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Programme
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de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8



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PROTRACTED REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSON PROJECT - SRI LANKA 5346.04

Assistance to internally displaced persons

Duration of project	Twelve months
Number of beneficiaries	50,000
Food cost to WFP	2,562,525 dollars
Total cost to WFP	3,187,699 dollars
Estimated total cost	6,057,699 dollars
WFP commodity requirements	8,578 tons

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.
One United States dollar equalled 61.60 Sri Lankan rupees in March 1998.

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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:

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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.: 6513-2641).



1. The internal conflict, which erupted in the North-East of Sri Lanka in 1983 and escalated in June 1990, resulting in large-scale displacement of the population, continues unabated, with no immediate end in sight. WFP has been providing relief food aid since February 1992 to the poorest and the worst-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs).
2. Under this project relief food aid will be provided to 50,000 displaced persons in 173 welfare centres located in three districts outside the conflict zone. The project beneficiaries are those who have lost their property and all means of livelihood, and have been forced to flee their homes to save their lives. They neither have the means to manage on their own nor any relations and friends to help them. Taking refuge in the government-run welfare centres has been the only option available to them.
3. The scarcity of land on the island is a major constraint for any long-term settlement of the IDPs. A very limited number have been settled on state lands and on lands donated by philanthropic organizations, and have moved out of the welfare centres. The majority of the IDPs who continue to live in the welfare centres have few employment opportunities and are primarily dependent on relief assistance. The only viable long-term solution for the IDPs remains their return to their places of origin after the end of the conflict.
4. The Government's Department of Social Services has started an initiative to train women beneficiaries in marketable skills. Women who have been trained are given credit, from the savings generated through the sale of the empty containers of food commodities, to start micro-enterprises of their own. The Government intends to encourage the participation of NGOs in this activity. The NGOs are currently assisting in managing pre-schools, holding mobile health clinics, and in providing clothing and materials for housing the IDPs.
5. WFP will supply 7,300 tons of rice, 913 of pulses and 365 of sugar. These commodities will be combined with 456 tons of coconut oil, provided by the Government, to issue per capita daily food rations of 400 grams of rice, 50 of pulses, 20 of sugar and 25 of coconut oil.

