

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 15–17 May 2002**

## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 7

*For information\**



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2001)— DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 10108.0

### Integrated Programme to Support Vulnerable Groups Infected with HIV/AIDS

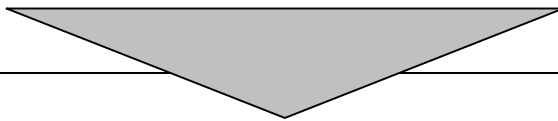
<b>Number of beneficiaries</b>	<b>14,000</b>
<b>Duration of project</b>	<b>December 2001–December 2003</b>

<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Total cost to WFP	3,859,695
Total cost to Government	2,263,350
Total food cost	2,291,510

\* 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 in advance of the meeting and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that this is a proper use of the Board's time.

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# 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, Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau (ODM): Mr F. Roque Castro

Senior Liaison Officer, ODM: Ms G. Segura tel.: 066513-2207

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



1. The Dominican Republic is located in the Caribbean, the region second most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It shares the island with Haiti, which has the highest rate of infection in the region. In the Caribbean, 9 out of every 10 cases of HIV infection are found on the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Fifty-five percent of declared cases in the Dominican Republic are found in young people between the ages of 15 and 34, mainly due to heterosexual transmission. The affected age groups are those forming the labour force. Most of the affected groups work in informal sectors, live in precarious financial conditions and are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. The incidence of vertical transmission from infected mother to child is very high and therefore a great concern to UNAIDS/WHO; HIV is the first cause of infection in children under ten years old. HIV/AIDS has already spread from high-risk groups to the general population. Data from the Dominican Republic indicate that 56 percent of all deaths due to AIDS occur among women between 20 and 34 years of age (World Bank Report). According to a UNAIDS/UNICEF report, the overall official rate of incidence in the population is an alarming 2.8 percent; the rate reaches 10 percent in vulnerable groups. There is a clear correlation between poverty and infection; marginal groups are consequently at highest risk of infection. These groups include commercial sex workers, female-headed households, abandoned and sexually abused children and people living on sugar cane plantations (*bateyes*), where WFP is currently implementing PRRO 6202, “Assistance to Households Affected by Hurricane Georges in the *Bateyes* of the Dominican Republic”.
2. In 1993, the Government issued Law 55–93 to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The law covers policy, epidemiological research, social mobilization and other aspects. COPRESIDA, a governmental institution under the Health Ministry was created to ensure application of the law and assist HIV/AIDS-affected populations. In 1996, the Dominican Government prepared a mid-term strategic plan for 2000–2004 to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. The country recently received approval from the World Bank for a US\$25 million loan to invest in all programmes aimed at reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection. The loan will be managed by COPRESIDA in collaboration with United Nations Aids Organization (UNAIDS), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Collaboration from WFP has been requested by the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS to assist the Prevention and Reduction of Vertical Transmission Programme and the Awareness/Educational Training Programme.

