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## **INFORMATION NOTES**



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### **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE – MID- TERM EVALUATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME – BENIN (2000–2003)**

This document should be read in conjunction with the document “Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of Country Programme—Benin (2000–2003)” (WFP/EB.2/2003/3).

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO WFP (OCTOBER 2002)	ACTION BY	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION TAKEN (APRIL 2003)
<b>EVALUATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME RESULTS</b>		
<b>Design</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Intervene in the framework of a single, five-year (2004–2008) project to include two separate components for formal and informal education instead of two basic activities as under the country programme.</li> </ul>	Country office in collaboration with Regional Bureau	The recommendation is being followed up. The mission formulating the new project took place in March and April 2003.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Formulate a logical framework and define simple and realistic monitoring indicators when formulating the next project document in respect of both the formal and informal education components.</li> </ul>	Country office	One of the first tasks of the formulation mission for the next document was to draft a logical framework in collaboration with the national partners. The draft framework will be followed by training and capacity-building workshops held by an external expert and financed by special funds with a view to setting up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism suited to local conditions.
<b>Coherence</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up the interministerial steering committee with a view to facilitating coordination between the principal actors including the technical ministries on the one hand and WFP and its partners on the other. That would enable every member to better understand the supervisory role they have. The committee would then be able to ensure the reorientation and progress of the unified project.</li> </ul>	Country office	The government partners have understood the need to hasten the setting up of the interministerial steering committee, whose usefulness became clearly apparent during discussions of the logical framework and of further progress towards the achievement of desired objectives. The country office will continue to press the issue until the committee is fully operational.
<b>Implementation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is advisable to calculate the budgets of small countries on a long-term basis and to stabilize them, including real costs, considering not only the overall tonnage of commodities involved but also to the number of sites and partners on the ground. The complexity of operations and the counterpart's real capacity to contribute should also be borne in mind.</li> </ul>	OEDB	Allocated budgets originate from a number of sources. The Budget Division allocates funds earmarked for direct support costs (DSC) or other direct operational costs on the basis of annual authorizations issued by the Resources and Programming Service. Funds earmarked for internal storage and handling (ITSH) are allocated on a tonnage basis; funds destined for administrative and support costs are allocated on an annual contract basis. Funds for DSC are advanced at the beginning of the year. The availability of such funds for development is limited, however, and sometimes the needs of small bureaux cannot be met. Some priority is given to least-developed countries (LDCs) but Benin is not among them.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO WFP (OCTOBER 2002)	ACTION BY	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION TAKEN (APRIL 2003)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Starting WFP interventions should be conditional on the availability of budgets from the National Directorate. That would help improve transport from departmental warehouses to schools and other institutions so that food aid can reach beneficiaries on a timely basis.</li> </ul>	Country office	The country office has on numerous occasions informed the ministry responsible of the need for appropriate financing to be made available to the government counterpart. The formulation mission will reiterate that requirement clearly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WFP should re-examine the national directorate's financial requirements and assess where those funds should in theory originate from. Government contributions and WFP advances and reimbursements should be taken into account, so as to establish the national directorate's real ability to offer logistics services to the WFP project.</li> </ul>	Country office in collaboration with regional bureau	Private transporters are paid on the basis of a forwarding agency agreement (FAA) contract supervised by WFP's Regional Logistics Service; the national counterpart benefits from advances of fuel and help with trucks maintenance. The ITSH subsidy is settled after deliveries have taken place and been verified. The national directorate is associated with the process of selecting the agency obtaining the FAA contract. It is hard to obtain financing guarantees from the national directorate beyond the written undertakings contained in the operational contracts.
<b>EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES' CONTRIBUTION TO OBJECTIVES OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME</b>		
<b>Development of primary education and assistance to education for girls (Activity 1)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure that the focal point at the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education has access to statistical data and to the profile required to monitor and analyse a limited number of simple key indicators so as to evaluate the results of WFP support in the education sector and progress made towards the desired objectives.</li> </ul>	Country office in collaboration with regional bureau	The focal point has complete access to statistics and helped to prepare the formulation mission. He will continue to participate in development of M&E machinery and in preparation of performance indicators.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A widening of partnerships should be sought by approaching other NGOs present in Benin with the required financial and human resources and with appropriate expertise.</li> </ul>	Country office	The country office agrees with this recommendation in principle but is having difficulty in finding NGOs capable of contributing with their own resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In order to prevent undesirable effects stemming from over-enthusiasm for the canteens, training of parent-teacher associations and of canteen management committees should include discussion of the management of the human resources needed to meet increased demand at schools.</li> </ul>	Country office	The composition of teaching staff in primary schools is regulated by the Government of Benin. The country is short of teachers and the problem will become worse given population increases. Almost all schools with a WFP canteen are fully staffed; there is much room for improvement in terms of quality.





RECOMMENDATIONS TO WFP (OCTOBER 2002)	ACTION BY	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION TAKEN (APRIL 2003)
<b>Assistance to vulnerable groups and the fight against the effects of malnutrition (Activity 2)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Associate the Ministry for Family Affairs, Social Welfare and Solidarity with the annual programming of aid and keep its officials informed of the execution of interventions on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>	Country office	The country office has already been in contact with the Ministry for Family Affairs, Social Welfare and Solidarity. The Ministry is handicapped by a shortage of human and financial resources. The institutions supplied by WFP in this area almost all belong to the charity sector and operate rather independently.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conduct a systematic search to identify additional partners having the requisite technical and financial means in order to reinforce WFP's support in this field.</li> </ul>	Country office	The country office is having great difficulty in identifying partners prepared to invest their own resources while needing a minimum of WFP resources.
<b>Gender Parity</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increase support to encourage girls to go to secondary schools so as to reduce gender disparities which are more evident in the secondary than in the primary sector.</li> </ul>	Country office	The country office welcomes WFP's recent policy orientations in this field and considers assistance to girls attending secondary institutions as one of the successes of the country programme. Although the number of institutions catering for girls is small, the Government is aware of their importance and is preparing to implement a programme to modernize and expand the sector over the next few years.