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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

**Rome, 4–8 June 2007**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2006) – NEPAL 10058.5

### Food Assistance to Bhutanese Refugees

Number of beneficiaries	108,200
Duration of project	24 months (January 2007–December 2008)
WFP food tonnage	44,282 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	15,039,135
Total cost to WFP	23,598,321

\* 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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\* Asia Regional Bureau



## ABSTRACT

1. Nepal is a least developed, low-income country with a gross domestic product per capita of US\$1,420. Poverty and food insecurity are widespread in rural areas, but both have been exacerbated by conflict and natural disasters in recent years.
2. Despite 11 years of internal conflict that ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006 and the establishment of a new interim government, the Government has maintained its commitment to grant asylum to 80,000 Southern Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin who entered Nepal in the early 1990s following enforcement of restrictive citizenship laws by the Government of Bhutan. Since 1992, WFP has provided food assistance to refugees living in seven camps in eastern Nepal.
3. However, Bhutanese refugees are not allowed to engage in economic activities outside the camps and lack access to land for agriculture. Findings from the 2006 joint assessment mission by WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, stalled talks between the governments of Nepal and Bhutan and the absence of durable solutions for the refugee caseload justify the next protracted relief and recovery operation.
4. The two-year WFP operation will be one of fewer than ten to assume direct responsibility for managing food distributions previously handled by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Approximately 108,200 refugees will benefit in 2007 and 2008 from WFP food assistance programmes in the seven camps; 2,600 malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women and chronically ill patients will receive additional assistance under a supplementary feeding programme.
5. WFP will also continue to support supplementary activities such as vocational training, home gardens and income-generating activities that promote self-sufficiency among the refugees and will ensure the participation of women refugees in the management and distribution of food. WFP coordinating partners are encouraged to recruit more women, especially for decision-making positions. This protracted relief and recovery operation will complement and be coordinated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government and non-governmental organization partners.