

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 7-11 November 2005

POLICY ISSUES

Agenda item 4

*For information**

E

Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/2005/4-H
8 November 2005
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS COMMON COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROACH

Implications for WFP

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

This document is printed in a limited number of copies. Executive Board documents are available on WFP's WEB site (<http://www.wfp.org/eb>).

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.

Senior Deputy Executive Director, OD*:	Mr J.-J. Graise	tel.: 066513-2001
Director, External Relations, PDE**:	Mr A. Jury	tel.: 066513-2601

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit. (tel.: 066513-2645).

* OD: Operations Department

** PDE: External Relations Division



PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this note is to brief Board Members on the issue of common country programmes, in conjunction with the Cape Verde pilot (WFP/EB.2/2005/7-B), and to seek their views on this proposed new approach.

BACKGROUND

2. Within the framework of United Nations reform, the four agencies of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) – the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WFP – are looking into ways of strengthening their collaboration in the field in order to support national governments’ development priorities more effectively.
3. One proposal being considered is that the four agencies develop a common approach to country programming rather than each agency developing its own country programmes. The common country programme document (CCPD) approach would give Board members a comprehensive view of United Nations activities planned in a given country. Members States could review a single integrated CCPD that would be linked to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) results matrix.
4. As a pilot phase, the first CCPD to be formulated is for Cape Verde, where a United Nations joint office is being set up. It will be submitted for comment to the Second Regular Sessions of the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF in September/October for approval in the usual manner. An individual agency matrix is attached to the CCPD to identify agency contributions. The WFP component of the Cape Verde CCPD was formulated as a school feeding project that fell within the delegated authority of the WFP Executive Director. The Cape Verde CCPD will be submitted to EB.2/2005 for information.
5. The undg ExCom principals would like to discuss with Board members the various issues relating to United Nations reform, particularly the issue of CCPDs as a first step.
6. Following a meeting on 9 August of undg with staff of the Executive Board secretariats of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, it was agreed that the issue of CCPDs would be brought to the attention of Board members of the four agencies through their Board bureaux.
7. Paras 8 to 11 below, which are being circulated to the bureaux of the four agencies, provide a detailed update on the Cape Verde CCPD and highlight the issues for discussion.

UPDATE ON THE COMMON COUNTRY PROGRAMME – CAPE VERDE

8. As part of the Secretary-General’s ongoing efforts in United Nations reform and in response to requests from donor and programme countries to simplify working arrangements with the United Nations, the undg ExCom agencies have agreed to establish a joint United Nations office in Cape Verde, with effect from 1 January 2006.
9. To facilitate coordinated work with the Government to achieve agreed development results, the United Nations country team in Cape Verde has prepared a pilot CCPD, which will be presented to the Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP at their Second Regular Sessions of 2005. The new element of this approach is the single common



basic text of the CCPD. Each agency is preparing an addendum to the CCPD containing agency-specific information, which will be presented separately to the Boards.

10. The Cape Verde CCPD is a first step in the evolution of the UNDAF as the basis for United Nations development activities, but should not be considered as the final model for future CCPDs. Given that CCPDs are increasingly prepared in countries where the United Nations has a strong integrated presence, the agency secretariats expect the process and format to become more coherent. In view of the short time available to prepare the Cape Verde CCPD, the agencies consider it to be a major step in United Nations reform, but an imperfect one. The policy committees of the UNDG – the programme group and management group and their related working groups – are preparing guidance to make it easier for United Nations country teams to prepare integrated programmes based on agreed results that are consistent with national priorities.

ISSUES

11. The UNDG ExCom Secretariats are seeking the support and guidance of their Boards on the following issues:
 - i) endorsement of the Cape Verde CCPD in particular and of a CCPD format in general in which an agreed results matrix such as that of the UNDAF provides a common basis for expected national development outcomes to be achieved with United Nations assistance; this is reflected in the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) resolution adopted by the General Assembly in December 2004;
 - ii) suggestions as to how the CCPD approach may become more integrated, with the Boards retaining their oversight and budgetary responsibilities; and
 - iii) advice on how to simplify the CCPD approval process and to ensure that the Boards are able to concentrate on strategic and policy issues.

