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World Food Executive Board
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Programme de Ali

Rome, 21 - 24 October 1996

PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED PROJECTS

Agenda item 8 d)

PROJECT UGANDA 2642 (Exp.2)

Assistance to education, health and rural development in Karamoja

Total food cost	6 763 900 dollars
Total cost to WFP	10 484 473 dollars
Date approved by the CFA	14 December 1990
Date plan of operations signed	7 April 1993
Date notification of readiness accepted	13 May 1993
Date of first distribution	15 June 1993
Duration of WFP assistance	Three years + One year
Duration of project as at 31 December 1995	Two years six months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar was equivalent to 1,000 Ugandan shillings in December 1995.

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Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies.

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.

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

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT AND OF WFP ASSISTANCE

1. The project aims at helping the Government to provide health and education services, and to carry out rural rehabilitation works in a seriously food-deficit area of the country. Most of WFP assistance will be provided for schoolchildren and hospital patients, and in support of training activities for health workers, community leaders, extension agents, and farmers. The project also supports food-for-work (FFW) activities in agro-forestry and in the establishment of infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of roads, boreholes and water storage tanks. A reserve of 14 percent of total workdays is included for relief works to be implemented during periods of drought.
2. Food aid aims at providing: a) a dietary supplement and incentive under the project's education component; b) a nutritional supplement and incentive in the health component; c) an incentive and compensation to farmers attending training activities; d) an incentive to communities for self-help works; and e) a stimulant to household food security during drought. In addition, a portion of the food is monetized for project support fund.
3. The project conforms with the WFP Mission Statement in that it targets the most food-insecure areas and the poorest segment of the population.

IMPLEMENTATION

4. The project is executed by the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES). A Project Management Unit (PMU), headed by a project coordinator, oversees the implementation and coordination of the various project activities, including receipt, storage, movement and distribution of food. The entire PMU, with the exception of a Liaison Officer, is based in Karamoja.
5. The PMU prepares annual work plans in consultation with local authorities and WFP. It undertakes food distribution using six trucks provided by donors as non-food-item (NFI) contributions through WFP; these are supplemented by hired vehicles.
6. The District Steering Committees (DSCs) and Sub-county Steering Committees (SSCs) screen proposals of activities and provide technical guidance. These committees are established at the level of each district/sub-county, with membership from relevant technical ministries, district leaders, the central government and the PMU.
7. The health and rural development components are implemented in collaboration with the following organizations: Missionary Sisters of Charity, Social Services and Development, Church of Uganda, the Catholic Mission (NGOs), and Cooperation for Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The NGO Lutheran World Federation is involved in food-for-work activities.
8. A total of 50,000 dollars from the Dutch Pledge for Project Quality Improvement was used to establish a monitoring and evaluation system. In addition to the regular quarterly progress reports and project implementation reports, new data collection formats and



implementation guidelines for each project component as well as a fact sheet were designed and introduced to the project staff and other stakeholders.

FOOD MANAGEMENT

9. By December 1995, total food received for distribution amounted to 15,762 tons, accounting for 76.6 percent of the commitment of 20,588 tons. The quantity of food distributed by the same date amounted to 12,874 tons, representing 62.5 percent of the commitment and 81.7 percent of the receipts for distribution.
10. As at 31 December 1995, the balance of unshipped commitment for distribution amounted to 4,446 tons, or 21.6 percent of the commitment.
11. Total post-delivery losses incurred by December 1995 amounted to 412.5 tons, accounting for 1.9 percent of the food delivered. Of this quantity, approximately 21 tons of vegetable oil were lost due to leakage during handling, transportation and distribution, and about 113 tons of corn-soya blend arrived infested. The latter was sold as animal feed and the proceeds were used to cover part of storage costs.
12. From a total of 7,166 tons of wheat earmarked for monetization, 5,013 tons (70 percent) were delivered and monetized, generating 1,102,860 dollars in project support funds. The entire proceeds were utilized for: internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) (78 percent), PMU (seven percent), NFIs (six percent) and project-related costs (nine percent). The latter included training of field extension staff and farmers, and construction of simple huts for extension agents.

GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION

13. Government financial contributions have fallen short of obligations set out in the plan of operations. By December 1995, total expenditures amounted to the equivalent of 686,928 dollars, i.e., about 30 percent of what was required to be spent. Budgetary constraints were cited as the reason for this low level of contribution. The Government has been made aware, however, that serious efforts must be made to increase substantially its cash contribution to ensure successful project implementation.



EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

14. The Government of the Netherlands contributed 165,400 dollars for the procurement and supply of 12 cereal grinding mills and 10 vegetable oil extraction machines. Japan donated four 20-ton trucks, three four-wheel-drive vehicles and two motorcycles for a total cost of 439,000 dollars, while the Government of Italy supplied two 10-ton trucks valued at 150,000 dollars. One vegetable oil extraction machine and one cereal grinding mill have already been handed over to two women's groups. A plan was drawn up by the PMU and WFP in order for more groups to benefit from the remaining mills and machines. The trucks and vehicles are loaned to MOES and will be handed over to the Government at project termination.

ASSESSMENT

Education

15. Fifty-eight percent of the food resources are geared towards increasing school enrolment and stabilizing attendance in Karamoja. The school feeding programme has contributed to increasing enrolment, particularly in day-schools. During the period June 1993 to December 1995, primary school enrolment increased from 13,165 to 26,205 and 5,453 to 6,350 for day-students and boarders, respectively. Although attendance has not stabilized - mainly because of the nomadic and pastoral lifestyle of the Karamojong - school records show that the number of students regularly attending class remains much greater than the number of those who are intermittently absent. Regarding girls' education, the PMU, in collaboration with the local authorities and NGOs, has embarked recently on deliberate efforts of community sensitization to increase girls' enrolment.
16. Based on ambitious assumptions, enrolment in boarding institutions was targeted at an average annual number of 30,335 boarders. However, only 17 percent of the target was achieved; this was due to a slow expansion in boarding facilities, resulting from government financial constraints and elevated school fees.

HEALTH

17. Following the drought of 1993/94 and consequent food shortage, the health component was expanded to cover all vulnerable groups including the aged and disabled. The obvious result was that coverage of vulnerable groups rose sharply to 375 percent more beneficiaries than had been originally foreseen. Similarly, 445 percent more tuberculosis out-patients and about 104 percent more malnourished children than initially envisaged received food aid. The fact that these food-insecure beneficiaries had to visit health facilities to receive WFP food enabled them also to benefit from the medical attention/service provided.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

18. By December 1995, 3,523 health workers and community leaders, 285 agricultural teachers and students, 1,775 farmers and 707 extension staff had been trained in their respective fields. This constitutes 246 percent of the prorated target and 205 percent of the overall target for training activities. Factors related to the short duration of the training activities (between one half and two days each) and sustained efforts to sensitize community leaders on the importance of education led to surpassing the targets. The training courses included primary health care, borehole maintenance, crop and animal husbandry, ox-plough cultivation, and project planning and implementation.
19. A total of 199,135 workdays, or 159 percent of the prorated target for the agro-forestry activities, were utilized, reaching 9,848 beneficiaries. By December 1995, 11 tree nurseries had been established and 69,544 seedlings produced. Women in Karamoja have been very responsive to FFW activities, particularly agro-forestry activities. Already 15 women's and youth groups in Moroto and Kotido have established forest woodlots. Also, eight schools and six women's groups in these areas have established orchards.
20. Out of 1,126,262 workdays planned to be utilized by December 1995 for infrastructure works, only 26 percent had been used. Construction works on six schools was initiated and 12 other schools were rehabilitated. Other activities included rehabilitation of 106 kilometres of feeder roads, construction of teachers' and health staff huts, repair of dispensaries/clinics and desilting of water ponds. In collaboration with Lutheran World Federation, 51 boreholes were maintained.
21. A total of 1,315,253 reserve workdays, or 87.6 percent of the prorated target, had been utilized also for infrastructure works as desilting of water ponds, improvement of rural feeder roads and digging of pit latrines at schools and trading centres.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. Karamoja is the largest and least developed region of Uganda. With an estimated annual per capita income of 52 dollars, the living standard of the vast majority of the Karamojang is well below the national average of 220 dollars. The region experiences recurrent drought leading to chronic food shortages. It also lacks basic socio-economic infrastructure and services. This is compounded by insecurity and environmental degradation. Food aid to communities vulnerable to food insecurity, including women and children, is a viable intervention under these conditions.
23. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system has enabled the project to collect reliable information on progress of activities and food distribution. The system assisted



the PMU in assessing the needs of the beneficiaries and also helped to stem misappropriation of WFP assistance.

24. Persistent insecurity, particularly during 1993 and 1994, significantly hampered both implementation and monitoring of project activities. The Government intensified measures to pacify the area since 1995, thereby enabling travel by both the PMU and WFP. However, there are still isolated incidents of cattle rustling and road thuggery.
25. In line with its policy to expand rehabilitation activities through FFW and promote sustainable development efforts in Karamoja, the Government should increase the allocation of cash resources to the project as a matter of urgency.
26. Continued WFP assistance to the education sector should be linked to supplementary efforts by local authorities and parents, as well as to government financial and human commitment to the region. Efforts aimed at increasing girls' enrolment in schools should continue vigorously with material support from MOES. Furthermore, in order to focus the project's multi-sectoral approach, the appropriate sectors to be assisted by WFP in the future should be prioritized.



ANNEX

COMPARISON BETWEEN TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
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Project components	According to plan of operations	According to plan of operations prorated as at 31.12.95	Achievements as at 31.12.95
(Annual average number of beneficiaries)			
A. Education, health and training:			
Education			
- Day-students	21 135	21 135	26 205
- Boarders	30 335	30 335	6 350
Health			
In-patients:	10 335	8 610	12 100
- General feeding			
Out-patients:			
- Therapeutic	14 670	12 220	19 915
- Tuberculosis out-patients	700	585	3 815
Vulnerable group feeding			
- Mothers	3 000	2 500	31 580
- Children	2 000	1 670	16 870
- Others	-	-	3 660
Training			
- Health staff/community leaders	1 320	1 099	3 523
- Extension staff	55	45	707
- Farmers	1 460	1 216	1 775
- Agriculture teachers and students	240	199	285
	Target no. of workdays according to Planops	Target no. of workdays pro-rated as at 31.12.95	Workdays achieved as at 31.12.95
B. Food for work			
Agro-forestry activities	150 270	125 225	199 135
Infrastructure works	1 351 516	1 126 263	288 848
Reserve work days	1 800 000	1 500 000	1 315 253

