

برنامج
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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

Rome, 22–26 October 2001

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

For information*



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2001)— BANGLADESH 10045.0 (WIS no. 6155.02)

Assistance to Refugees from Myanmar

Number of beneficiaries	21,000 refugees and 4,500 host population
Duration of project	12 months (January–December 2001)

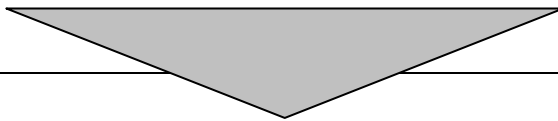
Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	1,871,190
Total cost to UNHCR	1,451,700
Total food cost to WFP	1,134,245

* 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 Board 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.

Director, Asia Regional Bureau (ODB): Mr J. Powell

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. As of April 1992 a total of 250,877 people from North Rahkine State of Myanmar took refuge in camps in the Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh. About 230,000 refugees were repatriated between late 1992 and November 1998. However, subsequently, progress slowed owing to procedural restrictions in Myanmar, resulting in non-acceptance of the major part of the remaining refugee caseload. To facilitate further repatriation or local integration of the 21,000 remaining refugees, WFP is working closely with UNHCR in its continued bilateral negotiations with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh.
2. Under the current one-year expansion phase, which ends in December 2001, WFP provides assistance to a total of 21,000 refugees and 4,500 persons from the host population, who are assisted under food for work and other related activities. Moderately relaxing its policy of prohibiting refugees employment, the Government of Bangladesh has allowed limited food-assisted development-oriented activities in and around the camps. Such interventions are expected to help pave the way for finding a durable solution to the existing refugee problem.
3. The food basket consists of 3,333 tons of rice, 400 tons of wheat, 383 tons of fortified blended food, 389 tons of pulses, 209 tons of vegetable oil, 175 tons of sugar and 38 tons of salt. In addition to the general food distribution, an on-site supplementary feeding programme is carried out, covering some 800 expectant and nursing mothers and 600 malnourished children. Furthermore, 210 children under 5 who suffer from severe malnutrition receive on-site therapeutic feeding.
4. In 1999 WFP, in coordination with UNHCR and other partners, undertook a comprehensive "vulnerability survey" in the camps. The survey focused on the nutritional status of the refugees, from the point of view of not only food intake, but also of adequacy of other factors affecting the refugees' overall health. WFP is currently coordinating with specialist agencies to carry out an in-depth survey that would lead to the discovery of any undetected factors influencing the persistent high malnutrition rates.
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 food storage, distribution and reporting at the camp level. NGOs, supported by the Department of Health and UNHCR, provide family planning advice, pre-natal care and counselling to expectant and nursing mothers on nutrition and hygiene. Regular meetings are held with the various government institutions and implementing partners to improve coordination, implementation and monitoring.

