

برنامج
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Programme
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

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PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED PROJECTS

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PROJECT MALI 2231 (Exp. 4)

Rural development

Total food cost	12 535 950 dollars
Total cost to WFP	24 413 000 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	520 000
Date approved by the CFA	3 November 1992
Date plan of operations signed	27 July 1993
Date notification of readiness accepted	21 March 1994
Date of first distribution	3 January 1994
Duration of WFP assistance	Four years
Duration of project as at 31 March 1996	Two years and three months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise indicated. One United States dollar equalled 500 CFA.F in March 1996.

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Note to The Executive Board

This document is submitted for consideration 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).

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT AND WFP ASSISTANCE

1. In conformity with WFP's Mission Statement, the project aims at ensuring sustained food self-sufficiency and improving the incomes and living conditions of populations subject to destabilization on account of structural inadequacies, climatic irregularities and environmental degradation.
2. The immediate objectives of the project are: i) increasing the productivity of agricultural land; ii) setting up new production units for irrigated agriculture and the intensification of rainfed crops; iii) limiting erosion through soil protection and reforestation; iv) improving village living conditions through basic infrastructure; and v) promoting suitable production systems and technology for the training of trainers and peasant farmers.

IMPLEMENTATION

3. The project is implemented by the national counterpart for WFP projects of the Ministry of Rural Development and the Environment in close collaboration with the ministries responsible for the different project components. An inter-ministerial committee is responsible for orienting, supervising and evaluating the activities of these services in association with the regional and local development committees concerned. The distribution of food supplies is handled by fifty employees and auxiliaries at the central office in Bamako and at the six regional offices located throughout the country.
4. With the technical support of the national programme of agricultural extension services (PNVA), communities formulate the food-for-work projects to be presented for examination and approval by development committees at the various administration levels (district, department, region). Once these projects have been approved, an aid distribution agreement is signed by the governor, the national coordinator and the WFP office. For projects supported and implemented by other partners, such as NGOs, a protocol agreement is signed by the Government, WFP and the organization concerned.
5. At the outset of the project in May 1994, the WFP office established a work group with members from the national project office and the different government bodies involved in order to improve project management and to make it more transparent. The work group adopted the "Temporary Objectives for the Management of Project Mali 2231 (Exp.4)" which outlines the essential aspects of programming procedures, stock management and, above all, follow-up and evaluation activities. This new working basis has allowed for the greater participation of potential partners in project activities, and in particular by the representatives of local collective groups and project beneficiaries.

FOOD MANAGEMENT

6. WFP initially agreed to provide the project with 33,503 tons of food supplies: 30,115 tons of cereals, 1,129 of vegetable oil and 2,259 of canned fish. Since the implementation



of project activities has been slowed in the north of the country, planned distribution was reduced in October 1995 to 24,503 tons of cereals, 1,004 of oil and 1,799 of canned fish.

7. As at 31 March 1996, 12,048 tons of food supplies had been delivered (80 percent of which purchased locally). This amounted to 41 percent of the total commitment and 74 percent of the original commitment to be delivered by that date. Delays can be attributed essentially to problems in programming local cereal purchases, which has yet to correspond to the availability of funds.
8. Food stuffs are transported from the ports of Dakar and Abidjan to extended delivery points (EDPs) in Bamako, Kayes, Ségou, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao. Overall suitable warehouse capacity in the project areas amounts to 10,000 tons. Secondary transport from the EDPs is handled either by the national counterpart with the four trucks WFP has placed at its disposal, or by private carriers. Dry rations are supplied and distributed to beneficiaries in lots, according to the progress of activities
9. Post-delivery losses are relatively low and result from maintenance conditions. These have amounted to 26.95 tons, or 0.2 percent of deliveries.
10. WFP's contribution of 108 dollars a ton for internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) from the EDPs to the beneficiaries has allowed for a total repayment of 79,437,543 CFAF to date.

GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION

11. The Government's contribution for the entire duration of the project is estimated at 3,114,800 dollars. As of 31 March 1996, the total government contribution amounted to 288,211 dollars (or 144,105,870 CFAF), which represented 9 percent of the total budgeted figure and 18 percent of the sum which should have been paid by that date. This contribution essentially has covered the salaries of the personnel assigned directly to the project.
12. A monitoring and evaluation unit has been set up at the central level and at the regional sub-offices. However, a lack of equipment has hindered project monitoring on a regular basis. The Government will endeavour to make full payment of its contribution, which will enable an improvement of monitoring and programming.

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

13. The project directly benefits from external aid from the World Bank, which has made a contribution of 20 million dollars to the national programme for the management of natural resources. German Cooperation supports this same programme with a contribution of approximately 6.5 million dollars and has also provided 7.5 million dollars for the construction of small dams. The small dam construction effort also benefits from a French contribution of 450,000 dollars. Micro-projects and the valorization of surface water are the object of a contribution of 3.8 million dollars from the European Union. Other United Nations agencies such as UNCDF, UNSO and UNICEF also contribute to the project.



EVALUATION

14. Security problems in the north of the country have caused significant delays, in particular for activities related to livestock raising and the transportation of food supplies. The closing of roads in 1994 and 1995 left river transport as the sole alternative, and this was possible only during flood periods (from September to December). The situation has improved since mid-1995, and activities have recommenced in the Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal regions.
15. The project lacks initiatives which fully ensure the participation of women in the planning and management of basic activities. While certain project components are designed for women, there is a lack of specific indicators for the systematic monitoring of the effects of the project on the condition of women in the areas concerned and the number of female beneficiaries involved.
16. Since the cost of canteens and study grants for participants has been assumed by the Government, WFP is no longer involved in agricultural training. However, the closing of the rural training institute for female instructors has further weakened the project's effects on women. In collaboration with the Government, the WFP office in Mali should identify new solutions in order better to respond to the needs of the main target groups of WFP.
17. Fish ponds produce high yields and require low levels of investment. The project has therefore supported NGOs in this regard, as well as individual beneficiaries through village organizations and the national water and forestry service.
18. It should be noted that activities conducted since the normalization of security conditions in the north of the country greatly benefited returnees and internally displaced persons returning to their regions of origin. The need for emergency food aid was avoided, and production has recommenced. Such flexibility represents the main advantage of the project.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. Security problems, obstacles encountered in making local purchases, weaknesses in the programming of activities and delays in the Government's payment of its contribution have hindered the progress of the project. Nonetheless, the project's flexibility has enabled effective coverage of the needs of the target population and has allowed for a series of progressive adjustments that concentrate on areas requiring rehabilitation efforts and on the most useful activities for beneficiaries. Flexibility has proven a particularly favourable element with regard to the reintegration of refugees and displaced persons returning to their places of origin. On the whole, the project has made progress towards the fulfilment of its objectives and has contributed to fighting food insecurity, in conformity with WFP's Mission Statement.
20. To make better use of this flexibility and the project's potential for alleviating the problems faced by the local population, it is recommended that:
 - a) the Government increase its efforts to provide the necessary means agreed upon in order to guarantee the proper implementation and impact of the project.



- b) In collaboration with the donors, WFP mobilize the necessary resources in time to allow local purchases when stocks are available and prices are relatively low.
- c) The project make further efforts to select appropriate activities to reach women. Indicators should also be identified to allow for a systematic monitoring of the impact of these activities.
- d) To facilitate the reintegration of refugees and displaced persons, the project place further emphasis on the areas in which they will be reinserted. Appropriate indicators should be identified in order to establish the main WFP target groups without discrimination between residents and repatriated persons. Specific measures should be taken in order to ensure priority assistance to women beneficiaries.
- e) Ongoing, constructive discussions be undertaken with donors and other organizations working in northern Mali in order to make the project's contribution more effective with regard to the rehabilitation of the areas affected by civil conflict.



ANNEX

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TARGETS/ACHIEVEMENTS AS AT 31 MARCH 1996
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Activities	Units	According to plan of operations at 31.3.96 (revised) ¹	Prorated targets at 31.3.96 (revised)	Achievements as at 31.3.96	Percent achievements / targets
Agricultural production					
Total village irrigation schemes	ha	982	615	787	128
Partial village irrigation schemes	ha	1 893	1 083	995	92
Finished village irrigation schemes	ha	6 310	3 543	458	13
Earth dams	units	280	158	104	66
Canals	km	308	171	26	15
Market gardens	ha	631	350	300	86
Stone dams	units	63	34	13	39
Basin digging	units	46	22	22	98
Regeneration of submerged grazing areas	ha	11 218	6 309	322	5
Fish ponds	units	46	22	216	963
Environment					
Anti-erosion dikes	km	442	247	70	28
Reforestation	ha	911	698	226	32
Social infrastructure					
Warehouses	units	175	143	129	90
Wells	units	631	513	258	50
Vaccination posts	units	9	8	1	13
Transhumance tracks	km	182	144	15	10
Rural tracks	km	596	506	57	11
Training centres	units	365	291	72	25
Training					
Rural trainer support	units	456	249	411	165
Management	units	8 413	4 695	1 868	40
Agricultural techniques and upgrading	units	1 283	1 013	0	0
Women rural trainers	units	10 096	5 659	0	0
Multi-sectorial	units	4 319	2 272	618	27

¹ Revised objectives following the 9,585-ton reduction in the quantities of food supplies initially planned.

