



Executive Summary

The evaluation took a retrospective view of WFP's portfolio of activities over the period 1999-2003, and examined in particular the emergency-recovery-development linkages. It found that the built-in flexibility of the Regional Great Lakes PRROs facilitated the shift from emergency relief to recovery activities. With the Regional PRRO's human resources and infrastructure in place, WFP was able to swiftly adjust programming through programme adjustments and training of national and international staff. The shift from general to targeted food distributions under the PRROs recovery component, mainly Food-for-Asset (FFA) activities, was one of the best initiatives the WFP country office took, together with the Government, in favour of the affected populations who had no other means of sustaining themselves. It minimized the risk of perpetuating dependency on emergency relief distributions while paving the way for sustainable development. It also helped to rebuild the confidence of a population that had suffered war and genocide.

All achievements seen by the Mission in the fields of food-for-asset creation and human resource development were of good quality, and relevant to the needs of the population and of the country. With regard to nutrition, the lack of base-line data made it difficult to measure and to quantify results. However, for reasons given later in the report, the relatively stable number of beneficiaries in nutrition centres suggested that malnutrition rates in 2004 remained regrettably unacceptably high in many parts of the country.

Considering that the transition process is not yet completed, the Mission supported the continuation of recovery and nutrition activities under the PRRO, in addition to general distribution to returnees and refugees. It also supported the choice of the two human resource development activities included in the forthcoming Country Programme (2003-2006). They represent overriding priorities in the Government's Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and two of the five objectives of WFP: (a) to enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training, and (b) to enable poor families to gain and preserve assets.