

200405

**TO:** John Crisci, Chief, RMBB **DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012  
**FROM:** Angelline Rudakubana, Country Director, Burkina Faso **PAGE:** 1 OF 5

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**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION** 200405  
Burkina Faso: [EMOP REF. NUMBER] Emergency assistance to Malian  
Refugees and Vulnerable Host Populations **PROJECT DOCUMENT**

**PART I: INFORMATION NOTE**

**NATURE OF EMERGENCY:**

Location:

1. To a large extent, refugees are mostly located in the Sahel region of Northern Burkina (Regions of Soum, Oudalan and Seno), where they have ethnic affiliations and found solidarity and assistance from the host communities. Furthermore, a significant number of refugees seem to have settled in urban areas, such as Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, yet precise figures are not available. An initial joint Government/UN/NGO rapid assessment mission in mid February indicated that many refugees are coping with extreme living conditions, along with lack of basic sanitation and health services, no shelter, limited or no food and with little water resources. Most refugees were only able to bring very limited assets, if at all, which along with the support from the host population is not expected to last longer than 10 days maximum.
2. Following the CONAREF lead mission to the Sahel Region, the Government has indentified and indicated a total of 3 definitive sites, which are all located over 50 km from the border and can be rapidly refurbished and reactivated (they had already been used during the previous refugee crisis). Refugees will be sensitized to settle in these established sites, where they will be assisted and protected, however, many of them are expected not to be willing to settle in these established sites and to opt for remaining with host communities dispersed over several districts.

Cause:

3. In early February 2012, fighting between AQMI rebel forces and the Malian army in the northern region of Mali forced thousands of Malians to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighboring countries as Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso. The first Malian refugees mostly from the nomadic Tuareg ethnic group crossed over to Burkina Faso on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and settled with host communities in areas along the Mali-Burkina border of the country. At present there are 15,558 refugees confirmed by Government counterparts (CONAREF) and OCHA that have crossed and settled in those areas, according to monitoring reports at different border crossing points. Based on indications from the refugees, up to double the number of families are expected to arrive during the following weeks. The arrival of a large number of refugees to the already food insecure and

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drought-stricken regions of northern Burkina Faso is further exacerbating the already fragile food security situation of the host communities.

Effects:

The regions affected by the refugees are also among the regions that are experiencing a food deficit due to the poor harvests for 2011-12, and are considered as at risk in terms of food security. The already prevailing fragile food security situation coupled with reduced food production due to the drought has further exacerbated the increase of staple food prizes (50-60% increase), its availability and hence food insecurity and malnutrition (GAM rates ranging from 12% to 14% per region based on the 2011 SMART survey). The results of a joint government Household Economy Approach (HEA) assessment conducted in January 2012 indicates that over 1,100,000 people in 10 out of 13 regions are classified as food insecure and that important food deficits are expected starting from March 2012. The additional burden of an influx of thousands of refugees is seriously aggravating the already weak resilience and coping mechanisms of the host communities, as well as local markets.

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid:

4. It is expected that the refugee caseload will be entirely reliant on food aid, therefore general food distributions with about 2,100 kcal (450 gr cereals; 60 gr pulses; 25 gr VegOil for adults and additional 200 gr Supercereal and 15 gr VegOil for 6 500 children per day) will be provided to 25 000 refugees settled in established sites and to 7 500 vulnerable host families in the neighbouring communities. In order to put in place a very quick response, the Country Office is borrowing from existing stocks. Thus, improved nutritious products will be introduced for children as soon as they are available.

The host population receiving assistance with the refugees is not included in the PRRO BR under preparation (drought response & refugees). At the end of the 3 months assistance under the present IR-EMOP, the refugees will continue to be assisted through the revised PRRO, up to December 2012. The assistance of the host families will come to an end, as they will be part of the revised PRRO beneficiaries under the GFD component. The total food requirements are calculated for 90 feeding days (30 days per month during 3 months). Assistance to those refugees not willing to settle in established sites and opting to stay with host communities will be provided in form of GFD based on updated and verified registration data from UNHCR and CONAREF to both refugees and host families. WFP already identified Red Cross for food distribution to the host families, as well as to the refugees in the sites, thus giving the time to UNHCR to identify its implementing partner to handle this task within the sites.

**WFP IR EMOP:**

Justification for an immediate response, expected impact:

5. By borrowing from the existing stocks from its treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children 6-59 months and malnourished pregnant and lactating women (present PRRO) and school feeding (CP) programmes, WFP has been able to provide, as a first response, a food basket assistance composed of white beans, oil and Supercereal, to 5,300 refugees for one week. Furthermore, UNICEF has provided HEB and basic individual kits (bucket/kitchen set/blanket), OMS along with the

Ministry of Health have supplied water purification tablets, while UNHCR is planning to assist 25,000 refugees over a period of 6 months and has ordered a total of 500 tents and blankets. WFP's urgent assistance is required to ensure basic food needs and save lives of the refugee population, as well as to ease the burden of host communities, who have already meager livelihood resources and coping strategies. Hence, given the severity of the food insecurity of the Northern part of Burkina Faso and the status of its population, the urgent food needs of the refugees, the Country Office's limited resources, immediate funding is required through this IR-EMOP for a period of 3 months, from March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

6. According to recent assessments and regular monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation of the refugees, those currently are on a meager diet of 1-2 meals of rice or sorghum with oil per day from own or host communities' resources and that they share with their children. The arrival of the refugees to those regions has also already led to signs of market disruptions and staple food price increases. Malian refugees have so far opted to settle with host communities with which they have ethnic affiliations and are already scattered across most party of rural and urban areas of the country. Although a total of 3 sites for settlement were indicated by the Government, it is not clear if some of the refugees are willing to settle in established camps or opt to stay with host communities.

Duration of assistance : 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 (3 months)

Number of beneficiaries and location: 25,000 refugees and 7,500 vulnerable host populations in the immediate vicinities of the settlements sites including 6,500 children.

	# Beneficiaries	# days	Food requirements				Total Food
			Cereal	Pulse	VegOil	Supercereal	
GFD refugees	25 000	90	1 013	135	56	-	1 204
Host population	7 500	90	304	41	17	-	361
Children*	6 500	90			9	117	126
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 500</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1 316</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1 691</b>

\* Number of children included in the total caseload. They will receive additional vegetable oil and Supercereal for breakfast.

Total food aid requirements (mt): 1,691 Mt of which 1,316 mt of cereals, 176 Mt of pulses, 82 Mt of oil and 117 Mt of Supercereal will be required to cover the needs of the caseload over three months.

#### Mode of implementation:

7. In the concerned Northern regions of Burkina Faso, WFP already maintains two fully established and operational sub-offices in Dori and Ouahigouya for ongoing nutrition and school feeding programmes and with existing office and storage structures, equipment and human resources that can support the refugee crisis in the nearby established sites and host communities in terms of storage, transport to FDPs and distributions. Those structures and resources,

however, will require upgrading and reinforcement in consideration of the response to the refugee crisis and in parallel to the looming drought emergency that is currently affecting populations in the same regions. Food supplies, storage and distribution structures and systems are in place with need for possible upgrading according to the evolving situation on both the refugee and the drought crisis fronts.

8. An LCA mission is underway in the country to revise and update logistics capacities in view of a required augmentation of the volume of operations. An inventory of additional needs in terms of human and material/equipment resources is underway to consolidate the overall requirements. WFP is already actively participating and contributing to the first immediate emergency responses, as well as coordinating on the drafting of a Response Strategy and a Joint Action Plan with main Government (CONAREF), UN (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA) and NGO partners. Existing networks and agreements with cooperating partners will be reviewed and further expanded. Although Sahelian food markets are showing signs of stress and price levels are above average in regional market, the CO will explore various procurement options for local and regional purchases with support of the Procurement Unit of ODD.
9. Provided that the concerned donor(s) agree, the CO will ensure immediate availability of food resources through a loan from its current CP/school feeding stocks (approx. 800MT of maize) to accelerate the emergency response.

#### **PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)**

Total EMOP budget is attached as Annex 1.  
(Use standard EMOP Project Budget Plan Format)

#### **PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL**

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

Chief, RMBB: John Crisci, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Country Director, Angelline Rudakubana Date: 01/03/12

Regional Director, ODD: Thomas Yanga, Date: --/--/----

Director of Emergencies: David Kaatrud, Date: 2/03/2012

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