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de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 16 - 18 May 2001**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

## Agenda item 7

### *For information \**



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17 May 2001

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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2000)— LIBERIA 06239.0 (former WIS no. 6239.00)

### Support to Community-based School Feeding Programme

Number of beneficiaries	140,000
Females:	67,600
Males:	72,400
Duration of project	Three years

#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	6,940,896
Total food cost	2,545,674
Total cost to Government	366,065

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it in advance of the meeting and the chair accepts the request on the grounds that this is a proper use of Board time.

# 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 points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

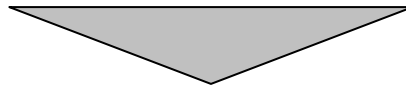
Director, Africa Region (OSA):      Mr M. Aranda da Silva    tel.: 066513-2201

Programme Adviser, OSA:            Ms C. Berthaud            tel.: 066513-2370

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



## Draft Conclusion



The Board took note of WFP's food assistance to 132,000 primary school students and 8,000 teachers in ten counties through school feeding and the provision of take-home rations.

1. Liberia, classified as both a least developed country and a low-income, food-deficit country, is in transition from emergency to development. The seven-year civil war destroyed the country's basic social and productive infrastructure, and led to the internal and external displacement of populations. In particular, chronic food insecurity seriously disrupted school activities: To date, hunger is still widespread among schoolchildren in many areas, absenteeism is common and drop-out rates are high. WFP assistance to 132,000 primary school students (50 percent girls) and 8,000 school teachers (who eat at school with the pupils) is intended to help address these problems. The project will also contribute to national reconstruction efforts, serve as an incentive for exiled or internally displaced families that intend to return to their areas of origin, and encourage the Government and communities to re-open schools and enrol children. The WFP assistance will target ten counties; the remaining four will be covered by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), under an arrangement between WFP and CRS.
2. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses objective 2: Enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training. An innovative aspect of this project is its operational link to the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) West Africa Coastal (06271.0—"Targeted Food Assistance for Relief and Recovery of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Returning Refugees in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea". In addition to the daily hot meal provided to schoolchildren by the project, take-home rations will be distributed under the PRRO to girls in upper primary school classes, which should give families additional incentives to allow their girl children to complete their primary education. The take-home rations will also encourage the girls to remain in school rather than leave to seek work, engage in small-scale commercial activities or possibly resort to prostitution. In addition, WFP's collaboration with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations will help attract much-needed non-food items such as school supplies and training and learning materials, which will provide parents with further encouragement to send their children to school. Moreover, the project will enhance awareness of gender issues at schools and among local communities.

