

Speaking Notes

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Introducing the PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION – PRRO 200447 Assistance to Address Food Insecurity and Undernutrition

Mr President, Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Executive Board members, delegates and colleagues. Good morning!

I am happy to present the new Afghanistan PRRO 200447 for the approval by the Executive Board this day.

This is the product of an extensive analysis of the country situation, including:

- An evaluation of the WFP Afghanistan country portfolio in previous years
- Internal and external strategic reviews of WFP operations in the country
- The development of a Country Strategy Document
- An alignment on the preliminary results of the Government led 2011/12 National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

All of this was carried in close consultation with all key partners which included:

- The Government of Afghanistan with which meetings were held at ministerial, deputy ministerial or director levels with ministries of agriculture, rural development, public health, education to name but a few.
- The donor community in Kabul played a key role in providing very constructive feedback throughout the process that helped shape the content of the document.
- The RC/HC office, all other UN agencies and NGOs participated actively and contributed to the design of this PRRO.

Therefore, the Afghanistan PRRO being presented today is the result of a collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, aligned with Afghanistan national priority programmes and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

However, while presenting the document for your approval, I am mindful of the fact that significant changes in needs and operational environment may happen during this transition period of International Military forces withdrawal and presidential elections.

WFP Afghanistan is prepared to review its strategy and project if and when required.

The new PRRO 200447 is expected to commence on 1 January 2014 through December 2016 and assist 3.7 million of the most food insecure Afghans with a total budget of US\$

497 million. Geographical targeting will align with the areas of highest food insecurity as identified through the Government led NRVA.

Subsequently, the PRRO will:

- respond to the food security and nutrition needs of IDPs, returnees and people affected by natural or man-made disasters through targeted food distribution
- support the recovery of communities affected by shocks
- treat moderately malnourished children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women
- Contribute to better learning for targeted primary and lower secondary school pupils
- Support the Government in developing policies and food security systems to respond to chronic but also emergency needs.

Given the country's highly challenging operating environment, the implementation of the PRRO will be guided by the principles of **Simplicity** in design and implementation, **Accountability** to all stakeholders, particularly beneficiaries and donors, **Flexibility** to reposition and realign activities, **Effectiveness** of delivery and monitoring systems (SAFE). This includes working through partners to access targeted communities in a manner which upholds the humanitarian principles and aligns with Government priorities.

The worsening security situation has translated into reduced humanitarian access in parts of Afghanistan. In October 2012, WFP did not have direct nor indirect access to 8 districts out of the total 399; in September 2013, the number has increased to 51 districts.

The programme teams, the area and sub-offices staff, UNDSS and WFP security staff and partners are constantly reviewing and developing solutions for sustained access through appropriate risk management, strategic partnership with NGOs and communities, key leaders and a solid and reliable WFP supply chain. And in fact, we have success stories like in Chahar Dara and Warduj where access had been suspended for years.

We are confident that these success stories will be replicated if we are able to demonstrate a fair, transparent, impartial and fully accountable operation to the beneficiaries. The PRRO 200447 is designed to do that with a strong compliance unit, a strategic approach to partnership, a communication strategy towards communities and a hotline already established through which communities address complaints, questions and help curb problems of food diversion we had been experiencing.

Coordination with UN agencies is already in place. In particular, it is worth mentioning the joint support to the Government by FAO, Unicef, WHO and WFP for the development of the Nutrition Action Framework, the co-chairing of the Food Security

and Agriculture Cluster with FAO, in addition to the collaborative effort in the formulation of the Afghanistan Food Security and Nutrition Agenda framework (AFSANA).

WFP Afghanistan will remain in constant dialogue with the various line ministries in Kabul, in the Provinces and continue the close collaboration at the strategic, planning and monitoring level.

In closing, let me remind that this year marks the 50th anniversary of WFP's presence in Afghanistan. I would like here to re-confirm WFP's commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan during good times as well as bad times.

Your approval of WFP PRRO 200447 today will help reinforce this commitment.
Thank you.