Background
The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has maintained an open-door policy and consistently granted asylum to populations seeking refugee status. In 2011, WFP aims to meet and safeguard the basic food and nutritional needs of 6,000 vulnerable refugees in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements by providing secure access to an adequate basic nutritious diet. This service will be provided until they attain food self-sufficiency or are repatriated to their country of origin. The refugees hail from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola.

Following successful repatriation, Kala and Mwange refugee camps were closed and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) officially handed over the camps to the Republic of Zambia in November 2010. The remaining refugees resettled in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements which currently host about 28,000 refugees from DRC, Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and Somalia. In collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and other partners, WFP assisted with the voluntary repatriation exercise by providing meals in departure and transit centres as well as ready to eat meals for refugees during travel; a one off one month ration was provided as additional incentive for early returnees. WFP also extended the food assistance to self settled refugees by providing Human Daily Rations (HDRs) during repatriation.

Food Basket and Beneficiaries

Between 1998 and 2001 the number of refugees assisted reached 200,000. Between 2006 and 2007, 149,000 refugees in the four camps of Mayukwayukwa, Meheba, Kala and Mwange received assistance at a cost of US$ 16.7 million and a total tonnage of 33,602 mt. As of July 2009, WFP provided food assistance to 50,824 refugees.

Under general food distribution, refugees continue to receive a monthly ration of 12.6kg maize meal, 1.5 kg High Energy Protein Supplements (HEPS), 1.8 kg pulses, 0.8 kg vegetable oil and 0.2 kg iodized salt. Selected vulnerable groups, including malnourished children, at risk pregnant and lactating women, and chronically ill persons, receive targeted assistance under supplementary feeding through health centers within the camps. An additional monthly ration of 5.4kg HEPS and 0.3 kg vegetable oil is provided to these groups to meet their special nutritional needs.

WFP is committed to facilitating the repatriation of refugees by providing wet feeding at departure centres and dry rations while on transit. Achieving the planned target for repatriation will depend on the availability of funding from IOM and UNHCR to facilitate both the road and boat convoys and readiness of refugees to return home willingly.
PRRO in 2011

- A new agreement between WFP and UNHCR was signed in January 2011 to ensure food distribution in both settlements up to May 2011, for vulnerable caseloads, covering food, procurement and primary costs. No resources are included for food, security/surveys, warehousing or distribution.

- If no additional funding is received latest by March 2011) WFP will be unable to provide food assistance to refugees beyond May 2011.

- The levels of malnutrition in both settlements quantified by wasting, underweight, and anemia are contained apart from stunting (between 30 to 39%). An interruption in the supply of food to the most needy would result in a dramatic deterioration of the above measures. The security Situation may also become volatile.

WFP’s 5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies
- Prevent acute hunger and invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation measures
- Restore and rebuild lives and livelihoods in post-conflict, post-disaster or transition situations
- Reduce chronic hunger and under nutrition
- Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase

CONTACT DETAILS

Pablo Recalde
WFP Zambia Representative / Country Director
Email: Pablo.Recalde@wfp.org

Mark Maseko
Senior Public Information & Resource Mobilization Assistant
Email: Mark.Maseko@wfp.org

Tel: WFP +260 211 253 845 (UN Switchboard +260 211 250 800)