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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 2003) – YEMEN 10232.0

Food Assistance for Refugees in Yemen

Number of beneficiaries	30,040
Duration of project	21 months (1 April 2003–31 December 2004)

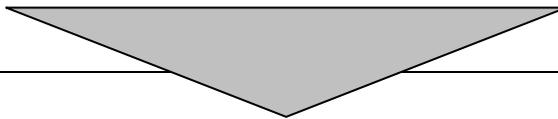
Cost (United States dollars)

Total food cost	1,600,481
Total cost to WFP	2,855,351

* 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.

Regional Director, Mediterranean, Middle East and Central Asia Bureau (ODC): Mr K. Adly

Senior Liaison Officer, ODC: Ms D. Owen tel.: 066513-2800

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



1. Since 1988, the protracted civil war in Somalia has led to a major influx of refugees into neighbouring countries. At the end of January 2003, there were 48,340 registered refugees in Yemen, 95 percent of whom were Somalis. These refugees come to Yemen because of its geographic proximity, with the intention of travelling to the Gulf States in search of employment. Many have settled in Yemeni towns, working as casual labour in the informal sector. The presence of the refugees constitutes a drain on Yemen's fragile economy, which in turn limits the Government's ability to contribute more effectively to integration and the improvement of refugee well-being. The poorest and most vulnerable among the refugees, particularly women, children and the elderly, are accommodated in a camp. In June 2001, 10,500 refugees were relocated to a new camp in Al Kharaz, an isolated location 150 km from Aden.
2. The refugees in the camp live in destitute conditions and have limited earning opportunities. They depend almost entirely on external assistance and rations provided by WFP. In addition to the monthly care and maintenance ration, WFP will provide targeted feeding programmes for malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women in the camp and some urban localities, and vulnerable non-refugee groups living around the camp. The protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) has three recovery components:
(i) food-for-work activities, including tree planting and repair and maintenance of the access road and other camp facilities; (ii) skills training and functional literacy for women; and (iii) school feeding activities in the camp and one suburban area where many refugees live.
3. The potential for repatriation in the near future is very limited, because most of the refugees in Yemen come from parts of Somalia that are still too insecure for safe return, such as Mogadishu and Kesmayo.
4. PRRO 10232.0 will provide 6,346 mt of food commodities over 21 months at a cost of US\$2.8 million.
5. The PRRO is being implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in cooperation with a local non-governmental organization (NGO) and in close consultation with the Government of Yemen. UNHCR and the NGO are responsible for managing the refugee camp, providing health and education services and arranging food distributions; WFP delivers the food to the camp and monitors the distribution of rations to targeted beneficiaries. WFP is using the nearby port of Aden to receive food commodities, thus saving 30 percent on internal transport costs compared with the previous operation.

