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PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PROJECT GAMBIA 2729 (Exp.2)

(WIS No. GAM 0272902)

Community-based rural development

Duration of project	Three years
Total cost to WFP	2 896 900 dollars
Total cost to Government	875 300 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	195 000

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar equalled 9.3 dalasi in October 1994.

For relevant statistical data, please consult the WFP country profile for the Gambia, which is available on request.

ABSTRACT

The project consists of four separate components: support to small-scale water control, rural infrastructure, grass-roots self-help initiatives, and institutional feeding. It aims to give preference to the poorer and more remote regions, such as McCarthy Island Division and Upper River Division. The problems addressed are low productivity of smallholder rice farmers - of whom more than 90 percent are women - and resulting rural poverty and hunger. The majority of activities carried out will consist of rice swamp maintenance and development, and water conservation works in uplands, to which 61 percent of the project's total resources is committed. Nine percent will be used for construction of community buildings and wells in support of NGO village-based projects; this will help reduce the burden on women. Feeding of pre-schoolchildren and rural trainees will use the remaining 30 percent. Expected results are the improvement of about 820 hectares of rice swamps through 205 swamp development schemes, improved protection against erosion for 800 hectares of upland fields (82 self-help initiatives) and 163 rehabilitated or newly-constructed community buildings. During the lean season, approximately 13,000 pre-school-age children (55 percent girls) will be provided with daily meals in day-care centres, while about 1,000 students and trainees (nearly 50 percent of them women) will be supported. As a least developed country, the Gambia will receive a land transport storage and handling (LTSH) subsidy of 50 percent, equivalent to 20 dollars a ton.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

Regional Manager: V. Sequeira tel.: 5228-2301

Desk Officer: G. Heymell tel.: 5228-2379

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).