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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 21–25 October 2002**

# **INFORMATION NOTES**



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.3/2002/INF/15**

26 September 2002  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE— PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION— IRAN 6126.00**

This document should be read in conjunction with the document “Summary Report of the Evaluation of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation—Iran 6126.00” (WFP/EB.3/2002/6/5).

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| Recommendations to WFP (March 2002)  | Action by      | Management Response and Action Taken (August 2002)   |
|--|----------------|--|
| <b>Strategy and Design</b>   |                |  |
| <p>➤ The PRRO guidelines should be reviewed to clarify ambiguity with respect to recovery strategy and components. The mission's view is that recovery should be a standard component in any PRRO, irrespective of whether it relates to a protracted relief or a protracted refugee situation.</p>  | OHA            | <p>Recovery is not a mandatory part of a PRRO. Though unusual, it is possible for a PRRO to have only the relief component. PRRO guidelines will be reviewed and updated following the conclusion of the evaluation of the PRRO as a category.</p>   |
| <p>➤ The country office should develop a recovery strategy in close consultation with UNHCR. The strategy should focus on enhancing self-reliance, and include discrete activities, such as the literacy training for women that has worked so successfully in other refugee camp environments—e.g. the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal—and support for health facilitators.</p> | Country office | <p>In close coordination with UNHCR, WFP has approached the Bureau of Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (WFP government counterpart) to assist Afghan refugees in Sistan and Baluchestan through skills training and educational activities. WFP is expecting the relevant data from BAFIA and is planning to commence activities in the last week of September 2002, coinciding with the beginning of the new school year. The overwhelming majority of WFP educational and training beneficiaries will be women.</p> <p>Furthermore, the new PRRO 10213.0, scheduled for submission to the Board's Third Regular Session, 2002, allocates 34 percent of total commodities to recovery activities.</p>  |
| <p>➤ Every effort should be made to undertake an analysis of gender relations and the special needs of women among the refugee caseloads and to better address WFP's Commitments to Women in the next PRRO project document.</p>   | Country office | <p>WFP and UNHCR have drafted a Joint Gender Action Plan (GAP). It includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) registration of new beneficiaries in Be'esat (Iraqi Arab) camp, when applicable, using the name of the female members of the household;</li> <li>b) holding of the first of a series of workshops on gender awareness for all implementing partners (with a sample of refugees); the first workshop, to be held in December 2002 for the Afghan refugees, is expected to produce, through a participatory approach by all stakeholders, a feasible GAP for 2003;</li> <li>c) consideration of WFP's Commitments to Women, which have been incorporated in the annual work plan, in the upcoming Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Government.</li> </ol> |



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| <b>Monitoring Commodity Utilization, Food Security and Programme Impact</b>   |                               |  |
| <p>➤ WFP should anticipate changes and the need for revising PRRO strategies and planned outputs by developing (a) mechanisms for reviewing and approving changes recommended by the country office and (b) review procedures to be applied at least annually. These procedures should ensure that protracted relief and recovery strategies and planned outputs are relevant and appropriate and that they reflect experience gained during implementation, as well as changes “on the ground”. In both cases, changes have to be properly documented to guide implementation.</p> | <p>Country office<br/>ODC</p> | <p>A household economic survey is planned for second half of 2002. Furthermore, the new PRRO has envisaged the annual review of WFP assistance through a Joint Programme Committee composed of WFP, UNHCR and BAFIA.</p> |
| <p>➤ Socio-physiological criteria are useful proxy indicators of vulnerability to food insecurity. However, they should not be relied upon in future for screening refugees for inclusion on <i>general</i> ration beneficiary lists.</p>   | <p>Country office</p>         | <p>The vulnerability criteria have been adjusted, and the country office has proposed to include all children on its beneficiary list. The implementation is pending receipt of requested data from BAFIA.</p>           |
| <p>➤ The country office should stop distinguishing between its “old” caseload and “newcomers”/“new” camps and should assess the needs of all encamped refugees recognized by UNHCR on the same basis. Until such assessments are made, all encamped refugees previously excluded by the country office should be provided with the uniform ration.</p>  | <p>Country office</p>         | <p>Pending the upcoming household economic survey, to be held in the second half of 2002.</p>  |
| <p>➤ The practice of excluding children under 2 years of age and restricting the number of children assisted per family to three should cease, and those previously excluded should be added to the beneficiary lists.</p>  | <p>Country office</p>         | <p>WFP has proposed to include all in-camp children on its beneficiary list and is awaiting the requested data from BAFIA.</p>   |



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| <p>➤ The country office should develop a strategy for adjusting rations more closely to actual food needs to increase efficiency in the use of scarce resources. The evaluation mission's preferred approach is to institute a revised general ration, to be adjusted to meet the food gap of the different refugee groups (Afghani, Iraqi Arabs and Kurds), supplemented with additional food assistance for the minority assessed as being unable to cope (or at risk of not being able to cope) on the general ration.</p> | Country office | Pending outcome of the household economic survey.   |
| <p>➤ The country office needs to supplement the information provided by JFAMs, either by establishing food security and impact monitoring, or advocating the conduct of periodic UNHCR/WFP/BAFIA rapid verification exercises focused on testing the assumptions underpinning rations and targeting ("mini-JFAMs").</p>   | Country office | WFP/UNHCR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in May 2002 stipulates joint cooperation in monitoring. In the second quarter of 2003 joint UNHCR/WFP food monitoring took place for the first time in all the assisted camps.   |
| <p>➤ The country office should determine with UNHCR if it is necessary to conduct a nutrition survey in the refugee camps and in areas where vulnerable non-camp refugees are concentrated. The country office should also suggest to UNHCR that support be provided to health centers in camps to ensure the appropriateness and quality of data regularly collected.</p>  | Country office | <p>It is expected that the household economic survey will partly cover the needs of the nutritional survey.</p> <p>WFP has communicated to UNHCR the need to support health centres in camps in their regular collection of health data. This requirement has been incorporated in the UNHCR/WFP MOU.</p> |
| <p>➤ If no credible assurances on wheat supply are forthcoming from SOG, the country office should tender for a commercial alternative. This would require a budget revision to include internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH). The country office should attempt to maintain a capacity to borrow wheat from the Government in the event of a delay in shipment.</p>  | Country office | The country office plans to undertake the said activities as stipulated in the new PRRO. Negotiations with the Government to ensure continued capacity to borrow wheat will take place for the next LOA.  |



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| <b>Results Obtained</b>  |                       |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should ensure that Afghan refugees receive their full entitlement of bread from camp bakeries of 364 g per person per day. The issue of whether or not refugees should receive baked bread or wheat flour should be independently assessed.</li> </ul>   | Country office        | At the time of the evaluation the Afghan refugees received bread, as opposed to the Iraqi refugees' receiving of wheat flour. BAFIA has unilaterally undertaken the distribution of wheat flour instead of bread in Niatak. The issue is pending in other camps.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Non-camp refugees should be assisted if their need for a general distribution can be cogently demonstrated. Otherwise, assistance should be limited to activities with a "recovery" element and/or a linkage to repatriation focused on Afghans in areas where vulnerability is reported to be high. The country office should consider using vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) to identify where these activities should be established.</li> </ul> | Country office<br>ODC | No provision has been envisaged for the non-camp vulnerable refugees. However, the recovery activity geared towards repatriation is 35 percent of the total food contribution in the new PRRO. The recovery activity is designed for Sistan and Baluchestan, where vulnerability is the highest and which host the second largest refugees population—all Afghans. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should determine how the 5,000 rations provided to BAFIA for distribution at its discretion have been used to date, and should discontinue this assistance if targeting is unsatisfactory and adequate monitoring cannot be instituted.</li> </ul>   | Country office        | BAFIA has stated that the 5,000 rations were provided to the refugees whom it is hard for WFP to access. The issue will be reviewed with the Government in the implementation of the new PRRO and LOA.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should review the oil incentive for girls' attendance at camp schools to guide future programming.</li> </ul>  | Country office        | This is done continuously.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WFP and UNHCR should determine the need to continue to provide food in Iran to repatriating Iraqi refugees.</li> </ul>  | Country office        | JFAM recommended the exclusion of food for repatriation of Iraqi refugees, and hence it is excluded under the new PRRO.  |



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| <b>Partnership and Coordination</b>  |                |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WFP and UNHCR should conclude a Joint Action Plan for assistance to refugees in Iran, incorporating a clearly enunciated strategy for camp and non-camp refugees, with linkages to the anticipated repatriation operation and including a phase-out strategy for assistance to the camps.</li> </ul>                              | Country office | WFP/UNHCR Joint Action Plan is reflected in the MOU between the two agencies, to cover May–December 2002.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should consider advocating the conclusion of a tripartite agreement between WFP, UNHCR and BAFIA.</li> </ul>   | Country office | The country office is planning a tripartite agreement between WFP, UNHCR and BAFIA, to be in effect with the beginning of new PRRO, commencing January 2003.  |
| <b>Resourcing Issues</b>   |                |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should be strengthened with an international programming officer and a second national monitoring officer.</li> </ul>  | Country office | A post of programme coordinator (P-3) and two national monitoring posts have been established, and recruitments are under way.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional resources should be earmarked for assistance to non-camp refugees</li> </ul>   | Country office | Under both PRRO 6126.00 and the new PRRO, resources have been earmarked for non-camp refugees.  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A realistic budget should be prepared to carry out additional food needs assessments.</li> </ul>  | Country office | Budget has been allocated for the necessary food needs assessment.  |
| <b>Meeting WFP's Commitments to Women</b>  |                |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office needs to formulate a strategy for improving the status of refugee women and addressing their strategic needs. The office should raise the issue with UNHCR, suggesting that the gender focal points for the two agencies prepare a joint WFP/UNHCR refugee gender strategy for consideration.</li> </ul>       | Country office | WFP/UNHCR gender focal points have produced a Joint Action Plan, mentioned above.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The country office should consider what changes, if any, are required to give effect to WFP's Commitments to Women, including whether or not to strengthen women's access to food and control within the family by putting them in charge of the distribution system and/or by distributing rations directly to women.</li> </ul> | Country office | The above-mentioned Gender Awareness Workshop will provide the Gender Action Plan for 2003, created with the participation of all stakeholders. It is hoped that the workshop will produce a sensible and feasible action plan. |