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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO 6008.00

Support to women's initiatives and sanitation in the city of Mbuji-Mayi

Number of beneficiaries 4,000 families (20,000 people)

Duration of project Twelve months

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP 1,975,168

Total cost of commodities 1,398,000

Total cost to government 120,000

Total cost of project 2,095,168

ABSTRACT

The collapse of revenues from the mining sector, combined with the massive inflow in 1994/95 of between 100,000 and 140,000 people after their expulsion from Katanga has made the city of Mbuji-Mayi one of the poorest in the country. The situation, exacerbated by the country's financial and economic crisis, has led to a sharp increase in unemployment and a marked deterioration of living conditions. Hardest-hit are the most vulnerable socio-economic groups, i.e. women and children. The current project, which comes in the framework of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo's three-year development programme, aims at improving the social and economic conditions of the most vulnerable population groups. WFP food aid, provided on a food-for-work basis, will help achieve the project's objectives. Beneficiaries will carry out works aimed at improving the city's sanitary conditions as well as undertake income-generating activities including bread and cake-making, and vegetable and soap production. WFP assistance will serve to support these activities and will be integrated into programmes to be implemented in collaboration with CARITAS Mbuji-Mayi and three local NGOs. The latter will work under the supervision of the Provincial Division for Social Affairs. Food aid will serve as an incentive to beneficiaries to participate in community works while also providing them with enough food for themselves and their families. A pilot project, this could serve as the basis for a wider-scale initiative. Although approved on 13 August 1998, the project is not yet operational because of the insecurity which characterizes the Democratic Republic of Congo's territory as a whole.

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).

