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**Executive Board  
First Regular Session**

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# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2013) – MALAWI 200460

### Food Assistance to Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	25,614
Duration of project	2 years (1 June 2013–31 May 2015)
WFP food tonnage	8,816 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Food	3,809,147
Total	5,410,434

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

\* Johannesburg Regional Bureau (Southern Africa)

## ABSTRACT

1. Malawi has been hosting refugees for over two decades, mainly because of political instability and social unrest in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions, which have resulted in a continued flow of refugees into the country. Through protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200460, WFP will continue to provide assistance to 23,400 camp-based refugees mainly from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Somalia. Host communities will receive food assistance for assets during the lean season between October and March.
2. According to the 2012 joint assessment mission conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP and the Government, WFP-supplied food represents as much as 75 percent of food consumed by refugees. Government restrictions on freedom of movement, local integration and wage-earning opportunities have a negative impact on the refugees' ability to become self-reliant.
3. The operation will continue providing food assistance to refugees through general food distributions in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp and at the Karonga Transit Shelter, while introducing specialized nutrition products to address micronutrient deficiencies. The operation will also address massive deforestation around Dzaleka Camp resulting from the cooking fuel demands of the camp population.
4. The overall goal is to contribute to food security among refugees settled in the officially designated camp while addressing micronutrient deficiencies in children under 2 with special emphasis on anaemia (aligned with Strategic Objective 1). The PRRO also aims to protect the environment and livelihoods of the surrounding communities, with particular focus on food-insecure households (aligned with Strategic Objective 3).
5. WFP will implement the project in collaboration with the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs Department of Refugees, UNHCR, the Malawi Red Cross Society and other stakeholders who are providing assistance to refugees in the country.
6. Implementation of the project will draw on best practices and lessons learned from the joint impact evaluation carried out in 2011/12 by UNHCR and WFP on the contribution of food assistance to durable solutions in protracted refugee situations.
7. UNHCR and the Government have agreed to apply the cessation clauses<sup>1</sup> from mid-2013 for approximately 800 Rwandans, and voluntary repatriation will be offered to them. In the event that there is an increase in the number of refugees voluntarily repatriating to their countries of origin or resettling abroad, WFP will adjust the food requirements to reflect changes in the refugee population. The Government is not in favour of granting citizenship to refugees, and hence the option of naturalization is not available.

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<sup>1</sup> The cessation clauses are contained in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. They identify conditions under which a refugee ceases to be a refugee.