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**Executive Board  
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**Rome, 13–15 February 2012**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2011) — GUINEA-BISSAU 200274

### Food Assistance for Basic Education

Number of beneficiaries	195,000
Duration of project	15 months (1 October 2011–31 December 2012)
WFP food tonnage	4,033 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	2,647,687
Total cost to WFP	5,482,256

\* 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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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information**

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

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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Despite reported progress in education on gross and net enrolment rates, gender parity and literacy, almost one quarter of school-age children in Guinea-Bissau do not attend classes and the completion rate of primary school (48 percent) is one of the lowest in West Africa. The gender parity ratio for completion of primary school is 0.94 at the national level, but in rural areas this drops to 0.5. The quality of education is very poor due to a lack of infrastructure and public investment. The regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio, Quinara, Biombo, Tombali and Cacheu, are particularly affected when looking at a combination of food insecurity education indicators.
2. Guinea-Bissau is a low-income, food-deficit country and heavily indebted poor country. It ranked 164<sup>th</sup> out of 169 on the United Nations Development Programme 2010 Human Development Index. In spite of its economic potential, political and institutional instability, compounded by external shocks, have strained the country's markets and created additional economic burdens on poor households. Out of a total population of 1.5 million, a 2010 poverty assessment survey estimated that 69 percent of households in Guinea-Bissau live below the poverty line (US\$2 per day) with 33 percent living below the extreme poverty line (US\$1 per day). While food production falls short of consumption needs, food insecurity is mostly related to access and utilization of food rather than availability.
3. Development project 200274 begins WFP's transition between the ongoing protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) ending in December 2011 and a future development/country programme that will be aligned with the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework cycle (2013–2017). Through this project, WFP will support the Government's strategy for universal primary education by 2015, in line with the Triennial Education Plan and the second National Poverty Reduction Paper (DENARP II). It addresses Strategic Objectives 4 and 5<sup>1</sup> of the WFP Strategic Plan (2008–2013). It will also contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2.<sup>2</sup>
4. The main objectives of this project are to: a) contribute to increase access to basic and quality education for all and to invest in human capital development; b) strengthen capacities and create conditions for a sustainable national school feeding programme; and c) empower poor communities through better education and training.
5. The project will provide hot school meals to primary schoolchildren, including take-home rations to 15,000 girls in grades 4–6, conditional on their attendance of 80 percent of school days. Overall, the project will benefit 195,000 primary school children. Capacity development support will be provided to the Government, cooperating partners and communities, beginning efforts to transition to a government-owned school feeding programme within 10 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Objective 4 – Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition; Strategic Objective 5 – Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase.

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.