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Programme
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de Alimentos

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Second Regular Session**

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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

For information



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1999)— SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 6095.00

Support to Basic Education and the Health Care System for Vulnerable Groups

Duration 1 September 1999 to 31 August 2003

Cost (United States dollars)*

Total cost to WFP	2,982,156
Total food cost	1,296,770
Total cost to Government	761,313
Total cost to UNDP	120,000

* One United States dollar equalled 700 dobras in March 1999.

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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(s) 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 Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).



1. The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is classified among the low-income, food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and the least developed countries (LDCs). With a Human Development Index of 0.563, it ranks 121st among the 174 countries considered in the UNDP Human Development Report for 1998. The economy is almost entirely based on a single crop, cacao, of which annual output has slumped steeply in recent years. This decline has caused government revenues and the per capita gross national product (GNP) to plummet. At the same time, public debt has continued to grow. These factors have compounded the state of poverty and food insecurity of the people, 40 percent of whom live below the poverty threshold, and 35 percent in extreme poverty.
2. Many sources, including the evaluation by the WFP country office in June 1998, have found that the closure of school canteens since 1996 has seriously affected schoolchildren and vulnerable groups exposed to the effects of structural adjustment. The decline in school enrolment, the worrying increase in the drop-out rate and the failures in the schools nationwide are considered to be more or less direct effects of the closure of the school canteens, while the upsurge of juvenile delinquency and the increasing number of street children are thought to be indirect effects.
3. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses to objectives 1 and 2: enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; and enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training.
4. By forming part of the United Nations strategy to support the Government's poverty eradication programme, the project will be implemented through close partnership and coordination, especially with the locally represented United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) and the NGOs working in the relevant areas. This project is a tangible example of the practical application of the principle of concerted programming, and will be one of the key components in the future United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), whose implementation began with the preparation of a Common Country Assessment (CCA) in 1998.