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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012) – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 200315

Assistance to the Conflict-Affected Population

Number of beneficiaries	258,369
Duration of project	2 years (January 2012–December 2013)
WFP food tonnage	20,628 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	11,889,694
Total cost to WFP	36,062,264

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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ABSTRACT

1. The Central African Republic is one of the world's poorest countries, ranking 162nd of 172 countries on the 2010 human development index. Socio-political instability stemming from a series of coups and military conflicts since the 1990s has caused large-scale displacement and has impeded the country's development.
2. The country is also impacted by conflicts in neighbouring Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The violence caused by attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army in the southeast has led to internal displacement along the southeast border as well as an influx of refugees from DRC. In addition, violence in the Darfur region of the Sudan caused an influx of Sudanese refugees. Finally, armed groups occasionally attack populations in the northeast, inciting violence among rebel groups, self-defence groups and villages.
3. The Central African Republic also hosts over 13,000 refugees from the Sudan and DRC. Violence, coupled with the Government's limited capacity, has led to the degradation and disruption of the education and health systems, significantly increasing the vulnerability of the conflict-affected population to further shocks.
4. The food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable people in the Central African Republic continues to be threatened by the conflicts. While the 2009 comprehensive food security, vulnerability and nutritional assessment reports a food insecurity rate of 30.2 percent country-wide, the 2011 rapid food security assessment reports that 35 percent of households in the conflict-affected areas targeted are food-insecure; 30 percent of households headed by internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 36 percent of residents are food-insecure.
5. Preliminary data from the most recent multiple-indicator cluster survey conducted in 2010 indicates high malnutrition levels at the national level, with the prevalence of wasting, stunting and underweight at 7.4, 40.7 and 23.4 percent respectively. With the national prevalence of HIV at 6.2 percent (7.8 percent for women), the Central African Republic is the most affected country in west and central Africa.
6. The objective of this protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) is to meet the immediate food needs of populations impacted by conflict, while contributing to peace consolidation and recovery in areas where peace has been established. This operation will target six conflict-affected prefectures in the north and east.
7. Over the two-year PRRO period, a total of 258,369 beneficiaries will be assisted through relief assistance to 33,245 IDPs and refugees; targeted supplementary feeding for 45,275 malnourished children under 5; 5,400 caretakers supporting severely malnourished children under 5; and 12,600 malnourished pregnant and lactating women. Through the recovery component, WFP will support 90,631 vulnerable IDP returnees, host communities and ex-combatants to rebuild their livelihoods and strengthen their asset base for future self-sufficiency. WFP will also encourage 68,818 children affected by the conflict to return to school through the provision of daily school meals, and will provide nutritional support to 2,400 food-insecure people living with HIV and tuberculosis.
8. This PRRO supports WFP Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3. It contributes to the first five Millennium Development Goals, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the Common Humanitarian Action Plan.