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UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WFP AND NEPAD

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

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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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit. (tel.: 066513-2645).



BACKGROUND

1. At EB.1/2004 an information note on WFP's support for the African Union New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) – including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established between NEPAD and WFP on 19 November 2003 – was introduced under item 4(f).
2. The MOU identified areas for possible cooperation, including: (i) food security and livelihoods; (ii) school feeding and basic education; (iii) nutrition; (iv) mother-and-child health; (v) HIV/AIDS; (vi) vulnerability analysis; (vii) emergency needs assessment; (viii) contingency planning; (ix) emergency preparedness and response; and (x) national and regional capacity building. WFP and NEPAD selected two priority areas for early action – food-reserve systems and school feeding.
3. At EB.3/2004 the Board took note of an information paper on a study to explore options for emergency food security reserve systems in Africa. This study was commissioned by NEPAD and carried out by WFP in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), African regional economic communities (RECs) and the countries concerned. Food reserves are one of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) flagship projects in the emergency preparedness and response framework.
4. This information note has been prepared in response to the Board's request at EB.1/2004 that the Secretariat submit, at least biennially, a progress report on implementation of the MOU, with a focus on priority areas for early action.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Food-Reserve Systems

5. In collaboration with FAO, the World Bank and IFPRI, NEPAD and WFP organized a high-level seminar in Johannesburg, South Africa from 30 November to 2 December 2004. Senior-level experts from RECs, selected Member States, the African Union, technical and international partners and the private sector gathered to review the conclusions and recommendations of the study on emergency food reserve systems and to discuss and share lessons learned from past and ongoing experiences of food reserve systems, contingency planning, early warning information and the impact of cross-border trade in promoting regional food security.
6. The seminar made recommendations to facilitate the establishment of regional food-reserve advisory committees, which will oversee the food reserve systems and support member countries in revising their comprehensive national agricultural policy frameworks to incorporate food security, nutrition and food-reserve management issues.
7. These recommendations, together with priorities for early action, were on the agenda of four regional CAADP implementation planning meetings jointly organized by NEPAD, the Group of Eight (G8) and RECs. The meetings were held at the end of January 2005 for East Africa and the Horn, led by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), in mid-February 2005 for Southern Africa, coordinated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in early March 2005 for West and Central Africa, co-chaired by the Economic Community of West African



States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and in early May 2005 for Northern Africa with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). A Heads of State wrap-up session was organized for mid-May 2005 in Accra.

8. The Accra meeting selected priority actions that converge with the seminar's recommendations, including:
 - i) developing an African Union/NEPAD food-security and nutrition programme to tackle food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition issues, which will be administered under the NEPAD CAADP;
 - ii) for each REC, particularly SADC and ECOWAS, establishing a high-level policy advisory board on hunger and nutrition, which will be linked to national bodies and will assist the development of a regional policy paper to guide review of national policies on hunger and malnutrition;
 - iii) creating business models to promote local production, distribution and marketing of fortified blended foods that are high in nutrients and energy for targeted vulnerable groups;
 - iv) strengthening support to food-related safety nets, including the home-grown school feeding initiative and HIV-related activities;
 - v) reviewing regional early-warning systems, particularly for the SADC region, and strengthening vulnerability assessment with support from FAO and WFP; and
 - vi) wherever possible and in collaboration with FAO, maintaining and expanding monitoring of the ongoing WFP/Famine Early-Warning System Network (FEWSNET) regional survey on informal, cross-border food trade in southern Africa, and identifying a more sustainable institutional home for that activity, which should become a continuous process for RECs; the outcomes of such surveys should be captured in the food balance sheet.
9. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WFP, the Micronutrient Initiative (MI) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) co-sponsored a consultation with Permanent Secretaries and Directors on hunger and malnutrition in Southern Africa, which was jointly organized by SADC and NEPAD and held from 20 to 21 June 2005 in Gaborone. SADC and NEPAD agreed to establish an SADC regional policy advisory body on hunger and malnutrition, which will implement the recommendations with support from the development partners concerned. A nutritionist has been posted in SADC and NEPAD. NEPAD and ECOWAS are planning a similar approach for West Africa.
10. A post-Accra action plan will be discussed at a NEPAD retreat scheduled for 24–25 October 2005, where the modalities for accelerating field-level implementation of CAADP activities and determining the institutional, technical and financial assistance they require will also be decided.
11. At the Johannesburg seminar on food-reserve systems, the Nigeria delegate requested that WFP organize a national-level workshop on emergency preparedness and response and carry out a survey of local food markets. The workshop was held in Kaduna, Nigeria from 16 to 20 May 2005. Madagascar commissioned a study of rice stock reserves, which WFP carried out in collaboration with FAO, the World Bank and other partners.



Home-Grown School Feeding and Health Programme

12. NEPAD, WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force (MHTF) launched a pilot Home-Grown School Feeding and Health Programme (HGSFHP) designed to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally and domestically produced food.
13. An information note on the Uganda HGSFHP, which was one of the most advanced pilot projects, was presented to the Board at EB.3/2004. On 21 January 2005, in Kampala, the Government of Uganda and WFP signed an MOU and the Government donated US\$1.5 million to WFP. The implementation process, which was expected to start by the end of January 2005, was postponed because of the need for further discussions between the Government and the Education Funding Agencies Group (EFAG) in the light of ongoing review of programmes and projects in the sector.
14. The NEPAD home-grown school feeding programme and results of the study on food reserve systems have generated considerable interest and expectations. Nigeria is one of ten African countries that NEPAD selected to pilot the HGSFHP. Following the Government of Nigeria's request for WFP assistance in developing a school feeding and health programme that uses locally grown foods and resources, WFP fielded two technical missions in October and December 2004. A concept paper and draft workplan prepared by the School Feeding Steering Committee have been submitted to the Federal Minister of Education. The project document is being formulated with a view to starting the pilot phase of a school feeding programme during the 2005/06 academic year, with WFP technical assistance and support from the World Bank, UNICEF and FAO through their ongoing programmes in Nigeria. The project budget is being cleared by the government, and is expected to be shared among the federal, state and local governments; 10 percent of the funds allocated by the Federal Government to the Universal Basic Education Commission – which in turn represent 2 percent of the total Federal budget – will be earmarked for this pilot programme.
15. On 29 July 2005, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the Nigerian Head of State and Chair of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, held a forum to brainstorm and share views with stakeholders and to mobilize them for programme take-off in 2005–2006. Donor agencies, private-sector partners and organizations such as the World Bank, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNICEF pledged their full support to the programme. The government requested WFP's continued technical assistance throughout the implementation process. It was recommended that an Inter-Ministerial Planning and Management Committee be set up; a follow-up forum will be convened in December 2005 to report on progress made. Partners and government were encouraged to work together, using the HGSFHP as an aid to eliminating child hunger and achieving universal basic education.
16. In Ghana in June 2004, a working group including various ministries, FAO, WFP, the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Millennium Project presented a proposal to President Kufuor, who announced that the Government of Ghana hoped to fund at least 25 percent of the project budget from its own resources, with assistance from NEPAD in mobilizing funds from development partners and the private sector. However, there is a need for additional clarification on how the coordination and supervisory functions will be handled and for a formal signoff from in-country donor representatives on the proposal, including the funding.



17. Other pilot countries – Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique – have indicated interest in starting the programme and will require technical support from WFP and other partners. NEPAD and its partners, including WFP, should anticipate the problems these pilot countries may face; the Uganda and Ghana experiences show that stronger support from NEPAD country offices will be needed to overcome such challenges as marketing the country proposals and mobilizing the resources required to fill the budget gaps not funded by governments.
18. The outcome document of the World Summit of Heads of States and Governments held from 14 to 16 September 2005 in New York noted that “we will take such actions as... the expansion of local school meal programmes, using home-grown foods wherever possible. Therefore, it is hoped that this commitment will be translated into greater donor support for NEPAD’s initiatives in home-grown school feeding”.

CONSULTATION – INFORMATION SHARING

19. WFP and NEPAD organized a joint informal briefing on the NEPAD implementation process at EB.3/2004 to which NEPAD was invited. WFP was involved in most of the NEPAD events, including African Union meetings and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) thematic clusters, which were established by the United Nations agencies working in Africa around the NEPAD priority areas.

FURTHER CHALLENGES

20. The NEPAD initiative and the support process from WFP and other United Nations agencies are still at an early stage. Over the last three years, NEPAD has been gaining support from the donor community: the official communiqué of the 2005 G8 summit at Gleneagles, the United Kingdom stated that “the G8 reiterates its commitment to build on Africa’s own efforts as set out by the African Union in its NEPAD strategies and programmes”. This reinforced the message of the United Kingdom-led Commission for Africa’s report *Our Common Interest*, and the recommendations in the report of the United Nations Secretary General’s Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (SAPIS-NEPAD) *From Rhetoric to Action: Mobilizing International Support to Unleash Africa’s Potential*. The strong message that emerged was that “the NEPAD cannot succeed without a significant increase in international support”.
21. The momentum generated by these events provides an opportunity for accelerating implementation of the projects identified by NEPAD. NEPAD and RECs have nearly completed their consultations to popularize NEPAD and ensure that Africans own it at all levels, the preparation process for roll-out of the CAADP and the finalization of project proposals. The crucial next step is to translate pledges and commitments into concrete support and actions.
22. WFP is committed to pursuing and strengthening its support for NEPAD, focusing on CAADP quick-win programmes identified by RECs and individual countries. WFP and NEPAD will continue to work together with other partners, including United Nations agencies, to build, develop and strengthen country and regional capacities related to the issues of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition, especially as they affect the poorest and most vulnerable individuals and communities.



23. The priority areas selected by NEPAD and WFP are:
- i) human resources development/basic education: following up on implementation of home-grown school feeding, including malnutrition and hunger issues;
 - ii) disaster preparedness and response: implementing the activities for early action that emerged from the post-Accra action plan at the October 2005 NEPAD retreat, particularly supporting institutional capacity building to help RECs and individual countries to monitor food security and address food crisis and hunger;
 - iii) joint advocacy at the highest political level and public awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security and of how to reduce hunger and malnutrition sustainably;
and
 - iv) information sharing.



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa (United Nations)
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EFAG	Education Funding Agencies Group
FEWSNET	Famine Early-Warning System Network
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
G8	Group of Eight
HGSFHP	Home-grown School Feeding and Health Programme
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MHTF	Millennium Hunger Task Force
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
REC	regional economic communities
PD	Policy and External Affairs Department
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNU	United Nations University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

