

Executive Board Third Regular Session

Rome, 20 - 23 October 1997

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PROJECTS
APPROVED BY
THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Agenda item 9 c)



Distribution: GENERAL WFP/EB.3/97/9-C/Add.1

27 August 1997 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROJECT MAURITANIA 5413.03

Food aid for Malian refugees

Duration of project Six months

Number of beneficiaries 22 500 Food cost to WFP 850 290 dollars

Total cost to WFP 1 794 028 dollars

Estimated total cost 2 902 062 dollars

WFP commodity requirements 2 531 tons

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:

Chief of Sahel Section: O. Sarroca tel.: 6513-2505

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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).



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1. The first influx of Malian refugees into Mauritania occurred in May 1991, following the outbreak of armed conflict between Malian Government forces and Tuareg rebels. The influx continued throughout 1992 and persisted until August 1994. Following negotiations, national reconciliation was established in mid-1995 and security has improved. The refugees seem to have gained confidence that peaceful settlement is now a reality. Consequently, repatriation has begun and has averaged roughly 800 persons a month since mid-1995. It is expected that voluntary repatriation will be completed by the end of 1997.

- 2. The current phase of the PRO will consist of the same five elements as the previous one. These are:
 - a) basic relief feeding to ensure an adequate nutritional status for the refugees;
 - b) repatriation packages to encourage and facilitate the refugees' return to Mali;
 - c) school feeding to improve school attendance in the camps;
 - d) food for work for the host population to rehabilitate the environment at the former camp-sites; and
 - e) therapeutic feeding, under medical surveillance, of vulnerable groups among the refugees.
- 3. The food requirements (in tons) for 180 days, for each of the five activities, are as follows:

Commodity	Relief feeding	Repatriation	School feeding	Vulnerable groups	FFW	Total needs	Carry- over stocks	Balance required
Cereals	1 629	216	22	6.6	300	2 174	0	2 174
Pulses	244	32	0	1.9	22.5	300	40	260
Vegetable oil	102	14	8.0	5.7	8.4	130.9	42.7	88
Sugar	81	11	1.1	5.1	0	98.2	133.5	0
Salt	20	3	0.4	0.5	0	23.9	15.4	9
Total	2 076	276	24	20	331	2 727	232	2 531

- 4. As under previous phases of the operation, the Government will designate the Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire (Commissariat for Food Security CSA) to coordinate all matters concerning support and assistance to the refugees. The distribution of food rations will continue to fall within UNHCR's mandate and will be carried out by the CSA (under contract with UNHCR). The monthly food rations will be distributed to the senior female member of each household.
- 5. After 31 July 1997, assistance to the refugees will continue under the umbrella of a regional PRO, approved by the Executive Board at its Second Regular Session of 1997; the final objective will be the repatriation and resettlement of Malian refugees out of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger.



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6. The current PRO was approved by the Executive Director on 30 January 1997.

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