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Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 15–17 May 2002**

## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 7

*For information\**



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.2/2002/7-C**  
5 April 2002  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2001)— BANGLADESH 10045.1

### Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

<b>Number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>21,500 refugees (10,500 female and 11,000 male) 4,500 host population (50 percent women)</b>
<b>Duration of project</b>	<b>12 months (1 January–31 December 2002)</b>

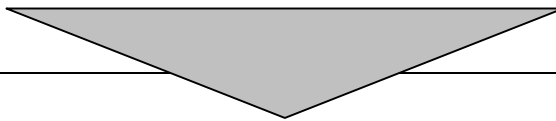
#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	2,074,290
Total cost to UNHCR	1,445,712
Total food cost	1,297,895

\* 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 in advance of the meeting and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that this 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, Asia Bureau (ODB): Mr J. Powell

Senior Liaison Officer, ODB: Mr K. Sato tel.: 066513-2383

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. Between November 1991 and April 1992, approximately 250,000 Rohingyas, belonging to an ethnic minority from the Rakhine State of Myanmar, sought refuge in southeast Bangladesh from alleged religious and ethnic persecution. About 230,000 refugees were repatriated between late 1992 and November 1998. Progress subsequently slowed, however, because of procedural restrictions in Myanmar, resulting in non-acceptance of most of the remaining refugees. To facilitate further repatriation or local integration of the 21,500 remaining refugees, WFP is working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in its continuing bilateral negotiations with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh.
2. Under the current one-year expansion phase, which ends in December 2002, WFP provides assistance to 21,500 refugees and 4,500 people from the host population, who are assisted under food for training (FFT) and related activities. In addition to the general food distribution, a limited number of FFT activities have been undertaken to create opportunities for employment and income generation for the refugees and host population. Such interventions are expected to help pave the way for finding a durable solution to the refugee problem.
3. The food basket consists of 4,036 tons of rice, 393 tons of fortified blended food, 316 tons of pulses, 168 tons of vegetable oil, 94 tons of sugar, 79 tons of salt, 30 tons of dried skim milk and 50 tons of biscuits. In addition to the general food distribution, an on-site supplementary feeding programme is carried out, covering some 800 expectant and nursing mothers and 500 malnourished children. One hundred children under 5 who suffer from severe malnutrition receive on-site therapeutic feeding. A new activity, school feeding, is being carried out under this phase. This programme component will provide 4,000 refugee pupils with 50 g fortified biscuits on 250 school days.
4. In 2001, WFP, UNHCR and other partners, undertook a comprehensive household food security study in the camps. The study focused on the nutritional status of the refugees, in relation to their food intake and other factors affecting their overall health. The main conclusion was that the poor nutritional status of the refugees could be linked to the fact that they had received less than their entitlement for a long time. WFP is currently working with other stakeholders to reduce the problem of short delivery of commodities during collection from government warehouses, transport and distribution.
5. Donor assistance, coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MDMR), is channelled through the Bangladesh Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRDCS) manages transport, storage and distribution of food and subsequent reporting at camp level. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), supported by the Department of Health and UNHCR, provide family planning advice, pre-natal care and counselling on nutrition and hygiene to expectant and nursing mothers. Regular meetings are held with the government institutions concerned and implementing partners to improve coordination, implementation and monitoring.

