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**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 10–11 February 2014

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.1/2014/7-C/2
23 December 2013
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2013) — JORDAN 200537

Assistance to Food-Insecure and Vulnerable Jordanians Affected by the Protracted Economic Crisis Aggravated by the Syrian Conflict

Number of beneficiaries	160,000
Duration of project	18 months (August 2013–January 2015)
WFP food tonnage	8,169 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food	4,530,205
Cash/vouchers	11,440,678
Total	24,026,884

* 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).

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ABSTRACT

1. The consequences of the economic crisis in Jordan have exposed weaknesses in the national food security and social protection mechanisms, along with limited capacities of the Government to invest in safety nets, livelihoods and self-reliance. This situation has been further aggravated by the Syrian conflict, which resulted in massive inflows of refugees into Jordan (600,000 refugees, equivalent to 10 percent of the population), placing additional pressure on public services and triggering cuts in government safety nets. The country is working to phase out costly blanket subsidies in favour of targeted interventions for the neediest. WFP has been requested to provide support to vulnerable Jordanians during this transition period as a way of sharing the burden Jordan is undertaking in meeting the needs of the refugees and its own vulnerable population.
2. WFP will deploy a flexible toolbox of unconditional food and cash assistance, along with food for assets and food for training programmes focusing on the neediest populations. This support will contribute to preventing further deterioration of food security. As most of the targeted population lives in communities hosting refugees, this assistance will enable the host communities to continue supporting the refugees and will improve social cohesion between the two groups.
3. The socio-economic conditions in poor and food-insecure areas are not expected to improve in the short or medium term and could deteriorate with the prolongation of the crises. This situation is compounded by serious environmental challenges and the unfolding political situation characterized by heightened domestic and regional tensions.
4. In line with the Government's strategies, this protracted relief and recovery operation aims to address the short-term food needs of 160,000 targeted vulnerable and food-insecure beneficiaries and to protect their livelihoods. During implementation, WFP will design a more integrated and robust set of interventions to contribute to improving the resilience of households and communities to socio-economic and climate-related shocks.
5. Unemployment and poverty are high, particularly in the food-insecure communities. To address this challenge, opportunities will be assessed to move from unconditional assistance to conditional, labour-based activities in urban areas for those who can work. A capacity development component will build on the on-going technical assistance provided by WFP to the Government.
6. This project is in line with the poverty alleviation strategies of the Government and the National Agenda (2006–2015). The operation is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2013–2017) and with WFP's Strategic Objectives 1 and 3, with a strong focus on capacity augmentation. It will support the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3.