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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2014) – ECUADOR 200701

Integration of Refugees and People Affected by the Conflict in Colombia

Number of beneficiaries	184,000
Duration of project	3 years (January 2015–December 2017)
WFP food tonnage	208 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food and related costs	301,990
Cash and vouchers and related costs	14,474,073
Capacity development and augmentation	442,961
Total cost to WFP	19,136,940

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

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.

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

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Country Director: Ms K. Park Email: kyungnan.park@wfp.org

Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

ABSTRACT

1. Ecuador hosts the highest number of refugees of any country in Latin America. Ninety-eight percent of these refugees are Colombians fleeing conflict; they are poor and socially fractured, with limited access to safety nets – only 28 percent of newly arrived Colombians have an acceptable food consumption score. Most refugees struggle to develop sustainable livelihoods and have to rely on negative coping mechanisms. More than 70 percent of asylum-seekers are unable to meet their basic food needs or establish new livelihoods and require food assistance.
2. More than 60 percent have settled in the urban areas of Pichincha and Santo Domingo and a high percentage are in the four northern provinces of Sucumbios, Esmeraldas, Carchi and Imbabura. Insecurity and competition for resources and social services create tensions between Colombians and Ecuadorians.
3. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200701 will begin in January 2015 and will reach 184,000 asylum-seekers and other people in need of international assistance and protection, including vulnerable people unable to re-establish their livelihoods, and Ecuadorian and indigenous communities affected by the conflict in Colombia.
4. PRRO 200701 supports the Government of Ecuador's policies on refugee integration and migration, and its food security and nutrition goals. The PRRO's objectives are to:
 - improve the food consumption and dietary diversity of refugees, new asylum-seekers and the most vulnerable Colombians and Ecuadorians; and
 - rebuild the livelihoods and improve the food security of Colombian refugees and vulnerable Ecuadorians, with a special focus on women's economic empowerment.
5. Relief interventions, the largest component of this operation, will meet the food needs of new arrivals. WFP and cooperating partners will distribute electronic vouchers at locations close to asylum offices. WFP will provide assistance for up to one year, ensuring that vulnerable, newly arrived Colombians – irrespective of their asylum status – have access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. Initial assistance will also provide an incentive for asylum-seekers to register in Ecuador and will be part of a broader package of legal, psycho-social and employment support from WFP's partners.
6. A WFP rapid assessment confirmed that Colombians remain vulnerable after a year of relief assistance, with 64 percent living in extreme poverty, of whom 74 percent are women. WFP will therefore provide further support for up to an additional year for vulnerable Colombians and Ecuadorians, to avoid exacerbating tensions and to promote integration.
7. The assessment also highlighted the importance of linking relief beneficiaries to recovery activities and building sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable Colombians and Ecuadorians excluded from safety nets. WFP will reinforce community and neighbourhood livelihood assets through the PRRO's recovery component, focusing on women and those most affected by the conflict in Colombia.
8. Interventions to support integration will be planned jointly with communities, in line with the capacities of local government and partners and WFP's work norms; the assets developed will include trees, fire breaks and water harvesting structures.
9. The PRRO contributes to the Zero Hunger Challenge; the proposed Sustainable Development Goals related to food security and nutrition, and gender equality and empowerment; and WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3.