

برنامج
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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

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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)—
BURKINA FASO 6130.00**

Support to Basic Education: Literacy Training

Number of beneficiaries 116,980 trainees a year

Duration of project Five years

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP 8,799,339

Total cost to Government 341,745

External contribution (contribution by
donors to the joint

United Nations/Catholic Relief
Services Programme)

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.: 066513-2641).



1. The Country Programme for Burkina Faso was approved by the Board at its First Regular Session of 1999 (document WFP/EB.1/99/6/1).
2. Basic Activity 2—Support to Basic Education: Literacy Training—will run for five years (2000-2004). It is one of the components of the joint United Nations programme for support to basic education in Burkina Faso (2000-2004). UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and WFP are partners in this programme. It will be implemented in 25 provinces among the poorest and most food-insecure in the Sahelian zones, the central Plateau and south-eastern provinces.
3. The country's literacy rate is extremely low. For 1998 it was 26 percent, with significant difference between urban (60 percent) and rural areas (15 percent), as well as between men (30 percent) and women (15 percent). It is estimated that currently three out of four people are still illiterate, i.e. 74 percent of the country's population, which numbered 10,332,798 in 1997. Approximately 50 percent of the population live below the poverty threshold of US\$82 a year (approximately 4,500 CFA francs). The literacy rate in the 25 provinces targeted under the activity is much lower than the national average of 26 percent. It is 14 percent in the south-east, 13 percent on the Central Plateau and only 6 percent in the northern Sahelian zones.
4. In accordance with decision 1999/EB. A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This activity addresses Objective 2 (enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training).
5. The activity's long-term objective is to establish government policy guidelines aimed at, among others:
 - a) increasing access to basic education (literacy training) and reducing social and geographic inequalities; and
 - b) bringing the literacy rate from 26 percent (1998) to 40 percent by 2008 by placing particular emphasis on women and poor rural populations.
6. The basic activity will contribute to raising the rate of attendance and participation of targeted populations, particularly of women. It also aims to bring the average participation rate of women to a level above 80 percent throughout the beneficiary communities. In addition, in order to create favourable conditions for regular attendance, special attention will be given to feeding and caring for infants during the literacy courses.
7. Implementation and staffing will be the responsibility of national NGOs and associations, with financial support from donors. The activity will also benefit from partnership among participating United Nations agencies, with a view to ensuring complementarity and integration of their respective interventions.
8. The average yearly number of beneficiaries is 116,980 trainees, to which must be added 77,986 infants and their care-takers.
9. WFP will supply 14,189 tons of food, broken down as follows: 10,509 tons of cereals, 1,051 of vegetable oil and 2,629 of beans. WFP food aid will be distributed in the form of cooked meals served daily to beneficiaries for the duration of basic literacy courses and supplementary basic training courses.

