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MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO PRRO 106080

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

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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BACKGROUND

1. This document presents the Secretariat's response to the recommendations of the Summary Evaluation Report Democratic Republic of the Congo PRRO 106080.
2. The Secretariat takes note of the lessons learned and the actions recommended to improve coordination and monitoring to ensure that food assistance reaches beneficiaries in the most vulnerable areas.
3. The Secretariat's responses to the evaluation recommendations are presented in the attached matrix.

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 106080**

Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
<p>3. With regard to general food distribution, micronutrient-fortified products should be included in the food baskets for IDPs and pregnant and lactating women receiving nutritional support. It is also necessary to improve targeting; reduce the large number of ration types distributed to the various vulnerable groups; extend the coverage offered outside urban areas; speed up the setting up of therapeutic community feeding centres and of activities related to health and to mother-and-child nutrition; and promote income-generating activities based on food-for-training programmes. Finally, nutritional skills need to be strengthened.</p>	<p>Country office/Programme Design Service</p>	<p>The country office has budgeted for an international nutritionist to review rations, the coverage of activities and the possibility of a pilot mother-and-child health and nutrition project. WFP is working to combine income-generating activities with food for training; this includes people living with HIV who no longer benefit from rations, and victims of gender-based violence.</p> <p>The Programme Design Service will support the review of rations and coverage.</p>	<p>Arrival of new staff: August 2009</p>
<p>4. The coherence of the approach to schools supported jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP should be improved, particularly with a view to preventing resources from being stretched too thinly and to ensure that infrastructures are properly maintained, as well as to provide seeds for school gardens on a systematic basis. As far as possible, eligible schools in any target zone should be given equal support to avoid emptying out neighbouring schools where school feeding is not offered but the level of education is decent. Early-learning centres should be supported only if there are no negative effects on school feeding in primary schools, which should remain the priority for WFP. Lastly, the Integral Development Initiative approach should be studied and, if justified, its results should be circulated and the approach recommended to partners.</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>The country office has signed Memoranda of Understanding with FAO and UNICEF with a view to further collaboration, for example in the selection of schools and school-based activities.</p> <p>In the new protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), the country office will target schools in vulnerable areas (see Recommendation 1) and seek to concentrate resources; early learning centres will be included, in line with the recommendation. Advocacy with stakeholders, particularly provincial education authorities, will support this approach. The Integral Development Initiative being implemented by a non-governmental organization (NGO) will be further studied and the results shared.</p>	<p>October 2009</p> <p>New PRRO: July 2010</p>



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
Local Purchases			
<p>6. Policy on local purchases must be clearly defined. If WFP wishes to participate in agricultural development under Purchase for Progress (P4P) by re-activating centres for agricultural export to Tanganyika and in Equateur, it is necessary to establish with stakeholders the objectives to be achieved and to set up an intervention plan to ensure that prices are competitive in local markets.</p>	<p>Country office/ Purchase for Progress (P4P)</p>	<p>Joint response: WFP is collaborating with FAO, NGOs and local government to finalize the P4P Country Implementation Plan (CIP), which is based on the concept paper and feasibility study. This will include further price and cost analyses in conjunction with a baseline study by a WFP/FAO team. The CIP will be submitted to the Programme Review Committee for approval in October 2009.</p>	<p>October 2009</p>
Monitoring			
<p>7. The effectiveness of programmes should be measured regularly through robust surveys or, failing that, on the basis of data obtained from reliable partners. Direct beneficiaries should be distinguished from their families. Joint monitoring surveys for malnutrition, including underlying causes, and mortality should be conducted in all intervention areas to measure the impact of activities. With regard to school feeding, data should be further disaggregated by gender and school year.</p>	<p>Country office</p>	<p>The country office will make the recommended adjustments in monitoring systems. With the assistance of the new nutrition specialist, the country office will enhance monitoring and evaluation to improve the measurement of results. Gender-disaggregated information on the number of pupils will be collected to fill any gaps.</p>	<p>December 2009</p>



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
Partnerships			
9. Partners should be trained as part of a continuous process throughout the operation to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of achievements and to facilitate the hand-over of responsibilities to national stakeholders. Communications with some donors should be improved with regard to estimated beneficiary numbers, budget figures and budget revisions.	Country office	The country office continues to train sub-office staff, who will train partners to improve their efficiency. Refresher training, for example in school feeding and reporting, has been carried out in 2009. The unit in Kinshasa responsible for partner training has been constrained by staff changes; new staff will be recruited soon. A donor relations officer has been recruited to improve communications with donors.	September 2009
Advocacy			
10. The number of contacts must be increased and advocacy intensified to improve the participation of government partners at both national and provincial levels. The work accomplished through WFP programmes will not be sustainable without government involvement. In-depth and continuing awareness-raising initiatives for beneficiaries are also necessary.	Country office	Advocacy and capacity-building for government counterparts will be further developed to play a larger part in the new PRRO. Capacity-building is a long-term objective, but it will be vital in introducing a new CP and handing over activities.	New PRRO: July 2010



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CIP	Country Implementation Plan
CP	country programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IDP	internally displaced person
NGO	non-governmental organization
P4P	Purchase for Progress
PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund