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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 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2013) — ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN 200310

Targeted Assistance to Refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq

Number of beneficiaries	30,200
Duration of project	2 years (1 July 2013–30 June 2015)
WFP food tonnage	8,904 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	4,203,252
Total cost to WFP	6,155,108

* 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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ABSTRACT

1. Despite efforts to facilitate the repatriation of refugees living in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a significant number of poor and food-insecure refugee households continue to require humanitarian support, including WFP food assistance. In 2012, 840,500 Afghan refugees and 45,000 refugees from Iraq were registered in Islamic Republic of Iran. Although the majority of the refugees live in urban areas, about 30,000 live in 19 refugee settlements, with very limited livelihood options.
2. This protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) will ensure basic food security for vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi households in refugee settlements. WFP has been providing general food distributions in refugee settlements since 1987. This operation introduces a new targeting approach to better address the basic food requirements of the refugees in settlements: the majority of refugees in settlements who are able to meet some of their own food needs will receive a reduced ration; however, assistance will be increased for the extremely food-insecure households who have been severely affected by the removal of government subsidies and rising food prices. A food security assessment is planned six months after the start of the operation to introduce possible refinements of targeting in the second year of the PRRO.
3. WFP will also support durable solutions by enabling girls and young people from the assisted settlements to complete their education and learn skills that will help their future reintegration in their respective countries. WFP will provide incentive take-home rations to girls attending primary and secondary education. Support will also be introduced to encourage youths from the settlements to attend technical training courses to increase their livelihood opportunities.
4. The specific objectives of the PRRO are:
 - improved food consumption of vulnerable refugee households; and
 - increased access to education and human capital development for refugee girls and youths.
5. These are consistent with WFP Strategic Objective 1 (Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies) and 3 (Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations). The PRRO will also contribute towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3.
6. WFP is increasing its preparedness to respond to possible population displacements should the situation in Afghanistan deteriorate. The withdrawal of North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops from Afghanistan combined with the elections in 2014 pose a risk of further displacement and possible influxes of refugees into Iran. WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have agreed to closely monitor the situation and develop an operational plan. Since the profile of potential refugees would greatly differ from the current beneficiaries, their needs may need to be addressed through a separate operation.