





## **Regional Bureau for Eastern Europe**

The Regional Bureau for Eastern Europe (ODR) covers the Balkans (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro) and the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russian Federation). The countries have been deeply affected by natural and man-made disasters over the past decade. Throughout these events, WFP assistance has proved essential in maintaining the nutritional status of the affected population and preventing hunger.

It is expected that in 2003 the current level of operations throughout the region will remain generally the same as in the second half of 2002. There is a gradual programme scale-down of support to refugees in Serbia and Montenegro as they integrate, return or resettle.

The situation in the Northern Caucasus Republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia remains volatile, with no resolution to the conflict in sight. The Nagorno-Karabagh dispute involving Armenia and Azerbaijan and the accompanying no-peace/no-war situation, is another major challenge for ODR. In the Balkans, in spite of positive socio-economic developments, the Bureau will continue to monitor the underlying inter-ethnic tensions still present.

The Bureau will conduct desk reviews of other countries within the region to investigate the food security situation and the appropriateness of a WFP intervention.

A review of the HIV/AIDS situation in Eastern European countries will be conducted to determine the magnitude of the problem and how HIV/AIDS affects food security.

The Bureau will investigate the potential of integrating school feeding programmes into ongoing operations.

# Albania

## I. Objectives of WFP assistance

Albania, which is classified as a low-income food-deficit country (LIFDC), is one of the poorest countries in Europe. About 50 percent of the population live below the poverty line of \$2 per capita a day, while 17 percent live on less than \$1 a day. Poverty has mainly affected the rural areas, especially the remote regions of the country. The country's progress continues to be dependent largely on flows of external assistance.

WFP's present intervention responds to the suffering and food insecure people in different areas of the country. Beneficiaries include the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and unemployed people in the rural and semi-urban communities. Resources are targeted to the poorest prefectures.

Thus, WFP's objectives in Albania are to:

- Contribute to alleviating poverty by improving household food security;
- Strengthen participatory structures through support to rural and urban food-for-work activities and enhancing women's role in the decision-making processes; and
- Empower marginalised women through activities designed to address their specific needs.

WFP's programme activities will focus on three key areas:

- Communal forestry and pasture management;
- Social sector assistance; and
- Community asset building through food-for-work.

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)				
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	9,067	519	248	9,834
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>9,067</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>9,834</b>

## II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

### ***PRRO Albania 10165.0 - "Assistance to Vulnerable Groups in the Construction of Community Assets"***

*Duration:* 1 year and 6 months (through December 2003)

*Total project commitment:* 12,237 tonnes.

The food aid provided under this PRRO targets those families whose income and food access are below acceptable minimum standards. WFP's food aid focuses on women in order to promote their status in the food management and in the control over the assets created.

The communal forestry and pasture management project is a result of collaborative efforts between the government of Albania, WFP, the World Bank and the Government of Italy. The combination of WFP rations and financial incentives ensures a sufficient level of food security for the beneficiaries. Social sector assistance focuses on vulnerable women participating in activities implemented by NGOs. These activities include counselling, social integration and health care. Community asset building through food-for-work targets the poorest regions of Albania, where participants contribute to the construction or rehabilitation of assets in their community, such as road and irrigation canals.

Expected Outputs in 2003			
The following outputs are expected, if the W FP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:			
Total number of beneficiaries of W FP food in 2003	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
	32,300	30,700	63,000
Number of participants in food-for-training activities	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
	1,500	0	1,500
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
	4,440	6,660	11,100

# Armenia

## I. Objectives of WFP assistance

After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Armenia is undergoing a difficult transition to a market economy. The depth and severity of poverty translate into high numbers of poor affected by malnutrition and seasonal hunger. The country's levels of unemployment are the highest among the Commonwealth of Independent States. Undernourishment, affecting at least 20 percent of the population, remains a persistent challenge. A generally perceived hopelessness over the widespread unemployment, delays in payment of salaries and benefits and few prospects for improvement are resulting in migration. A difficult period of structural reform has been compounded by an unresolved dispute with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabagh. A cease-fire has been in place since 1994, but the current situation continues to be politically and economically instable. A growing trend towards the feminisation of poverty can be discerned, where women are suffering the most from unemployment and migration.

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)				
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Total
Single Country PRRO	21,000	2,640	1,440	25,080
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>25,080</b>

## II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

### ***PRRO Armenia 10053.0 – “Relief and Recovery Assistance for Vulnerable Groups”***

*Duration:* Two years (through June 2003) (to be extended in time).

*Total project commitment:* 60,795 tonnes.

Food aid is essential for families facing chronic food shortages. In Armenia, food consumption has continued to deteriorate. Nearly four out of five households have reduced the number of meals in a day and have resorted to eating cheaper and less nutritious meals. Households headed by women, as well as the refugee population, are among the most disadvantaged, both economically and socially. Malnutrition has been on the rise over the last two years. The level of chronic malnutrition among children below 5 years of age ranges from 14 to 32 percent.

The objectives of WFP assistance are to:

- Improve the nutritional status of the malnourished populations and ensure the food security of these vulnerable groups, who are unable to cope with external economic shocks; and
- Empower communities, especially marginalised groups and women, to participate in decision-making on food security issues affecting the development of their communities.

<b>Expected Outputs in 2003</b>			
The following outputs are expected, if the WFP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:			
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2003	91,150	48,850	140,000
Number of refugee beneficiaries	6,000	4,000	10,000
Number of beneficiaries of free relief food assistance	18,000	12,000	30,000
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of participants in WFP-supported HIV/AIDS programmes	50	50	100
	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of children given school meals	4,000	4,000	8,000
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of participants in food-for-training activities	16,900	9,100	26,000
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	18,850	10,150	29,000

# Azerbaijan

## I. Objectives of WFP assistance

Azerbaijan's conflict with Armenia over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in 1989 has resulted in a loss of nearly 20 percent of its territory (Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts remain occupied) creating about 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Another 200,000 Azeris fled from Armenia and became refugees in Azerbaijan. These groups constitute approximately 10 percent of the country's population of 8 million. Following the cease-fire in 1994, various peace initiatives were launched but prospects for the IDPs or refugees returning to their homes in the foreseeable future still look bleak.

For over a decade, IDPs have been living in extremely difficult conditions. Self-sufficiency for most IDPs is unrealistic in the current context with the limited employment possibilities and government social funds. The WFP evaluation and assessment missions that visited the country in October-November 2001 confirmed that without food assistance, the precarious status of the IDP population in Azerbaijan would rapidly deteriorate and hence, recommended a continuation of WFP assistance.

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)					
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	12,005	1,198	1,792	1,335	16,330
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>16,330</b>

## II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

### ***PRRO Azerbaijan 10168.0 - "Targeted Food Assistance for Relief and Recovery of Displaced Persons and Vulnerable Groups in Azerbaijan"***

*Duration:* Three years (through December 2005).

*Total project commitment:* 43,087 tonnes.

The overall goals of the PRRO are to promote food security among vulnerable IDP groups through targeted interventions. With specific objectives being to:

- Maintain a minimum acceptable nutritional status among food-insecure IDPs and other vulnerable groups;
- Provide incentives for school attendance and prevent drop-outs among primary schoolchildren, especially girls, as well as address micronutrient deficiencies;
- Improve the living conditions of IDPs, especially women and children, and strengthen their coping capacities; and
- Create assets through training and income generation, to the equal benefit of both women and men.

In 2003, WFP will support 165,000 IDPs and other vulnerable groups in rural areas. This will gradually be reduced to 122,000 beneficiaries in the third year. Meanwhile, the number of beneficiaries involved in food-for-asset creation activities will increase. The support for pre-school caregivers will continue through a project linked to a WFP/UNICEF initiative. In addition, income-generating activities, including a training element, with non-food support from other UN agencies and NGOs, including weaving and handicraft production, will be implemented.

## Expected Outputs in 2003

The following outputs are expected, if the WFP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:

	Female	Male	Total
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2003	99,215	65,785	165,000
Number of DP beneficiaries	96,215	63,785	160,000
Number of beneficiaries of free relief food assistance	97,320	64,880	162,200

	Girls	Boys	Total
Number of school children given take-home rations	975	525	1,500

	Women	Men	Total
Number of participants in food-for-training activities	295	205	500

	Women	Men	Total
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	625	175	800

## Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (excluding Kosovo)

### I. Objectives of WFP assistance

WFP began assisting the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in 1992. Despite the positive political and economic developments that came after the change of political climate in October 2000, the legacy of the conflicts of the 1990s remains. Serbia and Montenegro still host some 390,500 refugees from Bosnia and Croatia who represent an additional load for the already constrained social welfare system. Therefore, WFP, in its gradual phase-out strategy, has decided to remain active in FRY (excluding Kosovo) for another 18 months (starting from June 2002), aiming at assisting the most vulnerable amongst the Bosnian and Croatian refugees. Beneficiaries will be targeted according to criteria established by the 2001 joint food needs assessment mission.

The objective of WFP food assistance will be to provide a safety net in order to prevent economic deterioration of the poorest refugee households during the reform process. Assistance to refugees in FRY is undertaken in full collaboration with UNHCR in order to keep pace with all developments regarding repatriation, resettlement and durable solutions.

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)					
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Other	Total
Serbia	12,960		802	1,080	14,842
Montenegro	342	8		42	392
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>13,302</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>15,234</b>

### II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

#### ***PRRO Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 10116.0 – “Food Aid for Relief and Recovery of Refugees in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia” (excluding Kosovo)***

*Duration:* 1 year and 6 months (through December 2003).

*Total project commitment:* 32,508 tonnes.

The goal of the PRRO is to assist food-insecure refugee households and to permit WFP assistance to be phased out in a structured manner. The PRRO will have the following specific objectives:

- To ensure access to basic food commodities for consumption by food-insecure refugee households through targeted assistance; and
- To support the implementation of durable solutions and the development of positive coping mechanisms for vulnerable refugees through self-reliance programmes.

The overall long-term objective will be to contribute to the establishment of livelihoods and the achievement of household food security. WFP aims to target the following categories of refugee households, who live below the poverty line and have no property or assets:

- Elderly refugees, living alone;
- Physically or mentally handicapped;
- Single-parent households;
- Foster children, unaccompanied minors/orphans below the age of 15; and
- Children under 15 years of age living in a household with elderly people.

**Expected Outputs in 2003**

The following outputs are expected, if the WFP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:

	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2003</b>	65,100	58,900	124,000
<b>Number of refugee beneficiaries</b>	65,100	58,900	124,000
<b>Number of beneficiaries of free relief food assistance</b>	65,100	58,900	124,000

# Georgia

## I. Objectives of WFP assistance

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the economic crisis and civil conflicts that ensued, WFP has since 1993 provided relief assistance to the country's internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups.

In the long-term, the economic reforms of the post-Soviet era bode well for the country. However, in the short term, the result has been higher levels of poverty and household food insecurity.

In 2001, the incidence of poverty among the urban population remained higher compared with that of the rural population (54.4 percent and 47.6 percent, respectively). Nevertheless, overall poverty trends show a slight improvement in the economic situation of the urban population whilst among rural dwellers it follows a pronounced downward trend.

Within this context, the general objectives of WFP assistance are to:

- Support targeted vulnerable groups of the population facing hardship due to the economic crisis through the provision of food assistance; and
- Support rural populations with potential for agricultural development through food-for-work in the agricultural and social infrastructure sectors.

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)					
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	14,965	843	260	870	16,938
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>14,965</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>16,938</b>

## II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

### ***PRRO Georgia 10211.0 – “Relief and Recovery Assistance for Vulnerable Groups” (currently under preparation)***

*Duration:* Three years (through March 2006)

*Total project commitment:* Estimated 50,493 tonnes.

The specific objectives of the PRRO will be to:

- Provide relief to elderly persons and other vulnerable groups (the majority of whom are women) with no income other than inadequate State pensions;
- Contribute to maintaining a minimum acceptable nutritional status among food-insecure Chechnyan refugees; and
- Rehabilitate and create agricultural and social infrastructure assets, which will be used and maintained to benefit vulnerable households in the five poorest regions of Georgia.

WFP and its partners will promote greater self-reliance by supporting the following food-for-work activities:

- Land reclamation;
- Improvement of quality and management of common pastures;
- Land protection; and
- Drainage of water-logged arable lands and rehabilitation of irrigation channels.

Social infrastructure projects such as rehabilitation of potable water systems, feeder roads and

small bridges may also be supported.

Expected Outputs in 2003			
The following outputs are expected, if the WFP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:			
	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2003	112,200	97,300	209,500
Number of refugee beneficiaries	3,200	2,800	6,000
Number of DP beneficiaries	2,800	2,200	5,000
Number of beneficiaries of free relief food assistance	29,000	20,500	49,500
	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Total</b>
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	8,000	32,000	40,000

## Russia

### I. Objectives of WFP assistance

Various UN inter-agency need assessment missions and WFP's regular monitoring have established that the humanitarian situation in Chechnya remains alarming. Nevertheless, the situation in Ingushetia, which hosts around 114,000 IDPs from Chechnya, has stabilised. The majority of internally displaced and vulnerable people in Chechnya heavily depend on humanitarian aid. The percentage who survive through casual labour, trade, support from relatives and selling of personal assets is low. State-paid benefits (pensions, child allowances) are minimal and do not meet minimal requirements for survival.

The objective of this EMOP is to sustain the livelihoods of IDPs and food-insecure vulnerable people affected by the continuing internal conflict in Chechnya.

In Ingushetia, WFP provides emergency food rations of basic commodities (wheat flour, sugar, edible oil and iodised salt) to about 110,000 IDPs. In Chechnya, WFP targets its emergency assistance to 143,000 persons, of which 43,000 are members of very poor households. These will be provided with a full ration, whereas 100,000, members of poor households will receive 50 percent of the standard food ration. Other types of assistance include school feeding, covering 47,000 pre-school and primary schoolchildren and food-for-work with 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000 participants).

2003 Projected Net Requirements (tonnes)					
Project type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	28,900	2,461		2,650	34,011
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>28,900</b>	<b>2,461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>34,011</b>

### II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

#### ***EMOP Russia 10128.0 - "Emergency Food Assistance to Conflict Affected IDPs and Vulnerable Households in the North Caucasus (Russian Federation)"***

*Duration:* One year (through December 2003)

*Total project commitment:* 34,533 tonnes.

Some IDPs could return back to Chechnya during spring 2003 and summer seasons should the security situation improve. Therefore, WFP estimates the provision of emergency food assistance to 110,000 registered IDPs in Ingushetia for 12 months. Food stocks available from this arrangement will also allow WFP to support returnees and integrated IDPs in Ingushetia through food rations for three months.

In Chechnya, WFP covers eight out of ten central districts most affected by the internal conflict, while the remaining two districts will be covered by ICRC and NGOs.

WFP aims to specifically assist:

- 110,000 Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia;
- 143,000 members of food-insecure households in Chechnya;
- 47,000 pre-school and primary schoolchildren in Chechnya through school feeding; and
- 15,000 beneficiaries through food-for-work activities which will support rehabilitation of essential social infrastructure in targeted areas of Chechnya.

## Expected Outputs in 2003

The following outputs are expected, if the WFP projects/activities are fully resourced in 2003:

	Female	Male	Total
Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2003	174,000	141,000	315,000
Number of IDP beneficiaries	127,000	103,000	230,000
Number of beneficiaries of free relief food assistance	139,000	114,000	253,000

  

	Girls	Boys	Total
Number of children given school meals	24,000	23,000	47,000

  

	Women	Men	Total
Number of participants in food-for-work activities	9,000	6,000	15,000