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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 7–11 November 2005**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

*For information\**



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## **PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2005) — DJIBOUTI 10283.1**

### **Food Assistance to Somali and Ethiopian Refugees**

Number of beneficiaries	17,260
Duration of project	22 months (1 March 2005–31 December 2006)
WFP food tonnage	5,670 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	1,854,961
Total cost to WFP	3,979,813

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions of 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 for information to the Executive Board.**

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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Senior Liaison Officer, ODK:	Ms F. Nabulsi	tel.: 066513-2385

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

\* East and Central Africa Regional Bureau.



1. Djibouti, a least-developed low-income and food-deficit country, is ranked 154<sup>th</sup> out of 177 countries in the 2004 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report. The population is estimated at 500,000 people, 85 percent of whom live in urban areas. Unemployment affects 59 percent of the active population; the economy is largely service-based. With yearly rainfall averaging 200 mm, agricultural production accounts for only 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).
2. Since the 1980s, socio-economic and political instabilities in neighbouring Ethiopia and Somalia have led many people to seek refuge in Djibouti. In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of Djibouti, WFP has been providing relief food assistance to a large number of refugees, most of whom have been repatriated over the past few years. Under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), the remaining 17,000 refugees will receive food assistance through targeted distributions of relief and recovery activities. WFP will also continue to facilitate the repatriation of refugees by providing nine-month food repatriation packages to an estimated 13,000 Somalis. In view of WFP's limited presence in northwestern Somalia, repatriation packages are normally provided to returnees before their departure from Djibouti.
3. The portfolio evaluation mission conducted by the East and Central Africa Regional Bureau (ODK) in April 2004 looked into the needs of the refugees and recommended that food assistance to the remaining refugees be continued under the expanded PRRO. The mission noted that the refugees are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance, which WFP has provided over the years. Relief assistance has been successful in terms of improving the nutritional status of refugees, preventing and reducing malnutrition, and increasing the enrolment and retention of girls in schools. An estimated 17,000 refugees were still in the camps in March 2005. Once the 13,000 Somali refugees are repatriated by December 2006, the residual caseload – estimated at 4,000 people – will be merged into one camp where UNHCR will take sole responsibility for refugees.
4. The PRRO's objectives are to: (i) ensure that refugees have access to basic foods that meet their daily nutritional requirements until they are repatriated; (ii) promote quality basic education, particularly for girls; (iii) reduce the impact of malnutrition on children under 5; and (iv) improve the health status of vulnerable groups.
5. WFP's implementing and coordinating partners include the Ministry of Health, the National Office for Assistance to Disaster Victims and Refugees (ONARS), UNHCR, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Association of Medical Doctors from Asia (AMDA) and community-based organizations (CBOs).
6. The total food requirement under this PRRO is 5,670 mt valued at US\$1.9 million; the total cost to WFP is US\$4.0 million.

