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Agenda item 6



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QUICK ACTION PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— UGANDA 6013.00

Assistance to education in north-eastern Uganda

Number of beneficiaries	58,800
Duration of project	One year
Food requirement	5,767 tons

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	4,166,787
Total food cost	1,557,830
Total cost to Government	573,339

ABSTRACT

Karamoja is a drought-stricken and chronically food-deficit region in north-eastern Uganda. It has the worst social indicators of any region in the country. A mere 6.8 percent of the population 15 years and above have completed primary school, compared with 25.1 percent for the whole country. Drop-out rates, especially for girl students, are very high. Only 18 percent of men and six percent of women are literate, compared with the national averages of 63 and 45 percent, respectively.

In 1997, the Government's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) identified illiteracy, inadequate water supply, poor grazing and malnutrition as the four major obstacles confronting Karamoja and called for policy intervention and donor support to focus on their alleviation. The Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme was launched to ensure that the disadvantaged had free access to primary education. In 1998, provision of free education through the UPE programme, combined with the WFP-assisted school feeding programme 2642.02 (Assistance to education, health and rural development in Karamoja), doubled the official primary school enrolment rate. At the same time, increased budget allocations through the PEAP improved the quality of education provided.

The quick action project 6013.00 is a bridging arrangement between the previous project 2642.02 and a new school feeding activity to be implemented under the Uganda Country Programme between 1999 and 2004.

Under this project, WFP will provide food assistance to 600 pre-primary, 46,000 primary and 2,400 secondary students (38,000 day students and 11,000 boarders) in formal schools, to 8,400 nomadic children in the non-formal Alternative Basic Education Programme for Karamojong children (ABEK) and to 14,000 women in adult literacy classes.

WFP assistance is aimed at increasing school attendance of children, especially girls, relieving short-term hunger, promoting participation of women in adult literacy programmes and encouraging adoption of ABEK by pastoral Karamojong children and parents.

WFP places major emphasis on participation of the community, particularly women, in food distribution, decision-making and management of the school feeding programme.

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, 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:

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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.: 066513-2641).

