

Opening Remarks
WFP Sudan Country Director – Adnan Khan
Presentation of PRRO 200808 to the Executive Board
28 May 2015

Thank you Mr. President,

1. After eight years of operating exclusively through annual Emergency Operations and thirteen years in a largely emergency mode, mainly in response to the Darfur crisis of 2003, I am presenting today to the Executive Board, Sudan's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for 2015-2017 for its approval.
2. Since 2009, the Sudan Country Office has been pursuing a strategy to remain prepared and to respond to new emergency needs and to simultaneously shift from a status based to a vulnerability based targeting for the longer term internally displaced persons. The Sudan Country Portfolio Evaluation conducted in 2012 endorsed this approach but highlighted the need for the country office to cement its strategic thinking over a longer-term horizon by capitalizing upon pockets of development opportunity to support activities which rebuild livelihoods and enhance self-reliance. The PRRO is a broad reflection of this and other recommendations emanating from the country portfolio evaluation as well as the audit of WFP operations conducted in 2012, keeping in view of course, the ground realities of continued conflict.
3. The foundation of the shift in approach towards long term displacements was laid through the verification exercise completed in Darfur in 2013 which updated and refined IDP camp beneficiary lists through a biometric re-registration. This exercise alone saw a 30 percent reduction in long term IDPs eligible to receive food assistance. Based on this data, we are currently engaged in IDP-Profiling in Camps which is assessing the level of vulnerability among verified households, enabling WFP to provide assistance that is needs-based. Already, WFP has collected vulnerability data across 27 camps in Darfur representing some 677,000 IDPs, with results implemented in 10 camps. So far, some 53,000 IDPs have been phased out of assistance altogether. We hope to replicate this in other camps and complete the exercise by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

4. Prior to the preparation of the PRRO, WFP Sudan formulated a three-year country strategy (2015-2017) aligned with WFP's Strategic Framework with four pillars: i) save lives in emergencies and protracted crises; ii) support early-recovery through safety net activities; iii) build resilience of local communities to withstand shocks and seasonal vulnerability; and iv) address underlying causes of chronic under-nutrition. Sustainable capacity development of national counterparts, enhanced gender focus, and mainstreaming protection concerns are cross-cutting elements of the strategy.
5. The PRRO before the Board is aligned to the country strategy and contributes to WFP's corporate Strategic Objectives 1 and 2. It also addresses the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals, and the Zero Hunger Challenge.
6. The PRRO is consistent with the priorities of the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 and also supports the Darfur Development Strategy and Government of Sudan's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
7. The PRRO is a result of a broad and extensive consultation process with key stakeholders that began in 2013 and continued up-to the first quarter of 2015. It reflects WFP's partnerships with communities it aims to serve, the Government of Sudan, donors, UN agencies, development actors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.
8. WFP Sudan has fully embraced and acted upon the recommendation made by the Country Portfolio Evaluation to improve its partnerships with other UN entities and NGOs. It has established partnership MOUs with sister UN agencies and NGOs. WFP continues to share the leadership with FAO of the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) sector of the HCT. It has developed a particularly strong relationship with the RBAs on the one hand and UNICEF, UNHCR and OCHA on the other as lead humanitarian agencies on the ground. The PRRO also provides support to and reinforces additional activities being implemented through trust funds such as the WFP, FAO and UNICEF Joint Resilience Programme in Kassala State in the East.

Mr. President:

9. Political and security risks nevertheless remain, ranging from instability across the region, ongoing conflict and new displacements, ability of humanitarians to reach conflict affected people, a potential downsizing or removal of the UNAMID peacekeeping force, an increase in influx of South Sudanese refugees, to high-levels of food insecurity. In this context, the proposed PRRO will retain a significant relief component, while enabling WFP to transition protracted IDP caseloads and expand the Country Office's recovery and resilience building portfolio. We believe that this is a realistic, responsible and tenable way forward in what remains a complex operating environment.
10. Mr. President, I remain available to respond to any questions and comments that board members may wish to raise.

Thank you,