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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**



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/2005/9-C/3
21 september 2005
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2005) – ZAMBIA 10071.2

Food Assistance for Refugees from Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Number of beneficiaries	82,000 (2006) 67,000 (2007)
Duration of project	24 months (1 January 2006–31 December 2007)
WFP food tonnage	33,586 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	8,432,009
Total cost to WFP	17,918,446

* 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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ABSTRACT

1. Zambia is one of the world's poorest countries: it has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$840 and is classified as a least-developed and heavily indebted poor country. Zambia is vulnerable to recurring floods, drought and animal disease; the HIV/AIDS epidemic has further compounded poverty levels and contributed to a decline in socio-economic activity.
2. Although there are economic and security implications, the Government of Zambia has maintained an open-door policy and has consistently granted asylum to populations seeking refuge from Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Burundi. The current refugee population is estimated at 177,000. The Government has been providing land for Angolan refugees in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements since the 1970s; its commitment and contributions to assisting refugees through land allocation have been highly commendable.
3. This WFP project complements activities initiated by the Government and implemented in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Approximately 82,000 refugees in 2006 and 67,000 in 2007 will benefit from relief and recovery assistance programmes in five refugee camps/settlements.
4. After completion of the pilot project with UNHCR, which runs from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2005 and provides food assistance under general distributions and supplementary feeding programmes, WFP Zambia will continue to manage food distributions directly. Refugees returning to their country of origin under organized voluntary repatriation will receive cooked meals at departure and transit centres and ready-to-eat meals while in transit between centres.
5. The Government of Zambia and United Nations partners have embarked on a project, the Zambia Initiative (ZI), that aims to improve living conditions and create opportunities for refugees and host communities. The initiative focuses on improving infrastructure, building the capacity of staff at health and education centres, and promoting agriculture activities aimed at increasing food security.
6. As part of its effort to promote rural food production and infrastructure development, WFP will continue to purchase maize in Zambia under the Local Food Purchase Programme. The benefits of this approach include a cost-effective source of food for WFP and savings on transport. A pilot initiative to promote production and distribution of cassava as an alternative component of the food basket will also be tested.
7. WFP will play a major role in implementing programme strategies under a joint UNHCR, WFP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) initiative that has identified many unique entry points for integrating HIV/AIDS awareness and food and nutrition education programmes into refugee camps and settlements.
8. The Enhanced Commitments to Women (ECWs) will be a component of all activities. Training to sensitize and educate refugee women about health and nutrition will be promoted, and women's involvement in food management committees will be encouraged in order to enhance their control of food.
9. After 2007, it is expected that any remaining Angolan refugees will either repatriate or become integrated into local communities and will no longer require food assistance. Until conditions in DRC are conducive to organized repatriation of Congolese refugees, WFP will continue its assistance efforts in collaboration with the Government and UNHCR.

