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de Alimentos

Executive Board  
Second Regular Session

Rome, 13 - 14 May 1999

## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 6



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— DJIBOUTI 4960.04

### Food assistance for refugees

Number of beneficiaries	22,000 (current average)
Duration of project	Eighteen months
Food requirement	6,621 tons

#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	3,104,489
Total food cost	1,760,637

### ABSTRACT

WFP has provided emergency assistance, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Government of Djibouti, to Ethiopian and Somali refugees in Djibouti since 1989. The flows of refugees across the borders to Djibouti were caused by civil conflict, and the ensuing economic and political instability, in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Nearly 21,000 Somali refugees and 1,000 Ethiopian refugees reside in three camps in Djibouti. The overall situation in Somalia, although improving, still remains largely unfavourable for repatriation. It is therefore unlikely that Somali refugees will be repatriated before mid-2000. Consequently, the PRRO has a duration of eighteen months, until the end of May 2000.

The principal objective is to provide refugees with the basic food required for survival until they are repatriated. A secondary objective is to encourage refugees to settle in camps where they can benefit from education, health and vocational training activities.

In addition to the provision of a general ration, a therapeutic feeding programme is being implemented for expectant mothers and the disabled. To reduce the student drop-out rate, particularly among girls, monthly take-home rations of sugar are offered to those students who have regularly attended school during the month. Efforts are being made to carry out sensitization campaigns on the importance of increasing the attendance of girls at primary schools.

WFP encourages the participation of refugee women in food management and distribution. Currently, some 50 percent of refugees involved in food management are women.

## 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: M. Zejjari tel.: 066513-2201

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).

