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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

For information



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PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY– 30 JUNE 2000)—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 6202.00

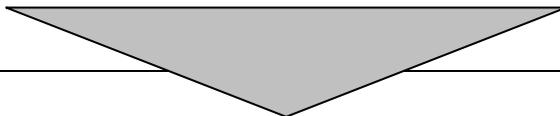
Assistance to Households Affected by Hurricane Georges in the *Bateyes*¹ of the Dominican Republic

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of beneficiaries | 110,000 (total over two years) |
| Female | 70,400 |
| Male | 39,600 |
| Duration of project | Two years |

| Cost (United States dollars) | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Total food cost | 1,987,845 |
| Total cost to WFP | 3,948,305 |
| Total cost to Government | 1,658,000 |

¹ Workers' living quarters within sugar plantations.

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

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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).



1. The Dominican Republic, already a food-deficit country, was severely hit by Hurricane Georges in September 1998. WFP responded immediately with emergency food assistance. Together with other organizations such as the Red Cross, WFP provided assistance to approximately 35,000 persons in the hardest-hit areas, including the *bateyes*. Those most affected by the hurricane were the poor, most of whom were already in a very difficult situation before. They remain in extremely precarious conditions as a result of the natural disaster.
2. The agricultural sector was the hardest-hit. Agricultural production for local consumption suffered severe damage: 80 percent of all plantain and bean plantations were affected; 50 percent of all tuber plantations were damaged, etc. This situation has particularly affected the farmers' subsistence; therefore, large segments of the population continue to live in hardship conditions, especially those living in the *bateyes*.
3. Food production in the *bateyes* is far below the minimum requirement for the local population. About 11 percent of all children under 5 in the Dominican Republic are chronically malnourished; of these, about 3 percent are considered to be severe cases. In the project area the percentage of chronically malnourished children rises to 15 percent.
4. The *bateyes* have not been considered a priority by past governments and consequently very little international assistance has gone into these areas. The Dominican Government has now presented WFP with a plan to assist this forgotten population. Food-for-work activities will be carried out in order to rehabilitate agricultural plots, and repair aqueducts, nurseries, fences, houses, latrines, drainage systems, wells, community and health centres. Beneficiaries and counterparts will receive training in food production.
5. A total of 48 *bateyes* are included in the first phase of the project; these belong to the provinces of Monte Plata, Barahona, San Cristóbal and Santo Domingo in the eastern and central areas of the country. *Bateyes* from other provinces will be included in the second phase.
6. Special attention will be paid to vulnerable groups. An additional ration of corn-soya blend will be provided to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age.

