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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 22–26 October 2007**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2007) — SIERRA LEONE 10554.0

### Food Assistance to Refugee- and Returnee- Affected Areas of Sierra Leone

Number of beneficiaries	533,000
Duration of project	July 2007 – June 2009
WFP food tonnage	31,906 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	12,869,282
Total cost to WFP	30,558,737

\* 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.

Regional Director, ODD\*:      Mr M. Darboe      Mustapha.Darboe@wfp.org

Senior Liaison Officer, ODD:      Mr T. Lecato      tel.: 066513-2370

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

\* West Africa Regional Bureau



## ABSTRACT

1. A significant proportion of the population of Sierra Leone remains poor and vulnerable to food insecurity, despite progress in resettling displaced populations, reconstruction in communities affected by war and rehabilitation of productive assets since the end of the ten-year civil war in 2002. According to the 2005 vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) survey, most communities in Southern and Eastern regions that hosted large numbers of Liberian refugees and Sierra Leonean returnees are vulnerable to food insecurity. Districts in these regions suffered most in terms of damage to social and agricultural infrastructures during the civil war and were the last to be resettled after the conflict.
2. The 2005 multi-indicator cluster survey by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) identified the following factors contributing to poor nutrition levels: (i) inadequate access to nutritious foods, (ii) inappropriate childcare, (iii) low rates of exclusive breastfeeding, (iv) high morbidity and (v) limited access to and utilization of health services for mothers and children. Underweight among children under 5 is 31 percent moderate and 9 percent severe; stunting is 40 percent moderate and 20 percent severe.
3. Under the 1991–2007 West Africa coastal protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP's assistance in Sierra Leone targeted internally displaced people, refugees and other vulnerable groups; after the closure of the PRRO and the repatriation of Liberian refugees in June 2007, the focus of WFP's interventions shifted from refugee support to targeted recovery and nutrition interventions in districts hosting refugees and resettlement areas in the eastern and southern provinces.
4. WFP's assistance will help communities in the targeted districts to:
  - rehabilitate and protect livelihoods through food for recovery focused on rehabilitation of tree crops, inland valley swamps and feeder roads; WFP will also support skills training for over-age children and unemployed young people in the targeted districts (Strategic Objective 2);
  - support improved nutrition and health among children, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups (Strategic Objective 3) through mother-and-child health activities, supplementary and therapeutic Feeding, and assistance for vulnerable groups such as people living with HIV; and
  - contribute to capacity-building in national institutions (Strategic Objective 5) to ensure effective responses to hunger and food insecurity, including establishment of nutrition surveillance systems and building national capacity in food-security monitoring, in collaboration with partners.