

Executive Board- Nov 2012

ODC Statement

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Humanitarian Assistance in the context of Emergency: Regional Syria crisis & Yemen

One of WFP's main priorities in ODC region is **Yemen**. To effectively respond to the humanitarian crisis, WFP twice scaled up the emergency safety net (ESN) component of its PRRO during 2012. The original caseload in January of 1.2 million severely food insecure people was increased to 1.8 million in June, then 3.9 million in September. The geographical reach expanded as well, rising from distributions in eight to 13 of Yemen's poorest governorates.

The scale up also aims to accelerate treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in health facilities in cooperation with UNICEF and NGO partners. WFP is focusing its nutrition efforts—involving the provision of micronutrient enriched food supplements to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five. The new one-year EMOP, with an estimated budget of US\$ 242 million, aims to reach a total of nearly five million people; i.e, those identified as severely food insecure by the May 2012 WFP Comprehensive Food Security Survey and it will also include a nutrition component to address both acute and chronic malnutrition.

The situation in Syria remains to be unstable. Since October 2011, when WFP launched this emergency operation, it has successfully ramped up its food assistance from 22,000 beneficiaries progressively

to 1.5 million beneficiaries. WFP also widened its reach; during the first quarter of 2012. WFP managed to reach people in hotspot areas such as, Aleppo, Homs and Idleb amid increasing challenges. Food reaching these areas is life-saving!

WFP is constantly working on developing its open capacity to ensure better reach, implementation and monitoring of our activities. WFP opened four sub-offices to cover most governorates in addition to the main Damascus office and a backup office in Amman. WFP depends on its main implementing partner, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and is investing in building its capacity through the provision of trucks and vehicles, warehousing capacity, and incentives to SARC volunteers.

WFP is also providing support to the **neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey**. Given this increase in the number of beneficiaries and the lack of any foreseeable solution to the crisis, UNHCR and partners, including WFP, further revised the Regional Response Plan (RRP). In line with the RRP, WFP is planning to reach a **total of 460,000** refugees by the end of 2012. In 2013, WFP is planning to extend the current operations for a duration of six month scaling up our response in the neighbouring countries to a total of 640,000 beneficiaries. **WFP is gradually shifting from the short term to the long term protracted approach in its response. In parallel, WFP is continuously updating its contingency plan.**

It gives me great pleasure that the Executive Director visited the operations in Lebanon and Jordan last week just before returning to Rome for the Executive Board.

In addition, ODC is also supporting pockets of extreme poverty and food insecurity in the rest of the Middle Income Countries that compose the

majority of the region. A common concern in the region, especially for the CIS countries, is the renewed threat of increasing food prices. Cereal prices are hiking up again. To give you an example, in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, prices of wheat and wheat flour, have increased by 22 and 47 percent respectively in some markets since July. In Kyrgyzstan, Preliminary data suggests that food insecurity rates may now affect as many as 30-35 percent of the population.

WFP Operations and Response : School Feeding and Cash & Voucher

Sustainable School Feeding Approach

In line with ODC strategic priorities in the region, WFP continues to support national safety net programmes. One of the most effective tools is the School Feeding Programme. School Feeding Programmes are being implemented in 9 countries reaching 1.5 million beneficiaries, in partnership with Governments and national societies, NGOs, UN agencies, private sector and donors as a safety net component of food assistance.

Based on previous successes in the region and on requests received from Governments, WFP will launch new School feeding programmes in Jordan and Kyrgyzstan. The new programmes will build upon the existing Government programme to create a more sustainable, nutritionally balanced national school meals programme. WFP will provide technical assistance to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of the value chain. Our programmes in Armenia and Tajikistan will also be expanded. In addition, WFP will also provide technical support to the Governments of Tunisia and Morocco to enhance their national school feeding programmes. I would like to take this opportunity to express

our gratitude to the Russian Federation, for their substantial support that has made this expansion of the School Feeding Programme in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia possible. In addition country offices in Algeria, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the occupied Palestinian territory and Yemen will continue to implement on-going school feeding programmes.

Cash and Voucher

Cash and Voucher Programmes are being implemented in 8 countries reaching 870,000 beneficiaries.

WFP is currently scaling up the use of cash vouchers in Egypt, Iraq, oPt, Tunisia and Yemen; and as a transfer modality for the Syrian refugees in northern Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey-as part of the Regional EMOP. Most recently, last month WFP launched its new electronic food card programme in Kilis in **Turkey** in support of 30,000 Syrian Refugees.

ODC in 2013

In 2013, we will continue to work with Governments, Partners and with UN agencies, in fact today two of the documents we are presenting to the board are Budget revisions to ensure full alignment with UNDAF cycles in agreement with host governments.

The four main areas of ODC's strategic priorities focus on emergency response, nutrition, safety nets and capacity development. These priorities will continue to be influenced by the unforeseen political developments of the region. WFP will strive to link the emergency response to unrest with sustainable recovery. It is foreseen that 83 percent of the total ODC programme of work will be to respond to

emergencies, while 10 percent will be carried out under relief and recovery operations, 3 percent under special operations and 4 percent under development projects and country programmes.

Conclusions

Finally, we continue to count on your support and your strong commitment.

Thank you.