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Programme
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Programme

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**Executive Board
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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2013) – MOROCCO 200494

Capacity Development and Support for the National School Feeding Programme

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Duration of project | 13 months (1 December 2012–31 December 2013) |
| Cost (United States dollars) | |
| Total | 1,470,661 |

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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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 point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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ABSTRACT

1. Morocco's school feeding programme is an important tool for supporting and increasing the demand for education. It contributes to reducing socio-economic and educational constraints on equitable access to quality education and helps keep disadvantaged children and adolescents in school – girls in particular. The programme was designed to promote the education of children under the age of 15 in rural areas and benefits an increasing number of primary and secondary school students each year, with 1.4 million beneficiaries in 2012. In 1997, the Government resumed responsibility for managing and funding the school feeding programme, which had been supported by WFP since 1978.
2. Development project 200494 was a technical assistance project in response to the Government's request for a partnership to support its review of the school feeding programme. Its primary objective was to assist the Ministry of Education in improving the programme's quality and viability. The project aimed to strengthen operational aspects of the programme in schools and residential facilities at the primary and secondary levels in order to improve performance, cost effectiveness, and management. The Ministry of Health also collaborated in addressing nutritional issues through schools.
3. Activities focused on organizational approaches, human resources needs at the regional and local levels, supply chain issues, training, good governance and management oversight. Specialized skills were developed to improve guidance on preparing menus and nutritional training. In the framework of South–South cooperation, study trips were made to Brazil; experiences were shared with school feeding programmes of other countries.
4. The project included a detailed audit of the national programme that fed into a plan of action to improve its quality. Recommendations emerging from the audit were incorporated into the Ministry of Education's Education Strategy 2013–2016. The United Nations agencies involved, together with other partners working on relevant issues in schools, then determined how their activities could contribute to the implementation of the action plan and ensured increased cooperation among their interventions.
5. The project was aligned with the WFP school feeding policy, and contributed to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3¹ and to Strategic Objective 5. Its support for the education sector was consistent with the first strategic pillar of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012–2016).

¹ Millennium Development Goals: 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2 – Achieve universal primary education; 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women.