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**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)— MYANMAR 10066.0

### Assistance to Returnees and Vulnerable Groups in North Rakhine State of Myanmar

Number of beneficiaries	259,000
Female:	175,000
Male:	84,000
Duration of project	1 year (1 July 2001–30 June 2002)

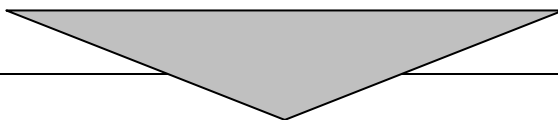
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	3,512,676
Total food cost	1,681,300

US\$1 = 362 kyats in December 2000.

\* 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

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. WFP's most recent involvement in Myanmar began in 1994, with the objective to provide emergency food relief to some 230,000 returnees who had fled from the North Rakhine State (NRS) to Bangladesh in 1991. The NRS is one of the most remote, isolated, underdeveloped and densely populated regions of Myanmar. It has a population of 800,000, 82 percent of whom are of Indian subcontinent origin. The majority of the people in the NRS do not have citizenship, owing to the lack of valid data on their date of arrival in the area, coupled with ethnic and cultural differences. The area has an annual food deficit averaging between 20,000 and 40,000 mt and is subject to seasonal heavy rainfall and tropical storms, both of which can adversely affect the livelihoods of the population, especially women and children. In general, the economic and social indicators in the NRS show its population as being among the most vulnerable in the country.
2. Unfavourable conditions in the NRS spurred two mass departures of Muslims to Bangladesh: the first in 1978, involving some 200,000 persons, and again in 1991/1992, with some 250,000 people fleeing. Food insecurity linked with poverty and little hope for economic improvement were the major causes for these departures. WFP has assisted about 200,000 returnees since 1994. Currently, an intermittent outflow of households to Bangladesh continues to be reported by agencies working in the NRS and Bangladesh.
3. Under this one-year protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 10066.0, WFP plans to provide assistance to 259,000 people through food aid using 9,734 mt of commodities (rice), with a total cost to WFP of US\$3.5 million (including the food cost of US\$1.7 million). The PRRO will be interlinked and coordinated with other planned or ongoing assistance projects in the NRS and will underline WFP's continued interventions in relief assistance while limiting recovery assistance. Both relief and recovery activities are targeted to the chronically at risk within the population.
4. The immediate objective of the PRRO is to bridge the food gap for the vulnerable poor, particularly during periods of severe food deficit. The longer-term aims are to contribute to: (i) creating opportunities for vulnerable groups to gain and preserve physical and human assets; (ii) enhancing agricultural productivity through improved irrigation systems and natural resource management; and (iii) facilitating access to markets and basic services by rehabilitating and upgrading the local footpath infrastructure.
5. The project activities can be grouped into three components: (i) relief assistance to vulnerable families, involving approximately 52,000 beneficiaries, including returnees, through relief rations; (ii) formal education through food for education (FFE), involving 47,500 beneficiaries, and informal education through food for training (FFT), involving 39,525 beneficiaries; and (iii) agricultural production and infrastructure rehabilitation through food for community asset creation (FCAC), engaging 120,000 food aid beneficiaries. Overall, approximately 68 percent of the beneficiaries will be women.
6. WFP collaborates with local communities, other United Nations agencies and NGOs in project planning, resources mobilization, implementation, capacity-building and technical assistance. A special effort is made to maximize the role of communities in project planning and execution, with an emphasis given to women in food distribution and management. Participatory approaches are used to mobilize the community in all dimensions of project implementation.