then relocated to Entebbe. The Centre involves the full participation of WFP as lead agency, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), DHA and various NGOs.
17. WFP personnel have increasingly become exposed to danger while delivering humanitarian relief. In Angola, WFP base manager Jorge Leitao was shot and killed while on a mission to coordinate the return of child soldiers to their families. WFP staff quarters in Burundi,



Rwanda and Zaire were also attacked during the year. A WFP staff member lost his life while on official travel when the MV Bukobu capsized in Lake Victoria and hundreds of people were drowned.

18. In a number of countries, worsening internal security severely hampered WFP's efforts to deliver needed relief food during 1996, and special efforts were required to protect WFP staff and to ensure that WFP operations were maintained. WFP staff and other relief workers had to be evacuated from the refugee camps in eastern Zaire when the security situation deteriorated.
19. In Angola, where uncleared mines and insecurity often make road travel risky, WFP has coordinated a most useful and highly efficient aircraft service to transport passengers and non-food items on behalf of other United Nations agencies and NGOs.
20. From the outset of the latest wave of civil unrest in Liberia in April/May 1996, when Monrovia, the capital city, was cut off from all viable air and land routes, WFP maintained its emergency operations and continued its coordination work without interruption. This was possible because WFP chartered a number of vessels and established a highly effective and cost-efficient life-sustaining sea-bridge that permitted both coastal cargo movements and rescue operations. WFP also chartered a custom-built off-shore supply vessel with on-board office and communication facilities, which was placed on stand-by off the port of Monrovia to provide the international community with a safe and reliable haven for evacuations. Costs for this facility were shared initially with the United Nations Department for Peace-Keeping Operations, and subsequently with other United Nations agencies and relief organizations.
21. In Burundi, WFP leased an aircraft to help monitor relief activities and evacuate international relief workers, if required. The aircraft provides a daily passenger service for staff from over 40 different relief organizations, enabling them to continue to provide humanitarian assistance.

## WFP RELIEF OPERATIONS IN 1996

### Preparedness and contingency planning

22. Getting the right food to the right people at the right time is the essence of a successful relief intervention. New initiatives aimed at further strengthening WFP's preparedness capacity featured prominently in WFP's relief work in 1996. These include the WFP Rapid Response Teams, stand-by arrangements with donors and NGOs, the Strategic Logistics Stock for Africa (SLSA), arrangements to use the equipment of partner United Nations agencies (including UNHCR, DHA and UNICEF) and prepositioning food stocks at the DHA warehouse at Pisa. The value of WFP's emergency preparedness arrangements was proven during the eastern Zaire crisis in November.
23. Members of WFP's Rapid Response Team, established in 1993, were deployed to emergency situations in the Great Lakes and Liberia regions, Sudan, Somalia, and DPR Korea in 1996. Their roles included providing additional expertise to WFP country offices facing sudden crises, establishing new emergency operations in countries where there was no WFP presence and helping to manage emergency responses. When not deployed to emergency situations, team members carried out preparedness and contingency planning functions in the units or country offices to which they were assigned.



24. In 1996, Memoranda of Understanding were concluded with Swiss Disaster Relief, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Danish Refugee Council, to provide stand-by arrangements whereby technical expertise, equipment and service packages could be provided to WFP at short notice. Similar arrangements were initiated with other organizations, including the Swedish Rescue Services Agency, the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom and the Government of the Netherlands. A fund was also established by the Government of Denmark to provide for the deployment of Danish technical experts.
25. The Strategic Logistics Stock for Africa (SLSA) was established by WFP in 1993 in Nairobi. It is stocked with common equipment and items essential for mounting an emergency response, thus avoiding the delays often associated with standard procurement procedures. The range of equipment and materials kept at the SLSA includes storage tents, tarpaulins, pallets, handling equipment and materials, generators, personal security items, and other specialized equipment. Nairobi was selected because of the administrative capacity of WFP's regional office, and its good transport and communications links with the chronic emergency zones in East Africa.
26. The SLSA proved invaluable in supporting WFP operations in the Great Lakes region and Liberia in 1996. Building on that experience, and in view of the increased requirements of the Liberia and Sierra Leone emergency operations, it is proposed to establish another logistics stock in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to serve the West Africa region.
27. WFP established arrangements whereby the Programme could obtain relief equipment from the strategic stocks held at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi maintained by the United Nations Department of Peace-Keeping Operations. These arrangements were first called upon as part of the WFP response to the Liberia crisis in April/May. Similar arrangements were negotiated to give WFP access to UNICEF stocks in Copenhagen. The same type of agreement is being negotiated with UNHCR.
28. WFP has also developed a close working relationship with the recently established Military and Civil Defence Unit (MCDU) of DHA to obtain access to military and civil defence equipment and expertise as part of its response to complex emergencies. WFP became a major user of MCDU facilities during the Great Lakes crisis, obtaining various types of support from the military of major donors, particularly in the form of strategic airlift operations from Europe. Some donor countries also provided surplus military equipment in support of WFP's operations in West Africa and Angola. This mainly consisted of utility boats and mobile handling equipment such as cranes and forklift trucks.
29. Lead times for the delivery of donated food aid commodities are typically three to five months. The ability to deliver commodities rapidly to meet initial relief needs depends on the availability of suitable stocks, either in-country or in dedicated stockpiles. A pre-positioned stockpile of WFP food aid, primarily high-energy biscuits, is stocked at the DHA-managed warehouse at Pisa. These biscuits, which are easy to handle and do not need cooking or any other preparation, contain soya, wheat flour, oil and added vitamins to give an energy boost to people who have gone without food for many days. They have a long shelf-life and are generally widely acceptable by different cultures. Through the Pisa facility, WFP has the capacity to quickly meet some of the needs of emergency victims in the initial phase of a crisis until additional longer-term food aid can be provided. In 1996 WFP relied on these stocks to organize airlifts of food to Liberia, eastern Zaire and Rwanda.
30. Contingency planning has played an increasingly important role in WFP's disaster preparedness capacity. Contingency planning involves the development and revision of



different planning scenarios which are likely to result from possible changes in the political and security situation, and as a consequence affect WFP's operations. Through the planning and continuous review process undertaken jointly with the other major United Nations and NGO relief agencies, WFP seeks to identify in advance obstacles and alternatives to getting relief assistance to people in need.

31. Contingency planning for the Great Lakes region was initiated in mid-1995, and regularly updated throughout 1996. From the outset the approach adopted was regionally based, encouraging operational staff to think through possible responses to likely events. The scenarios developed as part of the contingency planning exercise concentrated on the repatriation of refugees under conditions of insecurity and possible escalation of hostilities, leading to further internal displacement and influxes of refugees into neighbouring countries. Towards the end of 1996, both these conditions emerged.
32. The contingency planning exercises showed the necessity of having quick access to key operational inputs, including food stocks, transport capacity and communications equipment, as well as ensuring that sufficient properly trained staff were in place and could be redeployed throughout the region quickly, and financial support was readily available. At the time the eastern Zaire crisis erupted in November, WFP was well placed to respond quickly.
33. WFP had pre-positioned food stocks in Uganda and Tanzania to prepare for a possible repatriation of refugees. To supplement this pre-positioned food, WFP bought additional food locally, using funds from the Immediate Response Account (IRA). High-energy biscuits from the emergency stock in the Pisa warehouse and an additional 269 tons of biscuits obtained through a stand-by arrangement with Norway were airlifted to the region within a matter of days. The biscuits were distributed to returnees both inside Zaire through cross-border operations from Rwanda, and in Rwanda at strategic designated way-stations that had been set up as part of the preparedness programme.
34. WFP's Rapid Response Teams and stand-by arrangements with the Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Swedish Rescue Services Agency, and the United Nations Volunteer Programme were called upon to enable WFP to rapidly provide communications, logistics and civil engineering experts, as well as additional emergency staff, finance officers, food monitors and equipment for the eastern Zaire crisis. Over 20 staff secondments were arranged in support of relief operations in the region.
35. The ability to exchange information is critical to the management of relief interventions. Thus, in 1996 WFP undertook a number of initiatives to improve its telecommunications facilities. Over 250 field-based e-mail addresses were added to the WFP communications network, mostly using local Internet Service Providers. Only 11 WFP country offices remain unconnected to the Internet and e-mail services. New technologies have been used to deliver electronic mail over short-wave radio to WFP relief operations in remote areas or where the telecommunications infrastructure has been destroyed by warfare. Operations in the Great Lakes region, where a telecommunications team was created to support WFP's relief teams in eastern Zaire, particularly benefited from these technological advances.
36. A Crisis Support Facility was established at headquarters as a trial during the Liberia emergency earlier in the year. During the eastern Zaire emergency, the Crisis Support Facility had its first full-scale test. The Facility provided support in terms of information processing, teleconferencing with WFP country offices and other United Nations agencies, operational planning, and a forum for meetings and briefings.



### *WFP on the WEB*

*In 1996 WFP established its own web site on the Internet. The WFP Home Page (<http://www.wfp.org>) provides general information on the Programme and its relief and development activities worldwide, with regular updates on disaster mitigation, relief operations, transport and logistics, and resources and appeals. The Home Page also includes the WFP Emergency Report giving a weekly update on major WFP relief operations.*

*During the eastern Zaire crisis, daily updates were prepared by the eastern Zaire Crisis Support Facility. WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit prepared mapped updates of refugee sightings based on information from various sources, including United Nations agencies; these maps were available to the relief community at large through WFP's web site.*

*The WFP Home Page includes a list of links to various other relief and development web sites, that can be accessed by a simple click.*

*A recent addition to the WFP Home Page is the Estimated Food Needs and Shortfalls for WFP-Assisted Operations, which contains tables showing the resourcing status and shortfalls for all WFP operations.*

### **Sustaining life**

37. Emergencies come and go from the front pages of newspapers, but the need for relief remains after the journalists have left. Relief operations in a number of countries have taken on a semi-permanent status, as WFP painstakingly maintains its provision of life-sustaining food to suffering people year after year. Among the largest of these long-lasting operations are those in Sudan and Iraq.
38. In southern Sudan, continuing civil war has driven a significant proportion of the population from their homes, decimated livestock herds and reduced agricultural activities in most areas. As a result, some 1.9 million people relied, at least partially, on WFP relief aid in 1996. In an additional effort to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable groups, a common approach to food economy analysis and assessment has been implemented. The food economy approach takes account of all the different foods available to women and men in southern Sudan, including grain and other crops, fish, milk, wild foods, meat, and exchanges of commodities, and how access to different foods varies according to region, season, ethnic origin, gender and socio-economic status. Representative Relief Committees, composed mainly of women (each woman representing a household), were established in 1995 and play a major role in providing the basic data needed to undertake a food economy assessment. Women are more likely to discuss food problems with other women and take note of other families' food supply. As a result of the food economy approach, overall needs for relief food have been decreased because food aid can be better targeted to those that have a real need for it.



39. A decade of warfare and the aftermath of the Gulf war left the economy of Iraq in ruins, with dire consequences for household food security for the majority of the population. Years of conflict have also left a considerable number of war invalids and widows, who have difficulty fending for themselves and their families. Since 1991, WFP has provided emergency food aid to targeted vulnerable groups among the Iraqi population, especially to households headed by women in poor urban areas, malnourished children, expectant and nursing mothers, and hospital patients. By 1996, with alarming reports that the health and nutrition situation throughout the country had substantially deteriorated, WFP increased its case-load to 2.15 million people. A Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq on the implementation of Security Council resolution (SCR) 986 was concluded in May 1996, although implementation did not begin until April 1997. The resolution allows the limited sale of Iraqi oil to finance the import of essential food and medical supplies. WFP has been given special responsibility for ensuring that the conditions of SCR 986 are fully met, including monitoring the equitable distribution of the food purchased from the sale of oil.
40. New initiatives were undertaken in 1996 to develop more appropriate indicators to measure the performance of relief operations, focusing not only on the delivery of relief aid, but also on the effect of relief operations on the conditions and practices of the affected populations. WFP has commenced a number of studies of ongoing relief operations to test the appropriateness of using different measures of the impact of its relief operations, including indicators of the nutritional and health situation, and economic status and opportunities. The first study was completed in the Goma refugee camps towards the end of the year. In the future, new documents pertaining to emergency operations and protracted relief operations will include indicators identified to be most appropriate to track the success of the operations.

## Repatriation

41. WFP works fully with UNHCR in supporting efforts to encourage the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of refugees whenever conditions allow.
42. Myanmar, being a food exporting country, would not normally receive WFP assistance, but in 1996 WFP continued its programme to encourage the return of Rohingya refugees who had fled to Bangladesh in 1991-92. At the end of 1996, some 31,000 refugees were still to be repatriated. At the request of donors, and with the strong support of UNHCR, in the 1994/95 dry season WFP initiated a special bilaterally funded food-for-work rehabilitation programme to improve the precarious socio-economic situation of the Rohingya community in Myanmar. The programme provides much needed short-term employment for landless returnees while creating rural infrastructure (such as feeder roads) in an extremely poor area of the country. With the success of the initial 1994/95 dry season pilot phase, the programme was more than tripled in the 1995/96 dry season.
43. In the former Yugoslavia, WFP has provided emergency food aid to some 2.6 million refugees, returnees, displaced persons or other especially vulnerable groups (mainly in Bosnia and Herzegovina) with no source of income, nor the ability to produce or otherwise have access to food. Although the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in November 1995 has resulted in peace and some economic reconstruction, the number of refugees and displaced people returning to their homes has been disappointingly small. The basic economic infrastructure of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been shattered and employment prospects for most people are bleak. Consequently, WFP has been looking at possible ways



of using food aid to encourage the recovery of the economy and promote the creation of employment.

44. In 1996, WFP continued to support the consolidation of the peace process in both Guatemala and Nicaragua. In Guatemala, WFP provided food aid to help reintegrate returnees and displaced people. In Nicaragua, WFP food aid helped the resettlement of war-affected households.
45. A 1996 review of WFP assistance to Rwanda emphasized the need to shift from the earlier emergency phase into a new role of providing income support to the most vulnerable groups. The food-for-work programmes in particular provided an ideal platform for the social integration of the displaced and returnee population, at the same time offering an incentive for the return of refugees residing in other countries.
46. Since 1985, WFP has provided emergency food aid to cover the basic needs of targeted groups of refugees (Western Saharan, and Tuareg from Mali) who have sought shelter in Algeria. The prospects of any imminent return of the refugees to Western Sahara are limited. However, the improved conditions in Mali have encouraged WFP and UNHCR to jointly seek a regional approach to encourage the repatriation of the Tuareg refugees.

## Rehabilitation

47. In a number of operations, WFP combines the provision of life-sustaining food with rehabilitation activities, which in due course should lessen the need for future food aid.
48. In Somalia, WFP finds itself in a situation of supporting post-emergency relief and rehabilitation during a period in which there is no functional national government. In a diversified programme, WFP supports activities to promote emergency preparedness and prevention by strengthening agricultural production, for instance, by constructing and rehabilitating irrigation canals and rain catchments, and clearing agricultural land. Special attention is given to the demobilization and reintegration of ex-militia through training and food for work. Rehabilitation is also supported through a monetization programme aimed at enhancing food security by increasing food supplies in the commercial market. The funds generated are used to create employment opportunities for war-affected people.
49. WFP's programme in Rwanda also focuses on rehabilitation and reconstruction, although emergency feeding is undertaken where this is deemed necessary to provide nutritional support, such as for hospital patients, orphans and other vulnerable groups. Food aid supports projects to terrace arable land, drain swamps and rehabilitate fish ponds, thus contributing to agricultural recovery. A basic infrastructure rehabilitation programme employs labourers in the construction of houses and schools, rehabilitation of roads and water facilities, and reforestation. WFP provides packages of food and bean seed to nearly 75,000 vulnerable farming families, to ensure that hunger does not drive farmers to eating their seed stores.
50. In Angola, WFP facilitates the transition from widespread emergency food assistance to more targeted developmental reconstruction and rehabilitation activities aimed at enhancing agricultural output, improving nutrition and health, and increasing food security. Beneficiaries of WFP food aid are mainly returnees, displaced people, and demobilized soldiers and their families. Family rations for three months are provided to demobilized soldiers and their families in their resettlement once they have been released from the quartering areas. Pilot projects have been initiated with UNICEF and NGOs to encourage women to receive pre- and post-natal care in health centres, and to provide a nutritional supplement to expectant and nursing mothers and their children.



51. In Ethiopia, WFP provided relief food aid to support 550,000 people, mostly in traditionally food-deficit areas. In line with the Government's policy, able-bodied people, comprising 80 percent of beneficiaries, participate in Employment Generation Schemes, creating rural infrastructure. The remaining beneficiaries, who are unable to undertake physical work, receive free food.
52. Similar food-for-work activities are part of WFP's relief assistance in Armenia. Some 40,000 able-bodied but unemployed people undertake the repair of public buildings and roads, garbage collection, rehabilitation of water-supplies, sewerage and heating pipelines, the reconstruction of factories and repair of irrigation and drainage canals, the construction of mini hydro-electric power stations, and reforestation work. Food is also provided for 10,000 destitute people through soup kitchens.
53. In Tajikistan, WFP has planned food-for-work activities for 5,000 families in the areas where it has current relief distributions to allow an orderly phase-down of relief distributions in some areas. These activities will allow a sustained improvement in the household food security of the rural poor through improved access to land. Families receiving land on the State farms for share-cropping will be supported initially by food for work.
54. Much of the rural infrastructure of Mozambique was destroyed or heavily damaged during the long years of war, and national food production collapsed. WFP development assistance supports the Government's programme to rebuild and rehabilitate physical and social infrastructure in rural areas and so improve the living conditions of rural populations, including returnees. Since the peace accord was signed in 1992 and elections took place in 1994, economic growth has resumed, and small farmers are now producing again. However, the destruction of rural infrastructure during the war years crippled the country's economy, and agricultural production suffers from the lack of market structures, few consumer goods and little in the way of credit for small farms. In 1996, WFP emergency food aid was provided to vulnerable farmers in the southern provinces affected by floods.
55. The economy and social conditions of Guinea have been seriously worsened by the influx of refugees fleeing the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone and settling in some of the poorest regions of the country. In cooperation with UNHCR, NGOs and donors, WFP has developed a strategy to render food-for-work development activities more effective, and replace general food relief distributions for the refugees with more targeted economic and social programmes for the population as a whole.
56. In a number of countries recovering from war, rehabilitation efforts are severely constrained by the presence of large numbers of mines and unexploded ordinance from earlier fighting. The human and economic toll of mines in particular is horrendous. WFP has undertaken a number of mine clearance activities, usually on an ad hoc basis. More recently, the need to integrate these activities into broader, inter-agency efforts has been recognized.
57. WFP support for demining activities typically falls into one of three areas:
  - a) The need to clear access roads to enable the delivery of food and other assistance. By opening up access, these activities often also encourage displaced people to return to their homes.
  - b) The need to clear land for housing for displaced people and returnees.
  - c) The need to clear crop land for agricultural use in order to promote food production.



58. The most significant WFP support for demining activities are projects to clear and rehabilitate major transport corridors. In Angola this work amounted to three million dollars in 1996, while in Mozambique WFP spent 2.4 million dollars in demining work. In these projects WFP works with other United Nations agencies and NGOs either as a direct funder or through the establishment of food-for-work programmes in which local people undertake the demining activities (including education about how to avoid mines, mark danger areas and clear mines) in exchange for food.
59. In Cambodia, support for demining activities has been an integral part of WFP's support to the rehabilitation of the country. Over three quarters of WFP assistance to Cambodia in 1996 was for the development of rural infrastructure, including the clearing of agricultural land and the construction or repair of roads, irrigation canals, small dams and dikes, and ponds and wells. Demining is an essential prerequisite before development programmes can commence. Over 34 project sites have been cleared of mines with WFP help.

### Disaster mitigation

60. Through its development work, as well as through its support to rehabilitation activities, WFP is giving greater emphasis to identifying and supporting disaster mitigation activities. By reinforcing the ability of vulnerable communities to avoid or cope with disasters, disaster mitigation saves lives and helps to achieve speedier post-disaster recovery. Disaster mitigation work is cheaper than emergency relief, but donor support has often been lacking. Disasters that don't happen are rarely news, but they are an indication of WFP's success.
61. The Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of WFP plays an important role in directing WFP's disaster mitigation activities. VAM analyses the vulnerability of target populations to food insecurity and their capacity to cope with disasters. Through collaboration with the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) the USAID Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) and NGOs, VAM provides an improved understanding of the factors that are critical if people's food security is to be ensured and their ability to cope reinforced. These analyses are used to guide WFP's long-term strategic thinking and contingency planning. VAM has field units in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Malawi, southern Sudan and Zambia, and since 1996, Senegal and Tanzania. By the end of 1996, preparations were in place to open further VAM field units in Pakistan (to cover Afghanistan and Tajikistan) and Uganda (to cover the Great Lakes region).
62. Disaster mitigation activities often do more than just save lives. In Viet Nam, WFP food-for-work activities rehabilitate sea dikes that protect farming land from the ravages of cyclones. Without the sea dikes, farmers would have to plant lower-yielding rice varieties that are less susceptible to the dangers of salt intrusion. Thus, not only do the sea dikes save lives, they also result in increased agricultural production.
63. In Mauritania, in line with the Government's priorities for mitigating disasters, alleviating poverty and reducing household-level food insecurity, WFP assistance targets the remote rural zones of eight regions where the poorest people live but which have the potential for increasing food and livestock production. WFP food-for-work activities are identified and developed by the local communities themselves to strengthen their ability to withstand drought.
64. In Pakistan, WFP development programmes help the communities who have been hosting large numbers of Afghan refugees for many years. The environmental impact of up to three million refugees on poor and environmentally fragile hilly areas has been tremendous.



WFP food aid will be used through targeted food for work to try to remedy much of the damage, while also providing additional employment opportunities for poor households, composed of both the residual refugees in the country (about 30 percent of project participants) and the local communities.

65. In Mali, WFP provides an assistance package to Tuareg refugees returning from exile and also to the local Malian communities hosting the returnees. Food-for-work activities help to strengthen the economic base of the communities and improve local living conditions. Activities include the construction and rehabilitation of rural infrastructure, with special emphasis on developing water-harvesting techniques to reduce vulnerability to droughts.
66. In Armenia, the preservation of fruit and vegetables is a traditional coping strategy so WFP assistance to vulnerable households includes the provision of vegetable oil and sugar to help these households preserve fruit and vegetables to prepare for the winter.
67. Disaster mitigation can also include primary health care activities. Malnutrition, infection and disease are inextricably linked: disease is a direct cause of malnutrition, by reducing the ability of the body to absorb nutrients. As disease reduces productivity, it ultimately reduces the ability to earn income. In the past, WFP projects have often had a positive effect on short-term hunger, but their impact on the overall health of beneficiaries and on problems related to micronutrient deficiencies has been limited. New guidelines issued in 1996 will ensure that WFP development and relief operations pay greater attention to improving the health and nutritional status of beneficiaries, including, where appropriate, cost-effective micronutrient supplementation and food fortification. A special donor fund is supporting this initiative.

## Special Operations

68. Special operations (SOs) are complementary to emergency and protracted relief operations. This is a separate programme category used to cover major non-project-related activities such as intermittent airlifts, communications initiatives, and road, rail, airport and port rehabilitation projects. Special operations also aim at mitigating disasters, and improving or equipping infrastructure to permit speedy and efficient delivery of food aid. They also serve as vehicles for rehabilitation and future development. SOs are vital components in the WFP overall response to emergency situations and an investment in the future.
69. The humanitarian crisis in the Great Lakes region dominated WFP's work in SOs in 1996. Relief operations in that region were often hampered by impassable roads, small airstrips, scarce fuel supplies and insecurity. The operational performance of Tanzania Railways Corporation was significantly improved when WFP leased four locomotives from South Africa, provided spare parts to repair over 80 railcars, and helped repair a sleeper reconditioning plant. The completion of a transit base at Isaka in 1996, with rail access and covered storage facilities, has created a major inter-modal transfer point from rail to road transport for destinations in northern Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. At Kigoma, a rail terminal project was commenced which, when completed, will improve the rail/barge inter-modal transfers at Kigoma port, and help to lower shipping costs on Lake Tanganyika. The provision of two cranes at Uvira port on Lake Tanganyika increased turn-around times for barges. Use of the Kigoma-Uvira route resulted in savings of 19 dollars a ton on the transport of relief food to refugee camps at Bukavu and Uvira. Improvement works were also undertaken on access roads from Uganda to the refugee camps at Goma, including repairs to collapsed culverts and bridges.



70. To boost both long-haul and local distribution capacity in the Great Lakes region, 40 trucks, together with workshop tools and equipment, were deployed from the Afghanistan cross-border operation to the Great Lakes region. WFP also requested that a fleet of short-haul trucks operated by the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) in Croatia be airlifted to Entebbe. Through stand-by arrangements with donors, a ground handling team was provided at Entebbe airport, and another proposed for Kigali airport, although in the end this second team was not deployed.
71. The Caucasus Logistics Advisory Unit (CLAU), a regional operation established in 1993 to facilitate the delivery of relief assistance to the three Caucasus republics (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia), includes the coordination of arrival and onward rail transportation of food shipments; provision of technical logistics assistance to donors and local transport authorities; and management of special logistics intervention projects aimed at increasing the throughput of the Georgian ports of Poti and Batumi (the access ports for the region) and the regional railways. WFP has mobilized over 15 million dollars for emergency rehabilitation of the region's antiquated and inefficient railways, ports and communication networks. A 1996 evaluation found not only that the operation had been effective in speeding up the delivery of relief assistance, but also that it had helped to improve regional cooperation between the three countries, in spite of their difficult relationship.
72. A symbol of this new cooperation was the inauguration of the Natanebi railway bridge by the Executive Director in January. The newly built bridge, 60 kilometres from the port of Batumi, was a WFP initiative to replace the one that was wrecked in a train derailment in early 1994. The bridge provides the only rail link between Batumi and the Caucasian hinterland. Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia each provided 50,000 dollars in cash or materials for building the bridge, while WFP provided 250,000 dollars.
73. WFP established the Bosnia Logistics Unit (BLU) in 1996 to provide logistical management and support to the WFP food aid programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The BLU has succeeded in creating cost-effective delivery systems throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina by using indigenous commercial transport companies and eliminating the need for the international trucking fleets used during the war. As a result, towards the end of 1996 it was possible to redeploy vehicles from the former Yugoslavia to the emerging crisis in the Great Lakes region. The BLU has also supervised the installation of a new communications network that allows for direct and free communications in the country and has assessed the logistical capacity of the Government while identifying its requirements for technical equipment and infrastructure repairs.

## Gender issues

74. Although women and children typically comprise two thirds of the beneficiaries of WFP relief aid, only in recent years has specific attention been paid to issues of gender in relief operations. As a result of this new awareness, Programme-wide culturally sensitive strategies for the distribution and targeting of WFP relief aid are being developed to ensure that women beneficiaries are more fully involved in the decision-making process and are given more control over their food aid entitlements. All new submissions for emergency operations and protracted relief operations are now screened on this aspect.
75. Following up on the commitments to women made in Beijing in 1994, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on joint and individual responsibilities were signed with seven international partners in 1996, specifying joint and individual responsibilities. The MOUs define the following implementation and monitoring requirements: the application of a participatory mode of planning that considers the specific needs and potential of refugee



and displaced women; the provision of appropriate and adequate food for women and children at risk; and measures taken to ensure that women hold key positions in the management of food aid. The new WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding, signed in March 1997, also incorporates new commitments of both agencies concerning the position of women in the management of food distribution.

76. While systematic reporting for each operation on women's control over the distribution of relief food is still to be fully implemented, in specific countries women are now more involved in WFP relief activities. In Azerbaijan, the computerization of beneficiary lists enables data to be disaggregated by gender; more than 50 percent of ration-entitlement cards are held by women. In Iraq, the General Federation of Iraqi Women has responsibility for distributing supplementary foods for malnourished children in households headed by women. In Gaza, women have been hired by the WFP operation to manage the distribution of all WFP rations. In refugee camps in Algeria, women participate actively in the management of food distributions.
77. In Afghanistan, WFP supports rehabilitation activities for some 1.2 million returnees and internally displaced persons in the most war-affected communities. WFP's activities primarily support the many war widows and orphans who often have no other means of survival. In urban areas, WFP provides wheat flour to bakeries, which then provide subsidized bread to some 350,000 people from the most vulnerable groups during the winter period, when bread is the mainstay of the diet. About 10 percent of the bakeries are completely managed and run by women, mostly widows, thereby providing them with job-training and employment opportunities. Proceeds from the sale of the bread are reinvested in the communities, mainly to support training programmes to enable people who are handicapped, war widows and single heads of households to learn trades which improve their employment opportunities and incomes.
78. Following their take-over of Kabul in September 1996, the Taliban imposed restrictions on women leaving their homes. This impaired all WFP projects in the country, which target vulnerable women. WFP successfully negotiated the continuation or resumption of its projects to help women victims of the conflict. However, with the continued constraints on gender-oriented activities, WFP adjusted its plan of assistance in late 1996 to concentrate on humanitarian relief and life-sustaining rehabilitation activities that have a direct positive impact on women and children.
79. In Guinea, WFP has developed a strategy whereby women and households headed by women are major targeted beneficiaries of WFP food aid for refugees. WFP has been promoting more precise and systematic gender-sensitive surveys of the refugee populations as part of its efforts to improve targeting. Women also manage the food aid distributions.
80. In Sierra Leone, priority is also being given to the greater integration of women, both as recipients and managers of food aid.
81. In the refugee camps in Zaire, WFP preferred to distribute rations directly to families, ideally to women, rather than distributing them through the local administrative units set up by the camp administration, even though this required twice as many distribution staff, who had to be closely monitored to prevent thefts. It had been noticed that women beneficiaries were intimidated if they had to collect their rations from the local administrative units. Attempts to increase the proportion of women employed at the local administrative units, which might have reduced the level of intimidation, had failed because of cultural resistance.



## Purchases

82. WFP purchases half of all relief food, mostly in developing countries. Some three quarters of all food purchased by WFP (almost one million tons in 1996) is for relief activities. Purchases of relief food amounted to nearly 200 million dollars in 1996. The main reason for purchasing food for relief purposes is to ensure a more rapid delivery of assistance to people in need. Hence, purchases are made whenever possible and practical in-country or from within the region. Other benefits from purchasing food locally or regionally are that the food is more likely to satisfy local tastes and local purchases save on ocean transport costs.
83. Because people's lives are at risk, WFP has to be flexible and adapt to changes in the supply situation when purchasing significant amounts of relief food. For example, for operations in Malawi, where the preferred commodity is white maize, WFP made most of its purchases in the beginning of the year in Uganda. When that supply diminished in March, purchases were then made in Argentina until the new maize harvest in Tanzania came onto the market in the summer, when purchases were made there.
84. There have been cases in which WFP has found itself competing with other relief agencies for food purchases. For example, in Uganda a number of aid agencies competed for a total amount of food well in excess of the surplus available. As a result, the food market was disrupted and prices forced up. WFP has proposed that better coordination arrangements between agencies should be established, with shared knowledge of market information. This would ensure that organizations buying relief food did not compete and disrupt the weak market structures that exist in many developing countries. At the same time, the supplying countries would be in a better position to meet their contractual obligations, and could provide increased tonnage of acceptable food delivered in a more timely fashion.
85. WFP also purchases large quantities of non-food items for relief operations. In order to reduce the lead time in procuring essential non-food items for emergency responses, at the same time retaining sound financial management, WFP has developed Blanket Purchase Agreements. These involve long-term contracts with suppliers, chosen through a tender process, for the provision of indefinite quantities of specified items. Each agreement is generally valid for one year, within specified purchase parameters and terms of delivery. This new approach decisively proved its value in a number of complex relief operations during 1996.

## Coordination

86. Several measures were undertaken by WFP in 1996 to ensure better coordination between WFP relief activities and those of other agencies.
87. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), WFP has been a strong advocate of the need to strengthen the Resident Coordinator system as the most suitable mechanism for the overall coordination of humanitarian and development assistance at the field level. WFP has also recommended an integrated approach in responding to relief and development needs, so that relief assistance can sustain life and also pave the way for mitigation and recovery. Such an integrated approach has been followed in a number of countries, most notably Rwanda and Angola.
88. Within the IASC discussions, WFP has argued for the following guiding principles:
- a) the need for a strategic framework for humanitarian programmes;



- b) the importance of reinforcing the role of the Resident Coordinator system, so as to prevent the creation of parallel coordination systems;
  - c) a better definition of coordination mechanisms for the protection of internally displaced persons;
  - d) the fact that, to the extent possible, emergency responses should also lay the foundations for recovery, and should be built on the efforts and actions of the people and communities affected;
  - e) support for the Consolidated Appeals Process and the principle of prioritization of humanitarian assistance requirements;
  - f) new concepts of humanitarian intervention which address human rights issues, and integrate relief, prevention and development activities;
  - g) the need to make relief funding mechanisms more flexible and responsive, with greater up-front funding;
  - h) the need for integrated contingency planning between United Nations and other relief agencies, with a related appropriate funding mechanism; and
  - i) the need for reliable and consistent information on beneficiary needs and the impact of relief assistance.
89. During 1996 WFP, DHA and UNHCR initiated the development of system-wide contingency planning methodologies, and undertook joint planning exercises to ensure complementarity in respective response strategies in major emergencies.
90. The WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding was revised to improve accountability in the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees and to redefine the role of WFP in the final distribution of food aid. WFP and UNICEF took similar steps to improve collaboration and ensure complementarity in emergency response activities. WFP and FAO initiated discussions on establishing new modalities for the distribution of seeds and tools within rehabilitation operations.
91. As part of the response to the eastern Zaire crisis, WFP initiated the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre, a unique approach to inter-agency logistics coordination which includes information processing, operational decision-making and planning, and military liaison. The Centre acted as the focal point for receiving and onforwarding food and non-food relief material by road and air within the region. Other functions included liaison with Multinational Neutral Forces on logistics matters, the prioritization of relief traffic for both military and non-military cargo, the provision of route information for both air and surface travel, the identification and resolution of route constraints and the coordination of all relief transportation requirements to minimize unnecessary competition, thus stabilizing transport market rates. WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and DHA (Military and Civil Defence Unit - MCDU) all provided technical experts to the Centre. Another joint logistics centre was established in Kisangani, Zaire later in the year.
92. Despite the significant improvements in coordination and collaboration with other agencies, a 1996 evaluation of the actual process of collaboration between WFP and NGOs in Angola showed that there was still room for improvement, and provided lessons for future inter-agency collaboration in emergency and post-emergency operations. In particular, the evaluation recommended that agencies should develop common needs assessment criteria, as well as a methodology, including appropriate indicators, to help monitor progress and achievements. The evaluation also recommended better collaboration



in developing targeting criteria, based on an improved understanding of the target population and their economic and social situation. The need for coordinated longer-term planning was also recognized, including a clear statement of each agency's longer-term plans and objectives, responsibilities and the expected duration of activities. Following the evaluation, WFP has prepared a Country Strategy Outline for Angola, which has been extensively discussed with WFP's implementing partners.

## RESOURCES

### Resourcing

93. On 1 January 1996, WFP introduced on a trial basis a new resourcing model, based on the principles of full cost recovery, greater transparency and improved accountability. The overall impact of the new resourcing procedures has been generally positive, with greater clarity and coordination in the mobilization, management and utilization of resources. However, questions have been raised on the level of indirect support costs.
94. The breakdown of donor contributions into very precise components, representing all cost aspects related to a given operation, has increased WFP's ability to account to donors on the use of their contributions. However, it has also significantly increased the workload of WFP staff, in particular as regards the preparation of proposals to donors and the subsequent registration of pledges. In the course of the year, integrated processes have been developed for the registration and allocation of resources, thereby bringing together all programme categories into a global overview. The new system helps to monitor the level of contributions and identify shortfalls. The next stage is to develop an even more comprehensive approach to programming and managing resources.
95. The implementation in 1996 of the quarterly Consultations on Resources, combined with meetings with donor representatives both in Rome and in donor capitals, has been highly effective in communicating, on a regular basis, the gaps in operational funding, as well as serving as a forum for responding to donor queries on operations.
96. WFP also improved its operational reporting, with regular situation reports being produced for the major relief operations, including those in the Great Lakes region, the Liberia region, the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and the Commonwealth of Independent States.
97. WFP has also been working in 1996 to develop consistent and practical pipeline management systems. To be effective management tools, such systems should be able to monitor in a standard way food supply against forthcoming demand. From each operation in the field, data must be collected regularly on the number of beneficiaries reached, the actual distributions effected and level of in-country stocks. These data must then be related to headquarters-held data on resourcing, commitments, allocations, procurement and logistics. Improved pipeline management systems have been introduced in specific operations, including those for the former Yugoslavia and the Great Lakes regional operation, and in some countries, such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. The achievements of these prototype systems will be assessed and modifications made before introducing them in other operations.
98. Work has also progressed in 1996 on developing a standard commodity tracking system for use in WFP operations worldwide. The benefits of a commodity tracking system were shown in the Great Lakes operation, where a trial commodity tracking system was implemented by the Joint Logistics Centre. The improved ability to monitor commodity



flows enabled WFP to make swift tactical decisions, such as truck diversions or cargo reroutings, as the situation changed.

### **International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR)**

99. In 1996, donors contributed 629 million dollars (equivalent to 1,048,000 tons) to the IEFR, WFP's largest programme category. The contributions consisted of food (327 million dollars, or 52 percent), transport (209 million dollars, or 33 percent), and direct and indirect support costs (93 million dollars, or 15 percent).
100. Most emergency resources were contributed in response to specific appeals. Less than 10 percent of IEFR contributions were truly multilateral, and made available in advance. As a result, WFP's ability to respond quickly and flexibly has been curtailed. The lack of up-front untied IEFR resources inevitably increases the lead time for delivery to affected populations, as donors take time to respond to appeals.
101. The high proportion of directed contributions has also meant that some smaller emergencies ("quiet" emergencies) and expensive or politically sensitive operations have experienced resource shortfalls.

### **Immediate Response Account (IRA)**

102. The IRA is a multilateral, quick-response emergency facility which gives WFP the flexibility to respond quickly to meet the requirements of new emergencies, as well as to avert serious pipeline breaks in ongoing emergencies. The purpose of the cash fund is to reduce the lead time required to deliver food aid to needy people in new emergency situations. The IRA may also be used as a revolving fund in order to initiate local or regional food purchases, pending confirmation of donor funds given in response to appeals.
103. The IRA had an initial target of 30 million dollars, representing 20 percent of the IEFR value, determined by the WFP's governing body to be the minimum required. In 1996, it was increased to 35 million dollars, of which five million dollars is to be used to fund non-food emergency items.
104. Donors are expected to contribute to the replenishment of the IRA on an annual basis, thereby bringing the total amount available back to 35 million dollars at the outset of a given year.
105. Contributions to the IRA in 1996 totalled 19.2 million dollars, while 5.6 million dollars was reimbursed to emergency operations from 1995 allocations.
106. Allocations from the IRA in 1996 amounted to 19.1 million dollars, a portion of which is expected to be eventually reimbursed. The IRA provided advance funding for relief operations in the Central African Republic, Cuba, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, and the Great Lakes region, Zaire, among others. IRA allocations to Laos, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Viet Nam were also made, but were subsequently reimbursed with the confirmation of directed contributions to these operations. By the end of the year, the aggregate balance of IRA stood at 15.8 million dollars.

### **Protracted Relief Operations (PROs)**

107. In 1996, WFP received contributions of 580,494 tons, valued at 342 million dollars, for protracted relief operations. Food accounted for 55 percent of contributions; international and internal transportation, handling and storage accounted for 32 percent of contributions, direct support costs for 6.5 percent and indirect support costs 6.5 percent of contributions.



Donor contributions were especially generous in the second semester. More than half of the contributions received then were in cash, enabling WFP to purchase locally or regionally the food needed. As a result, there was a significant reduction in the lead time in delivering assistance to beneficiaries.

108. More than half of contributions to protracted relief operations were directed multilateral. Consequently, the higher-profile operations tended to be over-resourced, while others suffered from resource shortfalls. Such a high level of directed multilateral resources made the programming process significantly more complicated.

### **Special Operations (SOs)**

109. A total of 16 donors contributed 31.9 million dollars to WFP SOs in 1996, representing nearly 80 percent of WFP's requirements of 40.2 million dollars. More than one quarter of these funds was spent for operations as part of the Great Lakes regional operation.



## WFP DELIVERIES FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS IN 1996

### *Algeria 5788 - "Emergency food aid to Malian refugees in southern Algeria"*

Planned beneficiaries	6,000	Total deliveries in 1996	232 tons
Current duration	eight months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	135,846 dollars
Date of first approval	31.10.96		

WFP provides a basic ration to 6,000 refugees living in two camps. It also distributes a food package to cover the first three months of resettlement as an incentive for the repatriation of 4,000 Tuareg refugees to Mali.

### *Angola 5298 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Assistance to displaced and war-affected people"*

Planned beneficiaries	1,345,000	Total deliveries in 1996	24,241 tons
Current duration	eight months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	15,609,060 dollars
Date of first approval	10.1.94		

In spite of the ongoing peace process, sporadic civil strife, population displacement and millions of land-mines continue to constrain food production in Angola. WFP provides emergency assistance to 1,345,000 vulnerable people until the start of the protracted operation. The Government is promoting food-for-work reconstruction activities wherever possible.

### *Angola 5698 - "Assistance to the demobilization of soldiers"*

Planned beneficiaries	255,000	Total deliveries in 1996	20,918 tons
Current duration	10 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	11,652,122 dollars
Date of first approval	11.8.95		



Demobilization and transition to civilian life of the former combatants is important to the overall success of the peace process. The beneficiaries of the operation are 75,000 quartered UNITA soldiers and their families. Each family receives a three-month food package, along with seeds, tools, kitchen sets, blankets and cash to assist them in their resettlement once they have been released from the quartering areas.

***Armenia 5301 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Emergency food assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable groups"***

Planned beneficiaries	250,000	Total deliveries in 1996	7,263 tons
Current duration	10 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	3,471,943 dollars
Date of first approval	3.2.95		

The five-year conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, along with the break-up of the integrated Soviet economy and a blockade imposed by Turkey and Azerbaijan, has caused severe hardship for the Armenian population. The conflict forced hundreds of thousands of ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan to seek refuge in Armenia. Unemployment and hyper-inflation have undermined the purchasing power of the general population. WFP provides take-home rations for refugees and internally displaced persons and for vulnerable people in the areas bordering Azerbaijan and the earthquake zones, mainly pensioners, single-parent families, and expectant and nursing mothers. Food-for-work rations are provided for 40,000 able-bodied but unemployed people undertaking repair of public buildings and roads, garbage collection, rehabilitation of water/sewerage/heating pipelines, factories, irrigation and drainage canals, construction of mini hydro-electric power stations, and reforestation. Soup kitchens provide one hot meal a day for 10,000 destitute people in 15 major towns.

***Azerbaijan 5302 (Exp. 1) - "Emergency food assistance for internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups"***

Planned beneficiaries	447,000	Total deliveries in 1996	8,015 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	3,795,981 dollars
Date of first approval	3.2.95		

As a result of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, one fifth of Azerbaijan's land area has been occupied, and one million people have been displaced from their homes. The conflict has caused the economy and food supply to deteriorate by disrupting trade and reducing cultivated area and livestock production. Hyper-inflation of more than 1,000 percent a year has outstripped the purchasing power of people living on an average income. It is estimated that 60 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. In line with the United Nations



Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus, WFP provides supplementary food rations to internally displaced persons, Chernobyl victims, hospital patients and children in institutions to prevent malnutrition among the most vulnerable sectors of the Azeri population.

***Benin 5252 (Exp. 2 & 3) - "Assistance to Togolese refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	60,000	Total deliveries in 1996	1,930 tons
Current duration	29 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	721,931 dollars
Date of first approval	30.12.93		

Benin has been hosting refugees from Togo since 1992. Depending on the resolution of the political situation in Togo, WFP will support the refugees until their repatriation is possible.

***Eritrea 5726 - "Emergency food assistance to Eritrean returnees from Sudan"***

Planned beneficiaries	100,000	Total deliveries in 1996	212 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	242,162 dollars
Date of first approval	20.12.95		

As part of the Government of Eritrea's national recovery and rehabilitation programme, food assistance is provided for the repatriation and economic reintegration of Eritreans who had fled to Sudan. The returnees receive food aid to cover their full needs until the first harvest, while they prepare their land or establish other means to maintain themselves. Each returnee family is given two hectares of land and agricultural inputs (tools, seeds and initial ploughing services), along with help in building permanent shelters by using designs aimed at limiting the use of wood, thus minimizing environmental degradation.

***Ethiopia 5635 - "Emergency food assistance to victims of crop failure"***

Planned beneficiaries	700,000	Total deliveries in 1996	2,710 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,828,822 dollars
Date of first approval	12.5.95		

Poor rainfall and pest damage for two consecutive years resulted in serious food shortages in Tigray, Wollo and Eastern Hararghe, areas with meagre land holdings and poor access to markets. Livestock and other assets have been sold to purchase food, and long-term household



food security is at risk. In keeping with the national disaster mitigation policy, relief assistance is mainly distributed through food for work, with free food distribution limited to vulnerable groups unable to work. The food-for-work activities create assets and infrastructure, such as soil and water conservation structures, roads, clinics and schools, that improve the ability of communities to better cope with future food shortages. There is a high degree of community participation in selecting at-risk beneficiaries and designing and executing projects.

***Ethiopia 5764 - "Relief food assistance to acute food-deficit areas"***

Planned beneficiaries	550,000	Total deliveries in 1996	3,567 tons
Current duration	19 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,000,480 dollars
Date of first approval	17.4.96		

Food is provided for people suffering as a result of poor harvests in traditionally food-deficit areas. Eighty percent of the beneficiaries are supported through Employment Generating Schemes, in line with the Government's policy. The remainder are supported through free food distribution.

***Gaza West Bank 5585 - "Rehabilitation of post-conflict victims in the Gaza Strip and Jericho"***

Planned beneficiaries	35,750	Total deliveries in 1996	1,087 tons
Current duration	nine months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	472,725 dollars
Date of first approval	20.3.95		

Closure of the border with Israel cut off many workers from their only source of income. This operation helps to sustain the momentum of the peace process, during the time when the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to provide social welfare services is limited. Relief food is provided to the most destitute households, to be followed by food-for-work rehabilitation and employment-generation activities.

***Georgia 5315 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Emergency food aid for internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups"***

Planned beneficiaries	300,000	Total deliveries in 1996	10,880 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	4,154,556 dollars
Date of first approval	19.8.94		

In line with the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Caucasus, WFP provides supplementary food rations to internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups, such as pensioners, invalids, orphans, households headed by women and destitute people.



***Great Lakes Regional (including Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire and Tanzania) - See section on Rwanda Regional 5624 (and Exp. 1).***

***Haiti 5010 (Exp. 2) - "Returnees and vulnerable groups"***

Planned beneficiaries	100,000	Total deliveries in 1996	4,000 tons
Current duration	24 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	1,388,560 dollars
Date of first approval	11.8.94		

Political and economic instability has continued to exacerbate the difficulties faced by the Haitian population. Severe and moderate malnutrition among children in the north and west of the country has been reportedly as high as 12 and 15 percent, respectively. In these circumstances, WFP provides food assistance for vulnerable groups through NGOs, either in the form of take-home rations or through wet feeding at health centres.

***Haiti 5539 - "Emergency supplementary feeding of pre-school children"***

Planned beneficiaries	20,000	Total deliveries in 1996	520 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	241,800 dollars
Date of first approval	3.9.94		

WFP provides food for malnourished pre-school children over two years old, who have been among the hardest-hit by Haiti's economic crisis, with over 50 percent showing signs of malnutrition. Food aid is provided as an input for the local production of blended food, which is distributed as take-home rations to mothers at health centres. The distributions, which are accompanied by close nutritional monitoring of the beneficiaries, are made through an umbrella organization of 12 NGOs and UNICEF's Primary Health Care project.

***Iraq 5311 (Exp. 3 & 4) - "Food assistance to destitute and vulnerable persons"***

Planned beneficiaries	2,151,000	Total deliveries in 1996	86,884 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	38,523,443 dollars
Date of first approval	31.3.95		

Following the Gulf war, living conditions throughout Iraq deteriorated. Inflation, reduced government food rations and the collapse of incomes have reduced the access to food, with the result that there has been a sharp decline in nutritional status. While arrangements for implementation of Security Council resolution 896 are finalized, WFP emergency assistance is provided for poor households in urban areas (mainly headed by women), malnourished children, expectant and nursing mothers, destitute families, people in hospitals and social institutions, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees.



***Korea, DPR 5710 (and Exp. 1) - "Emergency food assistance for flood victims and children under five"***

Planned beneficiaries	1,575,000	Total deliveries in 1996	60,009 tons
Current duration	10 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	21,488,728 dollars
Date of first approval	6.10.95		

Exceptionally heavy rainfall during July-August 1995 exposed 75 percent of the country to floods, displacing some 500,000 people whose homes were destroyed, and inflicting extensive damage to agricultural land and infrastructure. WFP assistance is provided to the people most seriously affected by the floods, as well as to children under five years of age, and to poor farmers and their families through food-for-work land rehabilitation activities.

***Laos 5725 - "Food assistance for flood victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	150,000	Total deliveries in 1996	10,585 tons
Current duration	nine months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	3,698,047 dollars
Date of first approval	13.12.95		

In mid-1995, serious floods in central and southern Laos from excessive rainfall and two typhoons caused the complete loss of crops on some 62,000 hectares. Since this was the second consecutive flood in some areas, some people have exhausted their food reserves. Where possible, beneficiaries of relief assistance will be encouraged to reimburse WFP-supplied rice to grain banks created and managed by local communities to improve village-level food security.

***Lesotho 5640 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	185,000	Total deliveries in 1996	4,983 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	1,339,475 dollars
Date of first approval	30.4.95		

As a result of late rains, only 50 percent of the normal crop area was planted, with total cereal production at just over one third of the previous five-year average. The most severely affected people were rural families in the southern parts of the country, who depended on their own production for the major part of that household food consumption.



### ***Malawi 5498 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	1,700,000	Total deliveries in 1996	5,503 tons
Current duration	seven months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	1,689,360 dollars
Date of first approval	28.6.94		

In 1993, Malawi was affected by severe drought that decimated smallholder maize production and resulted in a massive reduction in cereal output. Relief assistance was required for over a million people suffering from food shortfalls in eight rural development project areas during the critical period. Limited assistance was also provided to support ongoing supplementary feeding programmes run by NGOs in MCH and nutritional rehabilitation centres.

### ***Malawi 5639 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	370,000	Total deliveries in 1996	12,321 tons
Current duration	14 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	4,154,291 dollars
Date of first approval	30.4.95		

Late and erratic rainfall in 1994 delayed planting in many parts of the country. As a result, the subsequent harvest was poor, and production was insufficient to meet minimum food requirements of the subsistence smallholders, who make up more than half of all farming households.

### ***Mozambique 5638 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	300,000	Total deliveries in 1996	28,139 tons
Current duration	14 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	10,272,967 dollars
Date of first approval	30.4.95		

WFP provides relief assistance for people affected by drought, including resettled returnees and internally displaced persons who have been unable to fully re-establish agricultural self-sufficiency because of the drought.



***Mozambique 5770 - "Food assistance to flood victims, returnees, and former internally displaced persons"***

Planned beneficiaries	162,600	Total deliveries in 1996	4,516 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	903,220 dollars
Date of first approval	19.7.96		

WFP assists people affected by the floods of early 1996 which extensively damaged crops, particularly along several of the main river valleys in the south and central provinces. It also assists returnees and formerly displaced people who did not obtain a sufficient harvest in 1996 to become self-sufficient.

***Russian Federation 5665 (Exp. 1) - "Emergency food aid for internally displaced persons from Chechnya"***

Planned beneficiaries	91,500	Total deliveries in 1996	6,210 tons
Current duration	10 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,773,400 dollars
Date of first approval	30.6.96		

The conflict in Chechnya prompted more than a third of the total Chechen population to flee to other republics. These are among the poorest regions in the Russian Federation, with rudimentary local economies and infrastructure, and high rates of unemployment. Access to food is limited because of isolation resulting from conflict and drastic food price rises. In line with the 1996 extension of the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Persons Displaced as a Result of the Emergency Situation in Chechnya, WFP provides supplementary food rations to the most needy displaced people.

***Rwanda Regional 5624 (& Exp. 1) - "Food assistance to victims of Rwanda/Burundi conflict" (Referred to in the text of the report as "Great Lakes regional operation")***

Planned beneficiaries	2,330,000	Total deliveries in 1996	265,608 tons
Current duration	nine months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	143,607,992 dollars
Date of first approval	10.3.95		

As a result of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and continuing ethnic tension and violence in Burundi, massive numbers of people have been displaced or are refugees in Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire and Tanzania. Besides meeting the needs of refugees in Tanzania and Zaire and internally displaced persons in Burundi, WFP's operation also supports first-stage recovery programmes in Rwanda. The regional nature of the project allows WFP full flexibility in the allocation of donor contributions to any country within the Great Lakes region. In this way, the operation can respond rapidly to cross-border population movements.



***Sierra Leone 5767 - "Relief food aid for war-affected populations in Sierra Leone"***

Planned beneficiaries	609,000	Total deliveries in 1996	23,447 tons
Current duration	nine months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	11,504,825 dollars
Date of first approval	18.3.96		

The civil war that started in Sierra Leone in 1991 escalated in 1995, with dire consequences on agricultural and mineral production in the country. Many of the up to 1.6 million internally displaced persons require humanitarian assistance; others are being supported by local communities but at considerable cost, as the resources of the communities are limited. The nutritional status of the displaced people has deteriorated because of renewed displacement and the erosion of traditional coping mechanisms in overcrowded urban areas, which often lack water, sanitation and health facilities.

***Somalia 5036 (Exp. 4) - "Food aid in support of emergency rehabilitation and reconstruction"***

Planned beneficiaries	533,000	Total deliveries in 1996	9,996 tons
Current duration	24 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	4,633,639 dollars
Date of first approval	30.12.94		

The objective of the project is to facilitate the return of a large number of displaced people and refugees by providing rations for returnees and supporting community reintegration projects. The project is also aimed at increasing food security for the most vulnerable groups through food distributions, food for work, and/or food/cash incentives for activities which lead to enhanced food security at the community or household level.

***Sudan 5016 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Emergency relief and rehabilitation"***

Planned beneficiaries	1,500,000	Total deliveries in 1996	7,885 tons
Current duration	30 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	5,342,871 dollars
Date of first approval	29.3.93		

Erratic and inadequate rainfall, damage from pests and the disruption of agricultural activities by the civil war caused a serious shortfall in the overall food supply, particularly for people in the south. NGOs are in charge of distributing food aid. Poor security has often disrupted the relief operation.



### ***Swaziland 5671 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	90,000	Total deliveries in 1996	6,597 tons
Current duration	eight months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,362,102 dollars
Date of first approval	7.6.95		

A food-for-work approach to delivering emergency food assistance was introduced in the drought relief programme in 1994. The Government now favours the provision of food relief in exchange for the participation of all households with an able-bodied worker in community self-help food-for-work initiatives in the most drought-affected areas. To help overcome a cycle of drought-related food shortages, the focus is on the development of water resources for irrigation and drinking, soil conservation, and social and sanitation infrastructure.

### ***Tajikistan 5253 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Emergency food assistance for vulnerable groups"***

Planned beneficiaries	400,000	Total deliveries in 1996	20,642 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	9,848,207 dollars
Date of first approval	3.6.94		

WFP provides relief food for elderly pensioners, war widows with children and other households headed by women, orphans and disabled or invalid people, particularly in the south-west of the country, where there is a relatively high percentage of women who have been affected by the war. WFP plans to introduce food-for-work activities that will support a sustainable improvement in household food security through improved access to land, thus permitting an orderly phasing down of relief distributions.

### ***Togo 5440 (Exp. 1) - "Assistance to Ghanaian refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	5,600	Total deliveries in 1996	460 tons
Current duration	26 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	171,820 dollars
Date of first approval	25.8.94		

Inter-ethnic fighting in Ghana in 1994 prompted thousands of refugees to flee to neighbouring countries. These refugees, mostly women and children, were scattered among friends and relatives or camped out in the open. WFP relief assistance is implemented through NGOs under UNHCR supervision.



***Viet Nam 5669 - "Assistance to ethnic Vietnamese refugees from Cambodia"***

Planned beneficiaries	10,000	Total deliveries in 1996	722 tons
Current duration	nine months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	232,808 dollars
Date of first approval	30.5.95		

The escalation of violence against ethnic Vietnamese, combined with uncertainties surrounding the new Cambodian Immigration Law, resulted in another exodus from Cambodia in 1994. The nutritional status of the refugees is precarious and the capacity of the local population and authorities to support them is limited. Crop damage and loss due to flooding in the southern provinces has exacerbated the situation.

***Yemen 4954 (Exp. 2) - "Assistance to Somali refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	14,300	Total deliveries in 1996	595 tons
Current duration	21 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	256,802 dollars
Date of first approval	29.3.94		

As a result of continued instability in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, WFP has provided relief assistance to Somali and Ethiopian refugees in Yemen since 1992. Although the Ethiopian refugees were able to return to their homes when the situation there improved, relief assistance is still required for the refugees from Somalia.

***Former Yugoslavia 5142 (Exp. 2, 3 & 4) - "Emergency food assistance to returnees, refugees, displaced persons and other war-affected populations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"***

Planned beneficiaries	2,245,800	Total deliveries in 1996	229,527 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	123,437,547 dollars
Date of first approval	8.6.94		

The number of refugees, displaced people and others affected by war continues to be significant. Economic conditions have markedly deteriorated as a result of conflict, population movements, economic sanctions, and the disruption of agricultural and commercial activities. WFP provides assistance to people in institutions such as hospitals and orphanages, vulnerable ethnic minorities and the elderly with few assets, blocked enclaves with limited access to land for farming or commercial supplies, people in Sarajevo, displaced people and people in urban areas who are unemployed or earning low wages as a result of the war. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, categories of beneficiaries have been redefined on the basis of need and vulnerability.



***Zaire 5048 (Exp. 2) - "Assistance to vulnerable groups in Kinshasa"***

Planned beneficiaries	30,000	Total deliveries in 1996	1,486 tons
Current duration	six months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	439,561 dollars
Date of first approval	9.6.94		

A severe economic crisis has affected much of the urban population in Kinshasa since the social unrest of 1991. Economic activity largely collapsed and the supply of essential items, including food, became precarious. The most vulnerable segments of the population suffer from increasingly poor health and nutritional conditions.

***Zaire 5742 - "Sudanese refugees in Upper Zaire"***

Planned beneficiaries	17,800	Total deliveries in 1996	159 tons
Current duration	six months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	179,689 dollars
Date of first approval	29.3.96		

In 1995, renewed violence in southern Sudan caused a new influx of refugees into Upper Zaire, requiring food assistance from WFP.

***Zambia 5637 - "Assistance to drought victims"***

Planned beneficiaries	370,000	Total deliveries in 1996	13,746 tons
Current duration	6 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	5,635,778 dollars
Date of first approval	30.4.95		

As a result of three poor cereal harvests, small-scale farmers in the low and medium rainfall areas who are highly dependent on their own production required emergency food aid to avoid acute malnutrition.



## WFP DELIVERIES FOR PROTRACTED RELIEF OPERATIONS, 1996

### *Afghanistan 5086 (Exp. 2 & 3) - "Relief and rehabilitation in Afghanistan"*

Planned beneficiaries	1,600,000	Total deliveries in 1996	102,868 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	37,137,439 dollars
Date of first approval	15.12.94		

WFP has shifted the focus of assistance for Afghanistan from care and maintenance feeding for Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries supporting voluntary repatriation and rehabilitation to food for work inside Afghanistan. WFP is phasing out general food ration distributions in favour of safety-net programmes targeted to the most vulnerable people, mainly women and children.

### *Algeria 4155 (Exp. 5 & 6) - "Food assistance to vulnerable groups among Western Saharan refugees"*

Planned beneficiaries	80,000	Total deliveries in 1996	13,347 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	6,911,222 dollars
Date of first approval	1.3.95		

As a result of conflict in the early seventies, the Tindouf region in south-west Algeria experienced a major influx of refugees from Western Sahara. Settled in a desert area, their survival depends largely on international assistance, especially food aid. WFP provides a basic ration to vulnerable households in four camps; the ration is integrated with bilateral food contributions channelled through WFP and NGOs. Twenty percent of WFP food is distributed as school feeding in primary schools attended by refugee children.

### *Angola 5602 - "Food assistance to displaced and war-affected persons"*

Planned beneficiaries	1,300,000	Total deliveries in 1996	58,749 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	31,072,971 dollars
Date of first approval	17.11.95		

Improved security and access following the November 1994 peace protocol allowed general distribution of relief food to be reduced in favour of more selective targeted feeding programmes. However, the food supply situation in the country remains serious, with a substantial number of people remaining displaced. A key priority is to rebuild devastated transport and agricultural infrastructure and services, using food for work. The large-scale



return of displaced people has been hindered by the presence of mines along roads and on agricultural land. WFP provides some food aid for demining activities.

### ***Bangladesh 5329 (Exp. 1) - "Assistance to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar"***

Planned beneficiaries	200,000	Total deliveries in 1996	6,832 tons
Current duration	36 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,876,726 dollars
Date of first approval	28.10.93		

WFP has been assisting Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh since mid-1992. Although many have been repatriated, a substantial number of refugees remain in Bangladesh.

### ***Burkina Faso 5702 - "Assistance to Tuareg refugees in Burkina Faso"***

Planned beneficiaries	33,000	Total deliveries in 1996	3,706 tons
Current duration	19 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	1,260,178 dollars
Date of first approval	25.9.95		

Since 1991, thousands of Tuaregs have sought refuge in the northern provinces of Burkina Faso from hostilities between the national armies and the Tuareg movement. Although prospects for the refugees' return to Mali have improved in light of reconciliation efforts by Malian authorities, the repatriation process will be gradual. The Government of Burkina Faso has launched a public information campaign to encourage acceptance of the refugees by the local communities and has made agricultural land available to the refugees. For cultural reasons, food is delivered to the male heads of households, but monitoring staff have a key role in ensuring that food reaches all beneficiaries, especially women and children. WFP also supports income-generating activities for women, including loans for animal husbandry, finding outlets for handicrafts, setting up village shops through cooperatives, and vocational and literacy training.

### ***Cambodia 5483 (Exp. 2) - "Programme for rehabilitation"***

Planned beneficiaries	1,600,000	Total deliveries in 1996	25,066 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	11,702,155 dollars
Date of first approval	17.11.95		

Since 1994, WFP has shifted operational emphasis in Cambodia to assist the rural poor through village-level rehabilitation schemes geographically targeted through poverty mapping. The programme consists of five components: a) food for work to develop rural infrastructure and create employment; b) assistance to the public social service sector; c) vocational skills training; d) support for rice banks and rice seed banks; and e) emergency relief assistance to displaced people and communities suffering from natural or man-made disasters. The



reintegration of returnees has been hampered by vast areas remaining inaccessible because of mines. Continuing fighting in some areas also requires WFP to maintain an emergency response capacity.

***Djibouti 4960 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Food assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	40,000	Total deliveries in 1996	1,280 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	721,105 dollars
Date of first approval	26.1.95		

Conflict in Ethiopia and Somalia resulted in influxes of refugees from those two countries. Most of the Ethiopian refugees have been repatriated, but WFP provides support for the remaining refugees until they return to their homes. The refugees are settled in districts where there is no possibility for agriculture or other economic activities, and are dependent on WFP aid for their basic food needs. Particular attention is paid to the needs of women and children. Recurrent nutritional problems have made it necessary to continue a supplementary feeding programme.

***Ethiopia 5241 (& Exp. 1) - "Food assistance for Somali, Sudanese, Djibouti and Kenyan refugees in Ethiopia and Ethiopian returnees from neighbouring countries"***

Planned beneficiaries	419,850	Total deliveries in 1996	71,378 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	28,822,305 dollars
Date of first approval	4.6.93		

Civil conflicts, compounded by natural disasters, caused large numbers of refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti and Kenya to seek asylum in Ethiopia. Successive assessment missions have steadily reduced the case-load, and the possibility of reducing or phasing out rations is being explored for those camps where there is potential for agricultural activity. In view of recurrent seasonal nutritional problems among the Somali and Sudanese refugees, supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes will be maintained. Returnees from Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen and other countries will receive arrival and reintegration packages, after which they will qualify, as any other food-insecure group, to receive food in return for work within Employment-Generation Schemes aimed at reducing dependency on free food aid.



***Iran 4161 (Exp. 3) - "Food assistance to Iraqi refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	55,000	Total deliveries in 1996	5,555 tons
Current duration	36 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,005,820 dollars
Date of first approval	20.9.93		

WFP provides food for refugees in Iran and as well as for those repatriated to their homes. An additional influx crossed into Iran following the outbreak of factional hostilities in northern Iraq in September 1996.

***Iran 4258 (Exp. 6) - "Feeding of Afghan refugees in Iran and support for repatriation"***

Planned beneficiaries	522,000	Total deliveries in 1996	923 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	334,613 dollars
Date of first approval	17.11.95		

WFP provides food for Afghan refugees and for repatriation through an encashment scheme (with UNHCR). Food is also provided to encourage refugee girls to attend school.

***Kenya 4961 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Food assistance for Somali, Ethiopian and Sudanese refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	230,000	Total deliveries in 1996	31,827 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	14,439,893 dollars
Date of first approval	4.6.93		

Civil and military conflicts in neighbouring Somalia, Ethiopia and southern Sudan have caused refugees from these countries to seek asylum in Kenya since 1991. Food assistance has supported efforts to repatriate refugees as conditions in the home countries improve. While most Ethiopian refugees have been repatriated, the situation in Somalia and southern Sudan remains volatile.



***Liberia Regional 4604 (Exp. 3 & 4) - "Liberian and Sierra Leonean internally displaced persons and refugees in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea"***

Planned beneficiaries	2,535,000	Total deliveries in 1996	123,972 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	62,019,951 dollars
Date of first approval	4.6.93		

Insecurity has remained persistent in the region, with civil strife at times intensifying in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. As security conditions permit, greater emphasis is placed on the more accurate identification of eligible beneficiaries. General distributions have been maintained for displaced people in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Liberia food is distributed equitably between Monrovia and the accessible zones in the countryside. In light of their high level of self-reliance, general food distribution is being gradually phased out for well integrated Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea in favour of targeted feeding programmes for vulnerable groups and food for work. Among the beneficiary population, women's groups and parent/teacher associations provide non-food inputs and voluntary labour and play a role in the organizational structure of targeted feeding schemes. Incentives will encourage displaced people, including ex-combatants, to resettle in their villages of origin and to participate in agricultural and rural infrastructure rehabilitation. Priority is being given to the greater integration of women, both as recipients and managers of food aid, through ad hoc arrangements with implementing partners, e.g., to monitor targeting through distribution systems and to identify destitute households headed by women through verification and registration exercises.

***Mauritania 5413 (Exp. 1 & 2) - "Food aid to Malian refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	38,000	Total deliveries in 1996	5,690 tons
Current duration	11 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,707,061 dollars
Date of first approval	26.1.95		

Clashes between the Malian government forces and Tuareg rebels have caused Malians to seek refuge in Mauritania. Until the proposed regional operation to encourage repatriation of Tuareg refugees is functioning, WFP will cover the food requirements of the refugees in Mauritania as well as assist the host communities. Local authorities have established primary schools for refugee children and allocated small plots of land at each camp for gardening activities. The Government is exploring possibilities for the partial settlement and integration of refugees in other parts of the country. In order to ameliorate the environmental degradation caused by the large refugee population and the increasing competition between the host communities and the refugees for grazing land and water-supplies, a food-for-work component for reforestation and small infrastructure works is included, in which the local population will also participate.



***Mozambique 4164 (Exp. 4) - "Food assistance for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons"***

Planned beneficiaries	1,996,100	Total deliveries in 1996	13,385 tons
Current duration	28 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	5,440,183 dollars
Date of first approval	28.10.93		

WFP, in close coordination with UNHCR, provides food assistance for the repatriation of Mozambican refugees and displaced people. The repatriation and rehabilitation process has been considerably slowed down in areas where the countryside was extensively mined and fighting was most intense.

***Nepal 5324 (Exp. 1) - "Food assistance to Bhutanese refugees in Nepal"***

Planned beneficiaries	90,000	Total deliveries in 1996	19,104 tons
Current duration	24 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	8,644,260 dollars
		1996	
Date of first approval	17.11.95		

Beginning in 1991, ethnic Nepali refugees from Bhutan have sought asylum in Nepal from ethnic conflict and civil unrest. Despite a series of talks between the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan, there are no immediate prospects for refugees to return to their country of origin. WFP food aid supports small-scale food-for-work environmental protection and reforestation activities in areas affected by the presence of refugees. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies, community health programmes emphasize sound food preparation techniques.

***Pakistan 4256. (Exp. 6) - "Safety net programme and environmental rehabilitation in refugee-impacted areas in Pakistan"***

Planned beneficiaries	337,386	Total deliveries in 1996	10,000 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,540,000 dollars
Date of first approval	17.11.95		

WFP provides a safety-net programme for the vulnerable groups among the remaining Afghan refugees in Pakistan. WFP food supports income generating training programmes, Basic Health Units and employment opportunities supported by the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan through food-for-work programmes.



### ***Sri Lanka 5346 (Exp. 2) - "Assistance to displaced persons"***

Planned beneficiaries	55,000	Total deliveries in 1996	4,407 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	1,460,918 dollars
Date of first approval	17.7.95		

Civil strife in the north and east of Sri Lanka escalated in April 1995, and currently affects 10 percent of the national population. WFP food aid is the primary source of nutritional support for displaced people in WFP-assisted welfare centres outside the conflict zone. The primary constraint on a long-term resettlement programme outside the conflict zone is shortage of land. However, the Government is encouraging the resettlement of displaced people in their places of origin as soon as these areas become safe. Each family leaving the welfare centres is provided with a repatriation food package and loans to construct a home and start a business.

### ***Sudan 4168 (Exp. 3 & 4) - "Food assistance for Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	200,000	Total deliveries in 1996	27,704 tons
Current duration	24 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	10,930,231 dollars
Date of first approval	4.6.93		

The repatriation of the remaining Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees from Sudan to their countries of origin has been delayed because of the uncertain return prospects for some refugees and the limited absorption capacity of these countries. WFP provides a contingency food safety-net during the lean seasons for vulnerable groups and therapeutic feeding programmes for severely malnourished children. Development activities concentrate on reducing the environmental impact of the refugees through reforestation activities and promoting the use of alternative sources of fuel and fuel-saving devices.

### ***Uganda 4171 (Exp. 4) - "Food aid for Sudanese refugees in Uganda"***

Planned beneficiaries	230,000	Total deliveries in 1996	7,355 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	2,787,605 dollars
Date of first approval	26.5.94		

With the continuing civil war in southern Sudan, there has been a steady flow of refugees into northern Uganda, for whom WFP has provided food assistance in coordination with UNHCR. WFP has also obtained a commitment of non-food assistance, including mobile warehouses,



trucks and trailers, grinding mills, and weighing scales. Basic health care, sanitation and nutrition services are provided by several NGOs.

***Uganda 5623 - "Assistance to Sudanese, Zairian and Rwandese refugees in Uganda"***

Planned beneficiaries	320,000	Total deliveries in 1996	24,244 tons
Current duration	18 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	9,911,871 dollars
Date of first approval	26.5.95		

Owing to political unrest and civil war in their respective countries of origin, refugees from Sudan, Zaire and Rwanda have crossed into Uganda. To the extent possible, the Government has been providing agricultural land for their settlement, and many refugees have achieved self-reliance and no longer receive food rations. However, it may not be possible to sustain this policy if the influx of refugees continues. As the settlement efforts persist, rations are gradually reduced as the refugees start to produce their own food crops. Alternate food-for-work schemes for road construction, afforestation and irrigation are also being explored. The settled refugees have been encouraged to establish cooperatives to enable WFP to procure cereals from them for distribution in the transit camps.

***Yemen 5771 - "Food assistance to Somali refugees"***

Planned beneficiaries	8,000	Total deliveries in 1996	54 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	60,978 dollars
Date of first approval	5.7.96		

Somali refugees have sought asylum in Yemen from the continued conflict in Somalia. WFP provides basic food assistance through general distributions.

***Zambia 5428 (Exp. 1) - "Food assistance to refugees from Angola and Zaire"***

Planned beneficiaries	12,500	Total deliveries in 1996	1,705 tons
Current duration	12 months	Total value of deliveries in 1996	525,815 dollars
Date of first approval	10.5.95		

Zambia provides asylum to refugees from Angola and Zaire fleeing civil and ethnic strife. The Government has provided two hectares of land to each refugee family for resettlement. Each family receives food assistance for two agricultural seasons, after which the family is expected to have attained food self-sufficiency and is no longer eligible for food rations. Food is also made available in the settlement sites to encourage attendance at training in animal husbandry, carpentry and pottery making, and at health centres.



## ANNEX I











**ANNEX II**









**ANNEX III**

