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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 9–12 June 2008

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2008/11-C/6
2 May 2008
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2007) – SENEGAL 10612.0

Post-conflict Rehabilitation in the Casamance Naturelle

Number of beneficiaries	370,000
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2008–31 December 2009)
WFP food tonnage	12,953 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	6,414,060
Total cost to WFP	11,927,632

* 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. The conflict in the Casamance region of Senegal dates back to 1989. It has never approached the scale of many other conflicts in the region, but it causes significant suffering in Casamance and across the border with Senegal, increases socio-economic decline and prevents development.
2. Casamance faces serious challenges in the transition to peace: the central issues are related to socio-economic grievances such as unequal access to food, economic opportunities and basic services such as sanitation and education. Much of the population remains disconnected from the rest of the country because they lack access to roads and markets. The prevalence of poverty in Casamance is among the highest in the country at over 60 percent; a 2007 vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) update indicated that 49 percent of households are vulnerable to food insecurity. Malnutrition is also a cause for concern: the prevalence of underweight (weight-for-age) in children under 5 in the Kolda region is the highest in the country at 32 percent, compared with a national average of 17 percent.
3. At the request of the Government of Senegal, a successor protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) was prepared for 2008–2009 on the basis of government strategy documents and the findings of studies¹ conducted in 2007.
4. PRRO 10612.0 is in line with the second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II) 2006–2010, which assumes a return to peace and security and the development of infrastructure, production and economic activity in the Casamance region, and includes the Programme for the Recovery of Economic and Social Activities in the Casamance (PRAESC) and United Nations strategies.
5. The PRRO 10612.0 covers Ziguinchor and Kolda, the two regions of Casamance. As part of WFP's hand-over strategy, and in view of lessons learned from the previous operation, it envisages refocused interventions and new targeting; regional technical committees will provide built-in flexibility to adapt to the needs of beneficiaries. A significant reduction in the amount of food to be mobilized is anticipated compared with the previous PRRO 10188.1 (2005–2007).
6. WFP food assistance will target areas with large concentrations of internally displaced people and returnees, and will respond to:
 - Strategic Objective 2 through food for recovery to rebuild and protect human and productive assets with a view to encouraging social and economic recovery;
 - Strategic Objective 3 through food for nutrition awareness raising;
 - Strategic Objective 4 through food for education to promote social cohesion and stability by facilitating the return to school of displaced and returnee children; and
 - Strategic Objective 5 through capacity-building for national institutions to ensure a timely and efficient response to food security challenges.

¹ *Impact and Future Role of Food Assistance in Casamance* (May/June 2007); self-evaluation of PRRO 10188.1 (July 2007); Joint WFP/CARE food security assessment (July 2007).



7. Depending on the evolution of the peace process, Casamance is expected to remain a priority for WFP, either through a recovery operation or through the country programme. Criteria with benchmarks will be applied in line with WFP's exit/handover strategy guidelines.