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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 12 - 15 May 1998**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

**Agenda item 8**



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## PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECT YEMEN 5771.01

### Food assistance for Somali refugees

Duration of project	Twelve months (January–December 1998)
Number of beneficiaries (planning figure)	10,000 (residing in a refugee camp)
Food cost to WFP	552,000 dollars
Total cost to WFP	1,230,500 dollars
Costs to UNHCR	2,093,700 dollars

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.**

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

Regional Director, a.i.: P. Bourgeois tel.: 6513-2725

Programme Coordinator: P. Turnbull tel.: 6513-2800

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 6513-2641).



1. Civil strife in Somalia since 1991 has led to a massive exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries, including Yemen. UNHCR estimates that 65,000 Somalis and 40,000 Somalis of Yemeni origin have fled to Yemen. WFP has been providing food assistance since 1992. Most refugees have become self-reliant: the camp population is currently under 10,000. There are no signs that conditions in Somalia will allow a large-scale repatriation in the near future.
2. The specific objectives of the project are to: a) meet the basic nutritional requirements of the Somali refugee population in camps in Yemen; b) contribute to meeting the food needs of the most vulnerable groups, ensuring that malnutrition is kept at a minimum, for Somali refugees in slum areas; c) contribute to increasing the degree of self-reliance and improvement of women in camps, including support for vocational training, pending achievement of a durable solution; d) encourage the children of Somali refugees to attend school by providing meals in schools; and e) promote food-for-work activities, where possible. Food rations are a direct source of nutrition and dietary support for people who cannot satisfy basic minimum daily food requirements and are nutritionally at risk.
3. The Government has provided camp sites for the refugees. Currently, there is only one camp, located at Al Gaheen in Abyan Governorate; this is regarded as a temporary site and a new camp is being prepared at Al-Kharaz.
4. Within the camp, WFP food rations are distributed as “dry” rations on a monthly basis to heads of households, with each individual ration meeting full energy requirements at around 2,000 calories. Basic food (wheat flour, pulses, oil and sugar) is supplied by WFP and supplementary food (vegetables, milk, vitamin supplements) by UNHCR. The latter is responsible for food distribution within the camp, through a local NGO, Partner for Development (PAD).
5. There is a regular channel of communication with the beneficiaries in the camp through their two functioning committees: the Elders Committee with nine members, one of whom is a woman; and the Women’s Committee, also with nine members. Women collect their food ration directly. UNHCR has listed many women refugees as heads of household. The Women’s Committee supervises the food distribution, and women refugees execute the scooping and distribution of commodities to the ration card holders. WFP and UNHCR undertake a census of the camp population every six months. There are currently around 8,000 individuals in the camp, 48 percent of whom are women.
6. PAD manages the camp, providing shelter, water, sanitation and health facilities. This includes food distributions and income-generating activities. WFP has one field monitor based in Aden to assist with food matters related to refugees.
7. WFP’s requirements for the PRO for 1998 are 2,315 tons of food, valued at approximately 1.2 million dollars; the annual cost to UNHCR is around two million dollars.

