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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**

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EMERGENCY OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012)

* 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

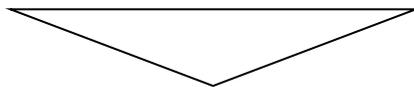
The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, ODX*: Ms V. Guarnieri tel.: 066513-3286

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

* Programme Division

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board takes note of “Emergency Operations Approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO (1 January–30 June 2012)” (WFP/EB.2/2012/10-C).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

1. At its Third Regular Session of 2001, the Board asked to be regularly informed about emergency operations (EMOPs) approved jointly by the Executive Director (ED) and the Director-General (DG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. Since the Second Regular Session of 2002 this information has been provided twice a year.
2. This report covers EMOPs approved between 1 January and 30 June 2012, as shown in the attached tables. Table A lists projects with a food value of more than US\$3 million approved jointly by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO. Table B lists projects with a food value of less than US\$3 million approved by the Director of Emergencies under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. Table C lists EMOPs with an individual value of US\$1 million or less approved by Regional Directors or Country Directors under the delegated authority of the Executive Director.
3. During the period under review, 21 EMOPs were approved: 11 by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO, 5 under the delegated authority of the Director of Emergencies, and 5 by Regional Directors or Country Directors. These operations provide food assistance to 13.6 million people at a food cost of US\$510.1 million. The total costs to WFP were US\$1 billion.

EMOPs APPROVED JOINTLY BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO

4. **Occupied Palestinian Territory EMOP 200298 (January–December 2012)** is a response to over 50 percent of people in Gaza being unable to meet their daily food requirements without support. Four years of blockade and major destruction of private and public property during military confrontations have led to the disintegration of the productive economy in the Gaza Strip, resulting in scarce employment opportunities, low incomes and limited economic access to food.
5. The operation targets 285,000 beneficiaries with 39,363 mt of food and US\$4.4 million in cash and vouchers at a total cost to WFP of US\$41.6 million.
6. **Yemen EMOP 200306 (January–December 2012)** is an expansion of EMOP 200039, providing food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by the social unrest of the Arab Spring events in the region. Protracted displacement has led many IDPs to exhaust their coping mechanisms, thereby increasing their food insecurity, vulnerability and reliance upon humanitarian assistance. This situation is compounded by rising food and fuel costs and decreasing government control in those areas not directly affected by the conflict. Lack of effective governance and the direct impact of conflict have exacerbated Yemen's already severe poverty and malnutrition rates: 32 percent of the population is food-insecure.
7. The operation targets 550,800 beneficiaries with food requirements of 118,344 mt and a total cost to WFP of US\$111.6 million.
8. **Sudan EMOP 200312 (January–December 2012)** is a response to the need for large-scale humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected areas. Unresolved issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement have resulted in substantial economic instability and conflicts in the states along the borders between the Sudan and South Sudan. While poor and late rainfall in 2011 significantly reduced cereal production, affecting food security.

WFP assists people affected by the conflict and multiple shocks in Darfur, central and eastern states, and – access permitting – in Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The EMOP also provides nutritional support for children under 5 and for children in schools in food-insecure areas.

9. The operation supports 4.2 million beneficiaries with 330,159 mt of food and US\$26.8 million in cash and vouchers at a cost to WFP of US\$406.2 million.
10. **Mauritania EMOP 200333 (January–December 2012)** is a response to a 2011 cereal deficit of 117,000 mt – a 53 percent reduction in harvest from the previous year, 39 percent below the five-year average – as result of poor rainfall during the July–October 2011 growing season. The prolonged drought has negatively impacted pasture conditions and lowered water levels at access points, especially in Traza and Tagant regions, leading vulnerable people to resort to negative coping strategies.
11. The operation supports 381,343 beneficiaries with 20,363 mt of food and US\$4.9 million of cash and vouchers at an overall cost to WFP of US\$29.7 million.
12. **The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) EMOP 200362 (April 2012–March 2013)** is a response to destabilization and conflict in the Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts of the Oriental Province, which has affected food security, agricultural production, trade and the social economy. Ninety percent of the 300,000 IDPs in the Uélé districts reside with, or near, already food-insecure host communities. A WFP emergency food security assessment in 2011 found that in Haut-Uélé district 18 percent of households are severely food-insecure and 30 percent are moderately food-insecure, while in Bas-Uélé 7 percent are food-insecure and 29 percent are moderately food-insecure.
13. The operation supports 246,800 beneficiaries with 14,509 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$26.1 million.
14. **Mali EMOP 200389 (February–December 2012)** is a response to the drought and poor agricultural season of 2011/12, along with unrest in the north. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates that the 2010/11 cereal deficit was 9 million mt and the 2011/12 season deficit was 5.3 million mt. Water levels in rivers and access points are very low, with irreversible effects on agro-pastoralists. The nutritional situation is rapidly deteriorating: the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is 10.8 percent with Timbuktu reaching 15.4 percent. Twelve percent of women are acutely malnourished and 55 percent anaemic; 20 percent of children aged 6–23 months are chronically malnourished.
15. The operation supports 3.5 million beneficiaries with 39,452 mt of food and US\$2.6 million in cash and vouchers, at an overall cost to WFP of US\$47.7 million.
16. **Cameroon EMOP 200396 (April–December 2012)** is WFP's response to the Government's declaration of an emergency in the Far North region following a major drop in cereal production owing to poor rainfall. A joint crop and food supply assessment mission concluded that the cereal harvest in the area – which suffers from frequent weather-related shocks – is significantly below the previous years' production, resulting in a 50,000 mt cereal deficit. Over 400,000 people in the Logone and Chari division are affected by the decrease in food production, half of whom require immediate food assistance. The prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition in the Far North was already high, especially among children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women: 44 percent chronic malnutrition and 12 percent GAM.
17. The operation supports 298,900 beneficiaries with 18,929 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$22.7 million.

18. **Niger EMOP 200398 (April–December 2012)** responds to the food and nutrition crisis unfolding in Niger, which is the result of a series of complex and interrelated shocks, including: i) significant cereal production deficits owing mainly to drought; ii) a prolonged steady rise in cereal prices; iii) poor livestock-to-cereals terms of trade, linked to pasture degradation; and iv) the loss of economic opportunities and the displacement of households as a consequence of insecurity in the Sahel region. The situation of children is of particular concern, as the already high prevalence of acute malnutrition could increase rapidly. By April 2012, 3.5 million people of the Niger – 22 percent of the population – were severely food-insecure, and 2.9 million moderately food-insecure. The affected populations are exceptionally fragile and require targeted relief assistance if they are to survive the lean season.
19. The operation supports 3 million beneficiaries with 159,048 mt of food and US\$43.7 million in cash and vouchers, at an overall cost to WFP of US\$235.3 million.
20. **The Gambia EMOP 200421 (June–October 2012)** is in response to the Government's declaration of a national food emergency in March 2012 and request for urgent humanitarian assistance owing to high food prices as well as a severe drought that led to a substantial crop failure in most of the country. Crop production dropped by 62 percent from the previous year and by 50 percent from the five-year average. A joint post-harvest assessment led by the Ministry of Agriculture and WFP indicates that 520,000 people living in rural districts are seriously affected and in need of emergency food assistance or livelihoods support.
21. The operation supports 206,000 beneficiaries with 13,169 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$10.8 million.
22. **The Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Bureau (ODC) EMOP 200433 (June–December 2012)** is a regional operation for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in response to the events in the Syrian Arab Republic, which have led thousands of Syrians to flee to neighbouring countries. The operation aims to meet the immediate food needs of refugees and help them to avoid using negative coping strategies. It is part of a broader framework of refugee support under the leadership of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
23. The operation supports 120,000 beneficiaries with 302 mt of food and US\$16.9 million in cash and vouchers, at an overall cost to WFP of US\$23.8 million.
24. **The West Africa Bureau EMOP 200438 (June–December 2012)** is a regional operation for Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in response to the outbreak of violence in the Gao, Kidal, and Timbuktu regions of Mali, which caused at least 200,000 people to seek refuge with host communities internally, and 160,000 to flee to refugee camps in neighbouring countries.
25. The operation supports 555,000 beneficiaries with 51,093 mt of food and US\$8.6 million in cash and vouchers, at an overall cost to WFP of US\$78.9 million.
26. As conflict continues in northern Mali, and with the on-going food crisis in eight of the Sahel countries, the situation is expected to deteriorate, and pastoral populations are expected to migrate throughout the region in greater numbers. WFP estimates that 7 million people are in need of food assistance in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger; it is responding through country-level operations guided by a WFP regional response strategy for the Sahel.

EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCIES¹

27. **Mauritania IR-EMOP 200401 (February–May 2012).** Fighting in Mali between the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and the Malian army has caused 13,500 Malians to seek refuge in Mauritania, while a food security and nutrition crisis has spread across the Sahel and Mauritanian region, putting the livelihoods of all at risk. The refugees are to be accommodated in the region of Hodh Chargui, which has the highest food insecurity rates in Mauritania – 37 percent; nutrition rates in this region are also worrying, with 6.7 percent of children under 5 acutely malnourished. The region’s isolation means that food availability and affordability are additional factors affecting nutritional wellbeing. UNHCR has officially requested WFP to provide food assistance for the refugees.
28. The operation supports 22,000 beneficiaries with 1,193 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$1.5 million.
29. **Burkina Faso IR-EMOP 200405 (March–May 2012).** The first Malian refugees – mostly from the nomadic Tuareg group – crossed over to Burkina Faso in February and settled with host communities along the Mali–Burkina Faso border. Government counterparts and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) initially confirmed 16,000 refugees; double that number were expected to arrive. The refugees’ arrival further exacerbated the fragile situation of the host communities in food-insecure and drought-stricken regions of northern Burkina Faso, which had food deficits due to the poor harvests of 2011/12. Food prices increased by 50–60 percent and limited food availability led to food insecurity and malnutrition: GAM rates ranged from 1.2 to 14 percent, according to a 2011 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey. A January 2012 joint Government Household Economy Approach assessment indicated that over 1.1 million people in 10 of 13 regions were food-insecure.
30. The operation supports 32,500 beneficiaries with 1,691 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$1.4 million. This project was a precursor to the West Africa Bureau EMOP 200438.
31. **The Gambia IR-EMOP 200411 (April–June 2012).** Late, unevenly distributed and erratic rainfall during the 2011/12 cropping season led to a significant decline and poor quality harvest in the Gambia. Overall production is estimated to have dropped by 62 percent since 2010 and by 50 percent from the five-year average. In early 2012 the Government requested urgent humanitarian assistance to prevent further deterioration of people’s nutritional wellbeing and the adoption of negative coping strategies. In response WFP targeted the poorest 5 of the 19 most-affected districts.
32. The operation supports 62,500 beneficiaries with 1,706 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$1.3 million.
33. **The Republic of the Congo IR-EMOP 200408 (March–June 2012).** In early March 2012 explosions of munitions held in a military camp killed 200 people, injured 2,500 and displaced 50,000, destroyed 2,000 homes and damaged 5,000. Humanitarian assessments calculated as many as 200,000 people were affected; 50,000 were classified as being most vulnerable, 22,000 of them children. The displaced included unaccompanied children,

¹ Operations in paragraphs 27–35 were approved through the Immediate Response Account mechanism.

pregnant and lactating women, and many wounded. Most people affected were unable to resume their livelihoods for six months: the operation aimed to prevent a deterioration of their nutritional status.

34. The operation supported 25,000 beneficiaries with 1,249 mt of food at a total cost to WFP of US\$1.5 million.
35. **Lebanon IR-EMOP 200426 (May–July 2012).** As a result of conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, beginning in May 2011 a large number of Syrians sought refuge in Lebanon. Initially most went to two villages in northern Lebanon, but many have started to settle in the Bekaa Valley and in Tripoli, Beirut and Saida. At the end of April, 25,000 Syrians, mainly from the areas of Horns, Hama, Tartous and Rural Damascus, were spread across Lebanon. About 80 percent were hosted by communities and 15 percent were renting accommodation; so far there are no organized camps or settlements.
36. The Syrians fleeing to Lebanon do not have formal refugee status, which would allow them to obtain work permits, and they do not have access to social services. Some have found illegal work in agriculture or construction, and others are depending on savings. WFP rapid assessments found that 78 percent are dependent for their survival on humanitarian assistance, charity, host families and/or credit. WFP provided food assistance in order to ensure the nutritional well-being of the people fleeing and to avoid straining the ability of host families to accommodate them.
37. The operation supported 15,000 beneficiaries with US\$750,000 in cash and vouchers, at an overall cost to WFP of US\$1.5 million. It was a precursor to the ODC regional EMOP 200433.

EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS OR COUNTRY DIRECTORS²

38. **Ecuador IR-EMOP 200412 (March–June 2012).** In January–February 2012 intense storms caused widespread flooding, landslides and crop failure affecting 13 provinces. In February the National Risk Management Secretariat declared a yellow alert and officially requested WFP assistance for food and technical support for assessments in seven provinces. The heavy rains continued and in March the Government declared a state of emergency. Heavy rains damaged access, transport, crop yields and water storage, affecting 71,790 people as of March. Overflowing rivers caused further flooding; subsistence food crops were destroyed, exacerbating food insecurity. The operation allowed WFP to meet emergency food needs and prevent deterioration of the food security situation and of precarious livelihoods.
39. The operation supported 25,000 beneficiaries with 218 mt of food at a total cost to WFP of US\$469,274.
40. **Jordan IR-EMOP 200414 (April–July 2012).** People fleeing southern areas of the Syrian Arab Republic, especially Dara-a and Hums, crossed into Jordan. Most are hosted by urban communities and need food assistance. The Government of Jordan runs three transit facilities that provide temporary shelter and protection, but with numbers of arrivals increasing the Government and UNHCR asked WFP to provide food in the facilities for one month.

² Operations in paragraphs 38–46 were approved through the Immediate Response Account mechanism.

41. The operation supported 20,000 beneficiaries with 450 mt of food at a total cost to WFP of US\$986,709. It was a precursor to the ODC regional EMOP 200433.
42. **Comoros IR-EMOP 200428 (through the Madagascar country office) (April–May 2012).** In April 2012, the entire territory of the Comoros was inundated by torrential rains resulting in widespread flooding, landslides and rockslides. On 26 April, the President declared a state of emergency and requested humanitarian assistance from the international community. A WFP rapid assessment mission and assessments by the Government and the local Red Crescent Society found that numerous buildings and homes had been damaged or destroyed. Roads sustained severe damage, leaving some areas inaccessible. Some people had to relocate to relatives or public facilities in other villages where they received assistance from local relief committees. People most severely affected were already poor and lost most of their possessions, food reserves, crops and, in some cases, their homes.
43. The operation supported 12,000 beneficiaries with 33 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$241,516.
44. **Rwanda IR-EMOP 200430 (May–August 2012).** Armed conflict caused a significant movement of Congolese to spontaneous camps in neighbouring Rwanda, where their food security situation was precarious. About 10,000 people were expected to seek safe haven in the transit camp.
45. The operation supported 10,000 beneficiaries with 530 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$814,957.
46. **Paraguay IR-EMOP 200441 (May–August 2012)** is WFP's response to heavy rainfall that resulted in widespread flooding and overflowing rivers that caused losses in agricultural production, destroyed infrastructure and roads and damaged livelihoods. As of 25 April, 70,000 people had been affected, many of them indigenous people dependent on subsistence farming who are highly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. In early April the Government declared a state of national emergency and formally requested assistance from WFP.
47. The operation supported 25,000 beneficiaries with 494 mt of food at an overall cost to WFP of US\$840,880.

TREND ANALYSIS

48. Emergency operations valued at US\$1 billion were approved between January and July 2012, which represents a 20 percent increase over the previous six-month period, when EMOPs valued at US\$815 million were approved. Most of the increase for 2012 was a result of operations in response to the crises in the Sudan, the Sahel region and Yemen.

EMOPs APPROVED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012

Approving authority	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project number	Project title	Original Requirements			Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
					Food cost (US\$)	Tonnage (mt)	Total cost (US\$)			
TABLE A: EMOPs APPROVED JOINTLY BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO										
ED/DG	ODC	Occupied Palestinian Territory	200298	Emergency Food Assistance for Operation Lifeline Gaza	28 114 862	39 363	41 619 492	285 000	19/01/12	366
ED/DG	ODC	Yemen	200306	Emergency Food and Nutritional Assistance for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Nationwide Civil Conflict	69 888 482	118 344	111 594 880	550 800	19/01/12	366
ED/DG	ODS	Sudan	200312	Food Assistance for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Conflict and Natural Disasters	164 896 789	330 159	406 188 662	4 213 000	03/02/12	366
ED/DG	ODD	Mauritania	200333	Emergency Response: High Food Prices and Natural Disasters	12 691 554	20 363	29 666 136	381 343	09/02/12	366
ED/DG	ODN	Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	200362	Emergency Support for Populations Affected by Insecurity in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé Districts in Orientale Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	7 550 862	14 509	26 133 519	246 800	02/04/12	366
ED/DG	ODD	Mali	200389	Assistance for Drought-Affected Populations and Internally Displaced Persons following the Security Crisis in Northern Mali	25 991 080	39 452	47 666 448	3 516 500	02/03/12	330
ED/DG	ODD	Cameroon	200396	Food Assistance for Drought-Affected Households and Acutely Malnourished Groups in Logone-et-Chari Division in the Far North Region	10 345 468	18 929	22 718 275	298 900	18/04/12	269
ED/DG	ODD	Niger	200398	Saving Lives and Preventing Acute Malnutrition For Crisis-Affected Populations in Niger	123 363 426	159 048	235 252 398	2 967 976	02/04/12	179



EMOPs APPROVED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012

Approving authority	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project number	Project title	Original Requirements			Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
					Food cost (US\$)	Tonnage (mt)	Total cost (US\$)			
ED/DG	ODD	The Gambia	200421	Emergency Food Assistance for Drought-Affected Populations in the Gambia	6 910 868	13 169	10 778 577	206 000	01/06/12	150
ED/DG	ODC	ODC	200433	Regional EMOP to Support Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey	17 143 009	302	23 832 572	120 000	21/06/12	210
ED/DG	ODD	ODD	200438	Assistance to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Affected by Insecurity in Mali	38 202 652	51 093	78 884 181	555 000	16/05/12	210
Subtotal Table A					505 099 052	804 730	1 034 335 141	13 341 319		

TABLE B: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCIES

Director of Emergencies	ODD	Mauritania	200401	Emergency Assistance for Malian Refugees in Mauritania	635 348	1 193	1 499 194	22 000	20/02/12	90
Director of Emergencies	ODD	Burkina Faso	200405	Emergency Assistance for Malian Refugees and Vulnerable Host Populations	788 070	1 691	1 427 646	32 500	02/03/12	90
Director of Emergencies	ODD	The Gambia	200411	The Gambia Emergency Operation (April–May 2012)	758 572	1 706	1 347 287	62 500	26/03/12	89
Director of Emergencies	ODN	Congo	200408	Emergency Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons	549 135	1 249	1 464 091	25 000	19/03/12	90
Director of Emergencies	ODC	Lebanon	200426	Emergency Food Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon	750 000	0	1 482 140	15 000	30/04/12	90
Subtotal Table B					3 481 125	4 590	4 274 128	117 000		



EMOPs APPROVED DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2012

Approving authority	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project number	Project title	Original Requirements			Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
					Food cost (US\$)	Tonnage (mt)	Total cost (US\$)			
TABLE C: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR (RD) OR COUNTRY DIRECTOR (CD)										
CD	ODPC	Ecuador	200412	Emergency Assistance for Populations Affected by Floods	324 648	218	469 274	25 000	15/03/12	93
RD	ODC	Jordan	200414	Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Jordan.	387 300	450	986 709	20 000	12/04/12	90
CD	ODJ	Madagascar	200428	Emergency Operation in the Comoros	44 226	33	241 516	12 000	03/05/12	30
RD	ODN	Rwanda	200430	Emergency Assistance for New Congolese Refugees in Rwanda Affected by the Conflict in North Kivu	311 880	530	814 957	10 000	18/05/12	89
RD	ODPC	Paraguay	200441	Assistance for Flood-Affected Families in Paraguay	498 585	494	840 880	25 000	11/05/12	89
Subtotal Table C					1 566 639	1 725	3 353 336	92 000		
TOTAL					510 146 816	811 045	1 041 962 605	13 550 319		



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CD	Country Director
DG	Director-General
ED	Executive Director
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IDP	internally displaced person
ODB	Regional Bureau Bangkok (Asia)
ODC	Regional Bureau Cairo (Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe)
ODD	Regional Bureau Dakar (West Africa)
ODJ	Regional Bureau Johannesburg (Southern, Eastern and Central Africa)
ODPC	Regional Bureau Panama City (Latin America and the Caribbean)