

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

**Rome, 9–12 June 2008**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 11

*For information\**



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2007) — SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC 10678.0

### Support for Food-Based Education Programming

Number of beneficiaries	284,000
Duration of project	36 months (15 October 2007–14 October 2010)
WFP food tonnage	8,895 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
WFP food cost	2,608,530
Total cost to WFP	3,361,151

\* 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 matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms. C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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## ABSTRACT

1. Development project Syrian Arab Republic 10678.0 was approved in October 2007 for three years from 15 October 2007 to 14 October 2010, during which WFP plans to assist 284,000 primary schoolchildren with take-home rations and on-site feeding. Take-home rations will also be provided for rural women attending literacy and skills training.
2. In rural Syria, drop-out rates reach 45 percent as children leave school to work or participate in seasonal migration. Girls may be removed from education to embark on early marriages or because their families do not place a high value on their education.
3. The Government requested WFP to implement a project focusing on school-aged children and poor, illiterate women in marginalized and food-insecure areas, and is committed to supporting the project with 18,453 mt from its own resources.
4. The project (i) consolidates much of the successful work on behalf of women such as literacy activities and micro-enterprise development, (ii) integrates sustainable food for education and (iii) develops the Government's technical capacity to manage the project after WFP hands it over. The project absorbed the Swedish Trust Fund activity "Safety Nets for Rural Syrian Women", which will be fully financed by the Government after the second year.
5. The project aims to achieve the following outcomes:
  - WFP support for improving the effectiveness of basic school education:
    - ◇ long-term absenteeism reduced in targeted districts (Strategic Objective 4);
    - ◇ drop-out rates reduced in targeted districts (Strategic Objective 4); and
    - ◇ girls' basic education completion rates improved in targeted districts (Strategic Objective 4).
  - WFP support for basic and functional literacy and skills training for women's empowerment:
    - ◇ rural women in targeted districts empowered through literacy training (Strategic Objective 4); and
    - ◇ rural women in targeted districts empowered to make good use of micro-finance programmes through skills training (Strategic Objective 2).
  - WFP support for capacity-building for food-for-education interventions:
    - ◇ school feeding modality selected on the basis of pilot testing (Strategic Objective 5);
    - ◇ national food-based education and resourcing policy in place (Strategic Objective 5); and
    - ◇ government counterparts acquire skills to design and manage school feeding independently (Strategic Objective 5).
6. WFP will gradually hand over activities as the Government takes on additional responsibilities during the project, with a view to full government ownership by its conclusion.