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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2010) — YEMEN 200044

Food Assistance to Somali Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	183,000
Duration of project	23 months (1 February 2010–31 December 2011)
WFP food tonnage	9,063 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	4,308,860
Total cost to WFP	7,009,882

* 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 matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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ABSTRACT

1. WFP has been providing support to refugees in Yemen since 1992. Ongoing political insecurity and economic instability in the Horn of Africa have led to a continuous increase in the number of refugees migrating into Yemen. It is estimated that as many as 75,000 new arrivals will have reached Yemen's shores by the end of 2010. Many will continue on to third States, but a growing number are settling in the country, mostly in urban areas of Sana'a and Al-Basateen in Aden.
2. The Government of Yemen estimates that as many as 800,000 refugees are currently in the country, of whom some 150,000 are registered. The language barrier remains an issue, limiting integration and work opportunities in the host communities. The majority of urban refugees are engaged in informal employment, while families in the camp have no access to self-reliance opportunities owing to the isolation and harsh climate of the area.
3. Under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP provides life-saving food support to new arrivals along the shore and in reception centres, and to the refugee population in Kharaz camp, Yemen's only refugee camp. The intervention has proved to be both appropriate and effective; without WFP food support, more than 90 percent of refugees in Kharaz camp would be considered food-insecure.
4. Supplementary feeding programmes in the camp and Al Basateen target children under 5, malnourished pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups. The overall aims are to reduce/stabilize levels of acute malnutrition in children under 5 and improve the nutrition status of targeted women and children.
5. Both the camp and Basateen are also supported through school meals at three primary schools and one day-care centre. School meals aim to ensure school retention and maintain enrolment and attendance.
6. WFP is piloting a new programme targeting urban refugees in Sana'a and Aden with cash-value food vouchers for beneficiaries forced to choose between vocational training and earning a basic income. The programme aims to reduce food access gaps by creating participation incentives for vocational training, while contributing to human capital development and increasing families' ability to break the intergenerational cycle of chronic hunger.
7. Activities are implemented by WFP in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and various local and international non-governmental organizations.
8. The PRRO covers a protracted refugee situation, and viable exit strategies are extremely limited. There is currently no durable solution for Yemen's refugees, as resettlement options are limited and repatriation is not an option. WFP assistance is crucial to maintaining the nutrition status of families and to contributing to improved livelihoods.
9. This operation addresses Strategic Objective (SO) 1 – Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies – and SO 3 – Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations.