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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 1. This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.
- 2. Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. The WFP staff dealing with this document are:

Director: W. Kiene tel.: 5228-2029

5. Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).

INTRODUCTION

- 1. WFP's Strategic and Financial Plan (1996-99) calls upon the Office of Evaluation (OEDE) to raise the quality and increase the quantity of information on development projects, emergency operations and PROs. Field evaluations must gain added insights into what works, what does not, and why from the perspective of beneficiaries. Such knowledge can then form the basis for changes in programme mix, operational strategies and future policy proposals to the Executive Board.
- 2. In accordance with this mandate, OEDE is complementing its traditional focus on accountability and physical target achievement with a stronger emphasis on strategic relevance and policy achievement. The results obtained from the various evaluation exercises should be relevant to the particular activity being examined; even more important, they should contribute to improvements in effectiveness and efficiency of future activities and of WFP's operations as a whole.
- 3. The key objectives of evaluation are therefore to:
 - a) provide lessons for future initiatives;
 - b) contribute to the evolution of appropriate policies and procedures;
 - c) contribute to strategic decisions.
- 4. Evaluation activities focus on projects and emergency operations on the one hand, and on procedures and special issues on the other. Findings, conclusions and lessons learned are obtained through the "evaluation of individual projects/emergency operations", through "sectorial evaluations" (examining several projects of the same type) and through "thematic evaluations" (providing insights into a particular issue).
- 5. In contrast to past evaluation procedures, which tended to look at projects in a very broad and comprehensive manner, future evaluations will increasingly focus on a few predetermined key issues. This should help reduce the costs of evaluation exercises while providing answers to the most crucial questions raised at the various levels of management (i.e., from the Project Manager up to the Executive Board).
- 6. Evaluation results are discussed with WFP's implementing partners before they are presented to the Executive Board. For 1996-97, OEDE plans to develop some additional vehicles for publicizing evaluation findings and strengthening feedback to interested audiences, both within and outside WFP. Of particular relevance in this regard will be summaries of some evaluations, special studies and special issue papers that should be of interest to professionals in the food aid community. In addition, OEDE will make the findings of past evaluations more readily available to a wider audience through its "evaluation memory project", which will be accessible through the World-Wide Web.
- 7. Evaluations are usually carried out by OEDE staff members supported by external experts. Where appropriate, they are organized in cooperation with agencies of

recipient countries and/or donors. Missions are funded out of OEDE's budget. In some cases, additional support is sought from donors.

8. The key question guiding OEDE's programme of work during the biennium is: "How well is WFP adjusting its portfolio to the new realities of food aid?" The hungry poor and their access to food will be at the centre of analysis and particular emphasis will be placed on issues of "targeting", "impact", "comparative advantage", "transition from relief to development" and "women and gender".

Evaluation activities initiated or concluded in 1996

9. The evaluation programme is divided into project/emergency operation evaluations and sectorial/thematic evaluations. Of the tasks initiated in 1996, several will not be concluded before mid-1997.

Evaluation of projects and emergency operations (by region)

10. The evaluations, by region, are as follows:

MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EAST AND CIS

Emergency food aid and logistics in the Caucasus:		
ARMENIA 5301	Emergency food assistance for refugees, internally displaced and vulnerable groups	
AZERBAIJAN 5302	Internally displaced persons and other most vulnerable people	
GEORGIA 5315	Assistance for internally displaced persons and vulnerable groups	
Transition in the CIS:		
TAJIKISTAN 5253 (Exp.1)	Returnees, displaced and war-affected in Tajikistan	
EGYPT 3214	Land development and settlement in the High Dam Lake Area	
TUNISIA 4783	Rural development in the mountainous regions of the north-west	
Sectoral evaluation of watershed management projects in Pakistan:		
PAKISTAN 2309 (Exp.2)	Rural development works in North-West Frontier Province	
PAKISTAN 2451 (Exp.1)	Assistance to Tarbela and Mangla watersheds	
PAKISTAN 4003	Rural development works in the north-eastern territory	
PAKISTAN 4659	Environmental rehabilitation in Malakand Division of North-West Frontier Province	
LATIN AMERICA		
BRAZIL 2732 (Exp.1)	Primary schoolfeeding in depressed areas of the north-east region	
GUATEMALA 2705 (Exp.2)	Assistance to primary schoolchildren and vulnerable groups	
Targeting food aid to indigenous populations in Latin America:		
COLOMBIA 2740 (Exp.1)	Support to socio-economic activities and environmental protection in indigenous communities	
MEXICO 3324 (Exp.1)	Support to education and rural development in indigenous	

communities

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GUATEMALA 2581 (Exp.1)	Promotion and establishment of women's associative entreprises in rural areas	
Food aid and micro-basin develo	oment in Latin America:	
GUATEMALA 2587 (Exp.1)	Soil conservation and agro-forestry activities in depressed areas	
PERU 5162	Ecological rehabilitation of Andean micro-watersheds	
NICARAGUA 4571	Socio-economic rehabilitation for war-affected populations	
ASIA AND PACIFIC		
INDIA 2303 (Exp.2)	Rural development in the Krishna Basin Command Area, Karnataka	
Ex-post evaluation of sustainabili	ty and impact of WFP-assisted projects in China:	
CHINA 2639	Xingpuzichuan irrigation project, Jingyuan county, Gansu province	
CHINA 2697	Irrigation in three counties in Gansu province	
CHINA 2744	Improved land use of the Loess Plateau, Mizhi county, Shaanxi province	
CHINA 3146	Improvement of low yielding lands, Anshun Prefecture, Guizhou province	
VIET NAM 4617	Rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes	
Sectoral evaluation on food aid a	and tribal people: forestry projects in India:	
INDIA 2773 (Exp.1)	Employment through forestry activities and tribal development ir Rajasthan	
and summary of past findings	on projects:	
INDIA 3227	Rehabilitation of degraded forests and afforestation in Madhya Pradesh	
INDIA 2751	Watershed development and afforestation in Uttar Pradesh	
WESTERN AFRICA		
LIBERIA Regional PRO 4604	Food assistance to Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees and displaced persons in Liberia, Côte d'Ívoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone	
ANGOLA 5298 (Exp.2)	Assistance to conflict and drought victims in Angola	
BURKINA FASO 3326 (Exp.1)	Rural development	
Beneficiary participation in the p	roject cycle in West Africa	
EASTERN AFRICA		

In-house evaluation of Rwanda emergency (completion)

Urban poor in East Africa:	
MADAGASCAR 4553	Support to the SECALINE expanded nutrition and food security project
MOZAMBIQUE 4721	Urban basic services in Maputo (pilot project)
ZAMBIA 4756	Vulnerable groups feeding and institutional development
ETHIOPIA 2488 (Exp.3)	Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure

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