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de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8

For information



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BASIC ACTIVITY WITHIN A COUNTRY PROGRAMME, APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1999)— MAURITANIA 6016.00

Nutrition Support to Vulnerable Groups

Number of beneficiaries 36,000 (24,000 malnourished children and 12,000 expectant and nursing mothers)

Duration of project Four years

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP 3,985,020

Total food cost 1,642,470

Total cost to Government 213,242

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.

Regional Director: M. Zejjari tel.: 066513-2201

Chief, OSA/3: O. Sarroca tel.: 066513-2505

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).



1. The Country Programme (CP) for Mauritania, approved by the Executive Board in October 1997, included a “Nutrition Support to Vulnerable Groups” activity, to run for four years. The plan of operations was signed by the Regional Director for Africa and the Government on 16 June 1999.
2. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This activity addresses objective 1 (enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs).
3. The targeted zone is l’Aftout, covering central Brakna, northern Gorgol, southern Tagant and western Assaba, where about 150,000 people practise animal husbandry and agriculture on a small scale. The farming activities are seasonal and the incomes, already precarious, are contingent upon rainfall. Poverty is endemic—women are preponderant in the population, with a high proportion of them being head of the household (40 percent), and many children are without family support. The illiteracy rate among women 15 and over is 50.4 percent and the rate of access to basic health care is 30 percent. Among children under 5, malnutrition stands at 44 percent, and the rate of iodine deficiency is 31 percent.
4. The activity aims to reduce the rate of malnutrition of the beneficiaries and help the Government improve management of its nutrition support programmes thanks to a participatory approach hinged on health and nutrition education.
5. International and national NGOs will distribute the rations to beneficiaries: gruel to children and dry rations to expectant and nursing mothers, in 100 community feeding centres and 20 centres for recuperation and nutritional training. Social mobilization will centre around distribution activities: new methods of food preparation will be divulged, along with basic principles of hygiene. Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of surveys carried out by NGOs and the Ministry of Health.
6. A total of 2,072 tons of rice, 1,136 of corn-soya blend, 373 of pulses, 485 of vegetable oil, 196 of sugar and 32 of iodized salt will be issued to 24,000 children (from 6 months to 5 years) who suffer from malnutrition and 12,000 expectant and nursing mothers suffering from food deficiencies.

