

General Conclusions

EMOP 6040 is part of the WFP continuous contribution to mitigate the humanitarian problems of countries and geographic areas in the Balkan Region. This engagement extends over almost ten years. Its main focus was the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its respective repercussions in the neighbouring countries. In 1998 the focus shifted further south towards the Kosovo.

EMOP 6040 has to be seen in this context. The enormous efforts undertaken between June 1998 and June 1999 are linked with the previous operations in the region. This effort continues within the present programme which now comprises the whole region, including Kosovo, Albania, FYRoM, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, etc.

Under EMOP 6040, WFP's task was to co-ordinate the distribution of 100,000 tons of food to 950,000 victims of the conflict in Kosovo, at a cost of 80 million dollars. This operation ended on 30 June 1999. At the same time, EMOP 5142.05 provided support to victims of the earlier conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. This operation also terminated on 30 June 1999. As from 1 July 1999, WFP's activities in the Balkan Region are all integrated within one single operation EMOP 6136.

EMOP 6040 was not a homogeneous programme but represented a continuum that linked previous operations with a new framework. In fact, during the brief span of EMOP 6040 (13 months) there have been 11 revisions of the original programme.

These revisions reflect not only budget corrections but also the changing situations of the crisis from the initial assistance to displaced people in Kosovo to targeted refugee food aid in Albania, FYRoM and Montenegro, and finally to blanket food distribution to returnees and remainees. Although the overall objective remained the same, the specific objectives changed. These changes were not properly reflected in the documents.

The programme had abundant resources available. At each stage the programme obtained the necessary funding. Although this basically echoes the international political environment and the coverage of the crisis by the international media, it also reflects the donor's trust into WFP's capacity. In this sense the programme was strongly donor driven and closely followed by the international media.