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Agenda Item 9

WFP/EB.1/2017/9-E*

Reports of the Executive Director on Operational Matters

For information

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's Website (<http://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Emergency Operations Approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO (1 July–31 December 2016)

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 July and 31 December 2016, as shown in the attached tables. Table A lists EMOPs with a food value of more than USD 3 million approved jointly by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO. Table B lists EMOPs with a food value of less than USD 3 million approved by the Chief of Staff under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. Table C lists EMOPs approved by regional directors (RDs), country directors (CDs) and/or the Director of Emergencies under authority delegated to them by the Executive Director.
3. During the period under review, a total of thirteen EMOPs were approved: one by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO; one by the Chief of Staff; and eleven by regional directors, country directors or the Director of Emergencies. These operations provide food assistance to about 1.5 million people at a food cost of USD 43 million. The total cost to WFP is USD 80 million.

EMOPs Approved Jointly by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO

4. **Afghanistan EMOP 201024 (15 October 2016–14 July 2017)** responds to the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable returnees and refugees in eastern Afghanistan, and people displaced by conflict. The sudden increase in returnees coincided with an increase in the expected number of conflict-induced internally displaced persons. Many undocumented returnees lack basic necessities and are arriving in precarious physical and mental condition. In collaboration with government ministries, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organization

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(NGO) partners, the operation aims to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations through: i) cash-based transfers and general food distributions; ii) blanket supplementary feeding of children under 2 years of age; and iii) targeted supplementary feeding to respond to increased malnutrition. This EMOP was designed to support 548,000 beneficiaries with 19,093 mt of food at a total cost of USD 66.8 million.

EMOPs Approved Under the Delegated Authority of the Chief of Staff

5. **Cuba EMOP 201034 (19 October 2016–18 April 2017)** aims to address the needs of populations affected by Hurricane Matthew, which struck Cuba on 4 October 2016 causing displacement of people and widespread damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods. Initial needs assessments indicated that 500,000 people have been directly affected. WFP seeks to ensure that adequate food rations are delivered to meet the most vulnerable populations' daily nutrition needs. Interventions include blanket supplementary feeding for children aged 6-36 months and pregnant and lactating women to prevent a further deterioration of their nutrition status. In line with the Government's social protection programmes, this operation will provide assistance to 179,000 disaster-affected beneficiaries with 3,851 mt of food at a total cost of USD 4.1 million.

EMOPs Approved Under the Delegated Authority of Regional Directors, Country Directors and/or the Director of Emergencies

6. **Rwanda immediate-response emergency operation (IR-EMOP) 201009 (18 July 2016–16 August 2016)** was launched to mitigate the impact of severe drought in eastern Rwanda, which devastated the livelihoods of 225,000 people. Food stocks were severely depleted and the Government requested WFP's support. This operation allowed WFP to support the Government in meeting the emergency food needs of 125,000 people with 2,120 mt of food. Short-term relief assistance mitigated the impacts of food insecurity among households and communities by preventing the sale of productive assets and the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. The total requirements of the operation were USD 1.5 million.
7. **Plurinational State of Bolivia IR-EMOP 201021 (22 September 2016–22 December 2016)** aimed to provide life-saving assistance to populations affected by the most severe drought in the last 15 years. Because of the drought's severe impact on herding – the main source of rural livelihoods – nearly all municipalities in Oruro Department declared a drought emergency. The drought dried up wells and water reservoirs, depleted food stocks, increased livestock mortality and led to the collapse of subsistence farming. In partnership with the Government, WFP's response targeted 40,000 people in the 21 most vulnerable municipalities in western Oruro Department through voucher transfers and unconditional food assistance for one month, followed by conditional food assistance for one and a half months. The total cost of the operation was USD 1.3 million.
8. **Afghanistan IR-EMOP 201023 (15 September 2016–14 November 2016)** responded to a dramatic increase in registered refugees and undocumented returnees in July and August 2016. Numbers far exceeded those in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan. The arrival of significant number of returnees coincided with a deterioration of the environment for Afghans residing in several areas of Pakistan. Interventions included the provision of food assistance to 75,000 undocumented returnees crossing the Thorkham border into Nangahar Province, with 1,231 mt of food at a total cost of USD 1.3 million.
9. **Haiti IR-EMOP 201031 (3 October 2016–2 November 2016)** delivered life-saving and preparedness assistance to populations affected by Hurricane Matthew, which struck Haiti on 2 October 2016. Haiti is the poorest country in Latin America and the Caribbean and is home to almost 11 million people, with many living in fragile housing. Preparedness activities included: i) support to coordination, transportation and communications in Port-au-Prince; ii) implementation of an emergency food security assessment; and iii) logistics support for transporting and warehousing non-food items for other United Nations agencies. WFP's immediate food security response comprised food assistance to 300,000 people for one month. The total cost of the operation was USD 300,000.

10. **Rwanda IR-EMOP 201015 (1 September 2016–30 November 2016)** was launched to support flood and landslide-affected populations in northern Rwanda's Gakenke District. Torrential rain from 7 to 9 May 2016 caused a series of landslides and floods. Most of the population lost standing crops, food stocks, livestock and livelihood assets. In line with efforts by the Government and partners, this operation provided emergency rations to 50,000 people, with 1,066 mt of food at a total cost of USD 880,645.
11. **Timor-Leste IR-EMOP 201017 (1 September 2016–30 November 2016)** aimed to prevent moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women. In late 2015, El Niño Southern Oscillation resulted in a 25-percent reduction in locally grown food and the depletion of livestock herds. This had an impact on the nutrition intake of households, and many resorted to negative coping mechanisms including the sale of productive assets. Through blanket supplementary feeding, this operation delivered emergency rations to 20,600 people, with 209 mt of food at a total cost of USD 847,040.
12. **Regional Latin America and Caribbean IR-EMOP 201030 (3 October 2016–2 November 2016)** responded to the onset of Hurricane Matthew, which affected approximately 1 million people across the Caribbean; led to extensive flooding and electricity and water shortages; and damaged infrastructure and crops. To meet emergency food needs, high-energy biscuits were distributed to 25,000 beneficiaries in hurricane-affected areas. Priority was given to the most vulnerable people, including families living in shelters, families with malnourished children, women-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, and elderly people. The operation involved the distribution of 30 mt of food at a total cost of USD 944,043.
13. **Uganda IR-EMOP 201010 (22 July 2016–22 October 2016)** addressed the emergency needs of refugees from the conflict in South Sudan, in the West Nile region of northern Uganda. By the time the fighting in Juba declined on 19 July, an estimated 8,000 people had entered Uganda through border crossings in Elegu, Yumbe and Lamoe Districts. Of these, 90 percent were women and children. The operation assisted 30,000 people with 491 mt of food at a total cost of USD 430,813.
14. **South Sudan IR-EMOP 201013 (15 July 2016–14 October 2016)** delivered emergency assistance to conflict-affected populations in South Sudan. Intense fighting in Juba between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and South Sudanese opposition forces led to numerous civilian casualties. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, at least 36,000 people in the city were displaced. Heavy rains worsened the situation for displaced families who did not have adequate food, water or shelter. Beneficiaries included internally displaced persons, households with large numbers of children, and pregnant and lactating women. The operation supported 45,000 people with 50 mt of high-energy biscuits at a total cost of USD 330,218.
15. **Gambia IR-EMOP 201036 (25 October 2016–22 January 2017)** sought to support populations affected by floods and windstorms in the Gambia. In August 2016, heavy rains, strong winds and flash floods damaged food stocks, crops, infrastructure and livelihoods. The west coast and the central river regions were most severely affected. As markets are functioning, WFP is using cash-based transfers to support 10,000 people at a total cost of USD 417,326.
16. **Republic of the Congo IR-EMOP 201039 (15 December 2016–14 March 2017)** responds to population displacement resulting from instability in Pool and Bouenza Departments. Armed conflict between government forces and rebel groups has resulted in 60 deadly attacks since September 2016. A rapid assessment carried out by the Government and United Nations partners found that the large number of displaced people includes children, women, elderly people and the members of women-headed households. Displaced populations lack access to essential food items, water and health services. Through cash-based transfers, this operation aims to address the needs of 15,303 beneficiaries at a total cost of USD 500,000.

Trend Analysis

17. The value of the EMOPs approved by the Executive Director or under her delegated authority during the period covered by this report represents a decrease of USD 829 million compared with the USD 909 million approved during the same period in 2015.

EMOPS APPROVED BETWEEN 1 JULY AND 31 DECEMBER 2016										
Approving authority	Project number	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project title	Tonnage (mt)	Food cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
TABLE A: EMOPs APPROVED JOINTLY BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FAO										
ED/DG	201024	RBB	Afghanistan	Food and Nutrition Assistance to Vulnerable Returnees and Refugees in Eastern Afghanistan and People Displaced by Conflict	19 093	36 574 551	66 794 880	548 000	19/10/2016	269
Subtotal Table A					19 093	36 574 551	66 794 880	548 000		
TABLE B: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF										
Chief of Staff	201034	RBP	Cuba	Emergency Food Assistance to Communities Affected by Hurricane Matthew in Cuba	3 851	2 477 599	4 111 767	179 000	21/10/2016	179
Subtotal Table B					3 851	2 477 599	4 111 767	179 000		
TABLE C: EMOPs APPROVED UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS, COUNTRY DIRECTORS OR THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCIES										
DIR. EMER	201009	RBN	Rwanda	Food Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations in Eastern Rwanda	2 120	818 819	1 495 560	125 000	19/07/2016	28
DIR. EMER	201021	RBP	Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations of Oruro Department	0	1 071 331	1 315 069	40 000	16/09/2016	90
DIR. EMER	201023	RBB	Afghanistan	Humanitarian Support to Afghan Returnees from Pakistan	1 231	548 377	1 329 634	75 000	09/09/2016	59
DIR. EMER	201031	RBP	Haiti	Special Preparedness Activity in Haiti in Response to Hurricane Matthew	0	0	299 807	300 000	03/10/2016	29

EMOPS APPROVED BETWEEN 1 JULY AND 31 DECEMBER 2016										
Approving authority	Project number	Regional bureau	Recipient	Project title	Tonnage (mt)	Food cost (USD)	Total cost (USD)	Beneficiaries	Approval date	Original duration (days)
RD	201015	RBN	Rwanda	Food Assistance to Flood- and Landslide-Affected Populations in Northern Rwanda (Gakenke District)	1 066	470 356	880 645	50 000	05/08/2016	89
RD	201017	RBB	Timor-Leste	Prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition in Children Aged 6–23 Months and Pregnant and Lactating Women	209	403 466	847 040	20 681	08/08/2016	89
RD	201030	RBP	Latin America and Caribbean Bureau	Assistance to Victims of Hurricane Matthew in the Caribbean	30	33 000	944 043	25 000	03/10/2016	29
CD	201010	RBN	Uganda	Uganda Country Office Response to Rapid Refugee Influx from South Sudan Conflict	491	276 939	430 813	30 000	21/07/2016	90
CD	201013	RBN	South Sudan	Emergency Response to South Sudan Crisis	50	47 500	330 218	45 000	15/07/2016	89
CD	201036	RBD	Gambia	Targeted Support to Flood- and Windstorm-Affected Households	0	287 170	417 326	10 000	24/10/2016	87
CD	201039	RBJ	Congo	Response to Population Displacement in Pool Department of the Republic of the Congo	0	321 363	500 000	15 303	19/12/2016	89
Subtotal Table C					5 197	4 278 321	8 790 155	735 984		
TOTAL					28 141	43 330 471	79 696 802	1 462 984		

Acronyms Used in the Document

CD	country director
DG	Director-General of FAO
ED	Executive Director
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IR-EMOP	immediate-response emergency operation
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RD	regional director