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Executive Board  
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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 5 a)



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## PROJECT NIGER 2445 (Exp.4)

WIS No. NER 00244504

### Food aid to primary schools in nomad and transhumant areas

Duration of project	Four years
Food cost	6 636 320 dollars
Total cost to WFP	12 487 478 dollars

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars unless otherwise stated. One dollar equalled 485 CFAF in November 1995.

For relevant statistical data, please consult the WFP country profile for Niger, which is available on request.

### ABSTRACT

This project is the fourth expansion of the food aid programme to primary school canteens in Niger which commenced in 1975. This expansion of four years duration, will coincide with a gradual phasing-out of WFP involvement and the taking over of the programme by government authorities and local communities. The number of beneficiaries will be reduced through a targeting system aimed, in the long run, at concentrating WFP aid on the nomad/grazing areas. These are the areas most vulnerable to food insecurity and deprivation, and where school enrolment is particularly low.

WFP food aid, restricted geographically to the areas plagued by food insecurity is intended to: i) help improve school attendance of children from nomad and transhumant families; ii) promote schooling for girls; iii) improve children's learning capacity by reducing the effects of short-term hunger and providing them with well-balanced meals.

The project is part of the food insecurity alleviation programme developed by the Niger government. It is one of a series of coordinated activities promoting basic education in Niger in which there are other participating donors such as the World Bank (through classroom building), UNICEF (through its micronutrient programme) and the European Development Fund (EDF).

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1. This document contains recommendations for review and approval by 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:  
  
Regional Manager: V. Sequeira tel.: 5228-2301  
Desk Officer: E. Togbé-Olory tel.: 5228-2378
5. Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).

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## PROBLEM ANALYSIS

1. Since the early nineties, Niger has had to face serious economic and financial problems linked to a difficult geo-economic environment and deteriorating terms of trade—problems which have led to a decline in the living standards of the population, 66 percent and 20 percent of whom are considered poor and very poor respectively. This chronic situation has put Niger, a country with a per capita GNP of 300 dollars in 1993 and negative economic growth (-2.4 percent for the past quarter century), at the bottom of the Human Development Index (UNDP, 1993). This adverse socio-economic context is further aggravated by an annual population growth rate of 3.4 percent. This serious economic situation has led to a drastic decline in State funds, particularly those allocated to the social sectors (education and health).
2. Niger's education sector is characterized by:
  - a) one of the world's five lowest school enrolment rates. Although stable at 29 percent since 1991, it masks wide socio-economic or geographical disparities: between regions, between the urban and rural populations (63 percent and 20 percent respectively), between nomads and settlers, and boys and girls, with the latter accounting for only 36 percent of the school population;
  - b) one of the most alarming adult illiteracy rates (71.6 percent in 1990 as against 52.7 percent on average for Sub-Saharan Africa), with the women's situation causing particular concern (83.2 percent illiteracy as against 64.4 percent on average in the subregion).
3. Niger devotes about 15 percent of its operating budget to education, but the school enrolment rate in no way reflects the scale of the financial sacrifices made. This is due to a constant rise in the number of potential pupils and to the particularly high unit costs involved (80 dollars per pupil per year as against 42 dollars in Sub-Saharan Africa overall). Furthermore, the learning difficulties of the children, most of whom are victims of the effects of short-term hunger, lead to repeated failures at the end of each school year, with the result that a large proportion of pupils (18 percent) are either expelled or give up before the end of primary school.

### Previous WFP aid

4. WFP aid to primary school pupils in nomad and transhumant areas began in 1975 with project Niger 2445, with three expansions and two extensions (with revised budgets) subsequently approved. The total amount of aid channelled to the project between 1975 and 1996 was 33,450,759 dollars.
5. The third expansion, scheduled to end with the 1995/96 school year, helped to raise the nomad and rural communities' awareness of the need for girls to attend school. Between 1991 and 1995, the schools receiving WFP aid made significant progress in this respect. In 1995, in more than half of them, girls accounted for more than 35 percent of their pupils, whereas the national average for the rural sector is



only 30 percent. This improvement should be confirmed during the fourth expansion proposed in this report and prepared on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of a technical review and formulation mission which visited Niger in October/November 1995.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

6. *Long-term objective.* The project's long-term objective is to develop the country's human resources. This means ensuring that all school-age children from nomad and transhumant families receive a basic education and the skills needed to participate in Niger's social and economic development. In particular, the project will help reduce disparities regarding access to education.
7. *Immediate objectives.* The immediate objectives are to:
  - a) help improve school attendance by children from nomad and transhumant families;
  - b) help to increase the number of girls attending school;
  - c) improve the children's learning capacity by diminishing the effects of short-term hunger.
8. *Expected results.* The prorated objectives are (see details in Annex I):
  - a) Nomad schools: for the four years of project duration an annual number of 16,000 pupils will receive three meals a day for 280 days a year.
  - b) Schools in transhumant areas: the number of pupils will be gradually scaled down from 9,600 in the first year to 7,000 in the final year of the project. They will receive three meals a day for 200 days a year.
  - c) Furthermore, 2,000 families a year on average will receive dry millet/sorghum rations for the duration of the project as an incentive for them to send their daughters to school.

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## ROLE OF FOOD AID

9. The functions of food aid will be to:
  - a) encourage children, particularly girls, from nomad and transhumant families to attend school;
  - b) serve as an income transfer for families of the beneficiary children. In the areas where girls' school enrolment rates are particularly low, this income transfer will be further strengthened by quarterly allocations of millet/sorghum



as an incentive to families. Those with one or two daughters attending school will receive allocations equivalent to 12,000 CFAF (25 dollars) while those with three or more daughters enrolled will receive allocations equivalent to 24,000 CFAF;

- c) serve as a budget supplement to keep the boarding schools in the selected areas open throughout the year;
- d) provide a nutritional input enabling pupils to benefit from well-balanced meals.

### Food inputs and justification for the choice of commodities

- 10. The food commodity mix is the same as in previous phases of the project. Its acceptability has been confirmed by both the nomad and transhumant populations.
- 11. The composition of daily rations will be:

Food commodity	Quantity (grams)
Sorghum/millet	250
Sorghum grits	200
Dried skim milk	50
Canned beef/fish	30
Vegetable oil	20
Sugar	20

- 12. During the project duration, WFP will distribute 24,540,000 daily rations to schools: 6,620,000 in transhumant areas and 17,920,000 in nomad areas. The estimated market value of the daily ration is 269 CFAF (0.5 dollars).
- 13. Each ration will represent a daily intake of 2,079 calories, containing 83 grams of protein and 36 grams of fats—in other words, the total recommended food intake for primary school children (7-14 years).
- 14. The ration will also be supplemented by dried peppers, condiments, tomatoes and onions, baobab leaves and seasonal vegetables or fruits, purchased through allocations made to the schools, thus providing supplementary vitamins and minerals (see paragraph 40).
- 15. Depending on availability on the local market and provided that WFP has the necessary staff, the milk could be replaced by a locally-produced cereal-based gruel, well-liked by the children. This could result in a considerable budget saving.
- 16. In addition to food distribution in schools, 2,000 families a year on average will receive dry rations: 1,500 families with one or two daughters at school will each receive one 50 kilogram bag of millet/sorghum per quarter and 500 families with



three or more girls at school will each receive two 100 kilogram bags of millet/sorghum per quarter.

17. In order to meet beneficiaries' requirements for the four years of project duration, WFP will provide the following quantities of food commodities:

Food commodity	Quantity (tons)
Sorghum/millet (for distribution to canteens)	6 135
Sorghum/millet (dry rations to parents)	1 500
Sorghum grits	4 908
Dried skim milk	1 227
Canned beef/fish	736
Vegetable oil	491
Sugar	491
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 488</b>

## PROJECT STRATEGY

18. An interministerial unit (CIMIC/WFP) was established in 1989 to coordinate WFP aid. It comprises the managers of the projects receiving food aid and the national coordinator in charge of the Planning Ministry's administrative unit and participates in defining, implementing and managing food policy.
19. More specifically, project Niger 2445 (Exp.4) will be managed by a Central Management Committee comprising representatives of the National Project Board (Ministry of Education-MEN) and the administrative unit (Ministry of Planning).
20. The national project manager, employed on a full-time basis, will be helped by an assistant manager, a food commodity management officer and a school activities monitoring and evaluation officer.
21. For each department, a Regional Management Committee, comprising the Education Ministry's manager and regional coordinator and the Planning Ministry's regional coordinator, will supervise the district inspectors and managers.
22. A basic education guidance committee will also be established and will comprise, among others, representatives of the Ministries of Education, Public Health, Finance and Planning. Donors involved in the education sector could take part in the work of the committee whose role will be to coordinate and harmonize the various activities.
23. The project is intended to benefit primary boarding schools in nomad and transhumant areas that are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Targeting will be school-based and all the pupils attending the selected schools will have access to WFP food aid.



24. Within these areas, top priority will be given to schools where girls represent less than 30 percent of the total number of pupils.

### **Food aid logistics**

25. The food commodities will be delivered by WFP (via the ports of Cotonou and Lomé) to 15 departmental warehouses (total capacity of 10,300 tons), which will serve as the extended delivery points (EDP). Three of these are at Niamey, one at Dosso, two at Maradi, two at Tahoua, two at Agadez, two at Zinder, two at Diffa and one at Tillabéry. Also available are six mobile tents, providing an additional capacity of 3,000 tons, which may be erected in the immediate vicinity of the warehouses. In the event of surplus sorghum or millet production in the country, WFP will consider purchasing certain quantities of these commodities provided the terms of purchase are attractive and it has the necessary funds.
26. Transport of the commodities from the EDPs to the schools will be organized each quarter by the inspectorate of the department concerned in accordance with collection vouchers prepared by the project's central management committee.
27. The heads of the benefiting schools, assisted by the parents associations, will be in charge of managing the canteens. The food commodities will be served up as three hot meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) 280 days a year in the nomad areas and 200 days a year in the transhumant areas.
28. The sorghum/millet to be given to families in remote areas who send their daughters to school, will be distributed in the schools, on the basis of regular attendance reports prepared by school headteachers and district inspectors.

### **Gradual phasing out of WFP aid**

29. The mission which formulated the fourth expansion informed the Niger Government and the village communities of the need for the counterparts to start taking over the project at the same time as WFP begins a gradual phasing out of its aid. The Government has promised to take over all the canteen support staff to whom WFP has, to date, been providing payment in kind.
30. These measures will be accompanied by an annual reduction in the number of WFP beneficiaries (from 25,600 during project year 1 to 23,000 in year 4) (see Annex I). This reduction will begin in the transhumant areas through a school targeting system, with WFP aid eventually being concentrated solely on schools in the most deprived grazing/nomad areas where school attendance is particularly low.

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## **BENEFICIARIES AND BENEFITS**

31. The direct beneficiaries of WFP aid will be the pupils of the primary boarding schools selected by the project (see paragraph 8).



32. The indirect beneficiaries of WFP aid will be: i) the families of the pupils receiving food aid throughout the year; ii) the families in the most remote areas who enrol their daughters in schools and who will receive a supplementary income transfer in the form of dry rations; and iii) the host families<sup>1</sup> who will no longer have to feed the children living with them.

### **School attendance by girls**

33. In Niger, young girls either stay at home to help with domestic chores or get married before finishing primary school, with the result that very few girls attend school. Whereas girls account for 52 percent of children under 15, they accounted for only 36 percent of school children in primary schools in Niger in 1994. The lowest school attendance rates for girls (sometimes less than 10 percent) were recorded in the most remote rural areas.
34. Human resource development, in particular women's development, is therefore one of Niger's top priorities, even though lack of funding limits the measures the government can take in this regard. The aim is to increase the school attendance by girls from 36 percent in 1994 to 40 percent in 2000. In order to do this the government has organized awareness campaigns and has undertaken to provide safe, supervised accommodation facilities. WFP food aid will support this national effort.
35. Monitoring will ensure that the enrolment of girls proceeds as expected. Prorata objectives will be set for each benefiting school each year (the minimum increase in girl pupil intake over two years will be five percent) and the schools failing to meet its objectives midway through the project will have its right to food aid reviewed.

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## **PROJECT SUPPORT**

36. The Ministry of Education will be in charge of all aspects of project implementation in close cooperation with the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Health. The latter will be in charge of food inspection, school medical visits and health education.
37. In their capacity as managers of the departments' vehicle fleets, the project regional managers will coordinate food deliveries to the schools with the assistance of the district inspectors and managers.
38. The Planning Ministry's administrative unit and its regional coordinators will be responsible for warehouse management and will supervise the

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<sup>1</sup> Boarders who do not live in the schools usually live in the homes of local families nearby. In line with the tradition of African hospitality, the host families provide accommodation free of charge for the children of distant relatives or acquaintances. It should be noted that girls always live with a host family, even when there are dormitories at school. Parents feel their daughters are safer here than in an unsupervised environment.





storekeepers/bookkeepers, in charge of taking delivery of and managing the commodities in the departmental stores.

### **Government's financial contribution**

39. The Government's financial obligations are threefold:
- a) the gradual takeover of the school canteens in transhumant areas (2,600 pupils—see paragraph 30 and Annex I), representing some 252 million CFAF (500,000 dollars).
  - b) payment of the salaries of project management and supervisors (100,000 dollars), and support staff (800,000 dollars);
  - c) the funding of 50 percent of internal logistical costs (25 dollars a ton) (see also paragraph 43).
40. In addition to its direct participation in the project, the government will continue to allocate funds quarterly to the recipient schools to cover the cost of purchasing and cleaning pupils' clothing and purchasing supplementary commodities such as tomatoes, onions, salt and fuel wood. These allocations, now amounting to 5,000 CFAF per month per pupil from a nomad family and 3,000 CFAF per month per pupil from a transhumant family, will be regularly adjusted in line with cost of living increases.

### **Contribution of parents and communities**

41. The parents associations are in favour of providing contributions in kind to benefiting schools.
42. At the same time, the local communities will continue to provide labour free of charge for the building or renovation of dormitories, refectories, kitchens or classrooms funded by bilateral donors and usually supervised by NGOs.
43. The cost of transporting the food commodities from the EDPs to the schools concerned will be on average 50 dollars a ton. Given Niger's budgetary constraints, it is suggested that WFP accept 50 percent of these costs (i.e., 25 dollars a ton) and the Government take responsibility for the remainder.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

44. WFP attempted to assess the effects of the canteens on the pupils during the previous project phases, but these attempts had only limited success. As a result, a more practical and realistic approach will now be used in accordance with new WFP directives concerning support to the education sector. The main aspects of this approach are listed below.
45. Achievement and performance indicators are:



- a) **Prorated objectives:** Food deliveries and distribution (quantities by type of commodity); number of beneficiaries (breakdown by gender).
  - b) **Effectiveness of targeting:** The trend in the overall percentage of beneficiary children from nomad and transhumant families.
  - c) **Qualitative monitoring by teaching staff:** Short-term hunger and its effects on the pupils' learning capacities; the role of the canteens; community participation; activities undertaken (such as building, building maintenance and awareness enhancement); and contributions in cash and kind to the canteens.
  - d) **Progress in girls' enrolment:** monitoring of the "dry rations distribution" component; the enrolment trend for girls in the schools covered by the project; and the establishment of facilities for the supervision of girl pupils.
  - e) **Periodic progress assessment:** regular field visits by counterparts (canteen managers and school inspectors) and WFP officers. These visits will allow for the assessment of the food stock situation, canteen operation and the on-going monitoring of the project's social and educational aspects through interviews with teachers, cooks and pupils and their parents.
46. An on-going internal evaluation mechanism will be introduced (reports to be submitted on a regular basis by regional management) and there will also be a mid-term evaluation.
47. The establishment of the M&E system, including counterpart training, is estimated to cost 60,000 dollars (see paragraph 59). Steps will be taken to ensure that the new system is operational as soon as the fourth expansion commences.

## External aid

48. Niger's education sector will receive financial aid from a number of donors, in particular:

a) ***The World Bank***

Under its project "Education III", scheduled to come on stream in early 1996, the World Bank is proposing to set aside for education 76 million dollars, of which 51.2 million dollars will be allocated directly to improving access to and the quality of primary education. In particular, this component provides for the building of 1,770 fully-equipped classrooms and the renovation of a further 1,500 (with a high rate of community participation) for a total of 31.4 million dollars. The schools receiving this aid will be selected each year on the basis of their progress in enrolling girl pupils (this approach is exactly the same as WFP's). The Niger Government, WFP and the World Bank will ensure that this component covers a maximum number of schools receiving WFP aid.

A pilot programme to speed up girls' enrolment in schools has started in two departments (Dosso and Tillabéry) and should be extended throughout the country under the supervision of a national unit for girls' enrolment, with



representatives in each region. The programme aims to produce appropriate teaching material. Nevertheless, the schools receiving WFP aid should take advantage of the programme which has the support of UNICEF and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), among others.

b) *UNICEF*

Under its sectoral programme "Basic Education/Environment 1995-1999", UNICEF intends to set aside 2,424,000 dollars to improve schooling for girls and 1,799,000 dollars to promote functional literacy for women. The first of these components will involve 702 schools in 11 districts of the departments of Agadez, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and Tillabéry (UNICEF's priority action areas).

Under its School Nutrition/Micronutrient Programme UNICEF also aims, with the support of the World Bank, to make available 1,912,000 dollars to the same areas. All in all, at least 143 of the WFP-assisted schools will receive aid under the UNICEF programme and 131 schools will receive micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron/folic acid and iodine and will benefit from the training programmes.

c) *European Union*

Under its "Grazing Area Project (PROZOPAS)" and its component "Support to school canteens in the Tahoua-Northern Tahoua area" the European Union seeks to assist about 25 of the schools receiving WFP aid in the districts of Tchintabaraden, Abalak, Dakoro and Tohirozérino in 1996. This project's activities, which will be confirmed only after an evaluation of requirements (currently under way), are to cover equipment, accommodation facilities and water supplies to schools with canteen facilities. The project budget will not be known until after the evaluation.

- d) Some of the other parties involved in the basic education sector are: the German technical cooperation programme (GTZ), with DM18 million (132,352 dollars) from 1996; CIDA, with CFAF2.2 billion (4,536,082 dollars) for raising awareness of the need for girls to attend school; the French Cooperation programme, with CFAF1.2 billion (2,474,227 dollars) to support the education system and CFAF1.5 billion (3,092,783 dollars) to provide school books. The main NGOs working in the education sector are AIDE and Action and the French Volunteers for Progress association. WFP project areas are among those in which they are involved.

## **Non-food items**

49. Canteen equipment is very diverse and inappropriate and, therefore, constantly needs replacing: 13,000 metal plates, 13,000 plastic bowls, 26,000 spoons, 3,800 cooking pots, 7,600 basins, 4,000 buckets, 2,500 skimmers and 2,500 ladles.
50. The same applies to the lorry fleet which needs to be partially replaced at the rate of one ten-ton lorry a year. Finally, it is recommended that national project



management should be provided with a four-wheel drive vehicle for monitoring project implementation in the field.

51. The WFP unit in charge of non-food items will take steps to identify donors interested in this project component.

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## **PROJECT FEASIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

52. The national authorities attach particular importance to this project and, despite the persisting economic recession, the Government sets aside 15 percent of its operating budget for education. In addition to providing the teachers, head teachers and inspectors directly engaged in project implementation, the government will include about 7.3 million dollars in its budget to cover: i) its contribution to the WFP project (1.8 million dollars); ii) other pupil maintenance costs (5.5 million dollars, see paragraph 59).
53. School feeding, a clearly motivating factor, will be more effective if it is associated with a village community awareness programme. It will therefore be necessary to include and adapt social habits to the advantage of the boarding schools and canteens, particularly with respect to the enrolment of girls. School is still seen in many areas as playing a part in destroying the communities' culture and moral standards. It is therefore up to the Government to pursue and consolidate, with donor support, the measures already introduced with a view to alleviating the negative effects of these social constraints.
54. Project sustainability will depend on the facilities provided both by the Government and village communities and through donor funding. However, the project can only be sustainable and really effective when the government and the parents are able to assume all the operating costs of the boarding schools and school canteens.

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## **DISINCENTIVES, DISPLACEMENT AND DEPENDENCY**

55. The quantities of cereals to be delivered under the project represent only 0.7 percent of Niger's annual average cereal output over the past five years. Although imports of these commodities would therefore be unlikely to have any effect on the domestic market, WFP would prefer to purchase these cereals locally if they were available and if prices were stable.
56. Sugar, dried milk and canned beef/fish will have to be imported as Niger does not produce them (it exports livestock but has no meat canning industry).
57. Niger's annual output of vegetable oil (mainly groundnut oil) was 14,000 tons, on average, over the period 1989-1993, but it varies considerably. Oil imports are also estimated at 14,000 tons. WFP could envisage purchasing vegetable oil locally, as it did in 1992/93, provided the commodity were available and the prices acceptable.



Since WFP supplies represent only two percent of national vegetable oil consumption, local markets will not be affected.

58. Consequently, with cereal and, perhaps, vegetable oil purchased locally, food aid provided under this project will have no significant negative effect on local markets or on trade in Niger and will not cause dependency.

## PROJECT COSTS

59. The cost breakdown for the project is as follows:

<b>PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN</b>			
	Quantity (tons)	Average cost per ton	Value (dollars)
<b>WFP COSTS</b>			
<b>A. Direct operational costs</b>			
Commodity <sup>1</sup>			
- Sorghum/millet	7 635	138	1 053 630
- Sorghum grits	4 908	180	883 440
- Dried milk	1 227	2 000	2 454 000
- Canned beef/fish	736	2 150	1 582 400
- Vegetable oil	491	950	466 450
- Sugar	491	400	196 400
<b>Subtotal commodities</b>	<b>15 488</b>		<b>6 636 320</b>
Ocean transport		108.66	1 682 815
Internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH)			
- Transport from port of Cotonou to EDPs		134.76	2 087 060
- Supervision		2.44	37 699
- Transport, storage and handling from EDPs to distribution points		25	387 200
<b>Subtotal direct operational costs</b>			<b>4 194 774</b>
<b>B. Direct support costs</b>			
Non-food items			
- Crockery and kitchen utensils		To be supplied	
- Four lorries			
- Liaison vehicle/project management		by other donors	
- Computers and software (national management)			15 000
Training workshops			
- Year 1 (2 workshops x 4,000 dollars)			8 000
- Years 2,3 and 4 (1 workshop x 3 years x 4,000 dollars)			12 000



## PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

	Value (dollars)
Project monitoring and evaluation	
– Account books, monitoring sheets (printing costs)	5 000
– Ad hoc studies covering beneficiaries	5 000
– Local monitoring missions (WFP office staff)	5 000
– Audit mission	25 000
<b>Subtotal direct support costs</b>	<b>75 000</b>
<b>Total direct costs</b>	<b>10 906 094</b>
<b>C. Indirect support costs</b>	
– Contribution to ordinary office operating costs (14.5 percent of A + B)	1 581 384
<b>Subtotal indirect costs</b>	<b>1 581 384</b>
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>	<b>12 487 478</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT COSTS</b>	
– Project management operating costs, wages and travel	100 000
– Expenditure for project support staff (such as storekeepers, drivers, watchmen and cooks)	800 000
– 1,060,000 rations funded by Government following WFP's gradual phasing-out	500 000
– Participation in LTSH (25 dollars per ton) Land transport, storage and handling from EDPs to delivery points (25 dollars per ton)	387 200
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT COSTS</b>	<b>1 787 200</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (WFP and Government)</b>	<b>14 274 678</b>
WFP costs as a percentage of total project costs: 88 percent	

<sup>1</sup> This is a notional food basket used for budgeting and approval purposes. The precise mix and actual quantities of commodities to be supplied to the project, as in all WFP-assisted projects may vary over time depending on the availability of commodities to WFP and domestically within the recipient country.

N.B. In addition to its direct contribution to Project 2445 (Exp.4), the Government will continue to finance pupil maintenance costs, estimated at 5,500,000 dollars for the duration of the project (see also paras. 14, 40 and 52). This brings total Government aid to school boarders in nomad areas to 7,287,000 dollars.

## COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

60. Since the formulation of the project idea until this project summary there has been a constant exchange with the major donors involved in Niger's education sector: UNICEF, the French Cooperation Programme, the Canadian Technical Cooperation Programme, the World Bank and EDF.



61. Prior to project formulation a WFP project technical review and formulation mission, which included a UNESCO basic education expert, was fielded to Niger. The mission's recommendations were taken into account for this project summary (see Annex II).
62. This report was submitted for review to the United Nations specialized agencies concerned (FAO and UNESCO) and their comments have also been taken into account.
63. This project is perfectly in keeping with WFP's terms of reference. It provides food aid to the most deprived and falls within the framework of food aid for people's development and growth.

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## **RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

64. This project is recommended for approval by the Executive Board.



## ANNEX I

**OBJECTIVES**  
**BREAKDOWN OF PUPILS RECEIVING AID FROM WFP AND**  
**GOVERNMENT/LOCAL INSTITUTIONS**

School year	World Food Programme		Government/Local institutions	
	N° of pupils	Total rations	N° of pupils	Total rations
<b>1. Nomad schools: 280 days a year</b>				
1996-1997	16 000	4 480 000	-	-
1997-1998	16 000	4 480 000	-	-
1998-1999	16 000	4 480 000	-	-
1999-2000	16 000	4 480 000	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>17 920 000</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>2. "Settled" rural schools: 200 days a year</b>				
1996-1997	9 600	1 920 000	-	-
1997-1998	8 700	1 740 000	900	180 000
1998-1999	7 800	1 560 000	1 800	360 000
1999-2000	7 000	1 400 000	2 600	520 000
<b>Total</b>		<b>6 620 000</b>		<b>1 060 000</b>

Number of rations to be provided by WFP: (1) + (2) = 24,540,000.

Number of rations to be provided by the Government and local institutions = 1,060,000.





## ANNEX II

**PROJECT NIGER 2445 (Exp.4): RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORMULATION MISSION**

1. Based on its findings and observations, the mission has recommended that:
  - the project continue for a further period of four school years (1996/97–1999/2000);
  - beneficiaries should be children in areas where food security is at risk and, within those areas, priority should be given to: i) the deprived nomad and transhumant peoples; ii) promoting schooling for girls; and iii) ensuring that there is no pupil selection within schools, but that all pupils benefit equally;
  - the relevant institutions should take all necessary steps to raise parents' awareness of the importance of schooling for girls in those areas where there is still strong prejudice against schools;
  - in areas where school feeding programmes have not played their role for economic reasons, families whose daughters are at school should be given incentives to offset their losses;
  - WFP gradually phase out its involvement and national and local authorities take over;
  - in view of the above, steps be taken to raise allocations to nomad and "settled" schools for boarders;
  - parent associations be reinvigorated and made aware of their responsibilities, particularly with regard to the school canteen;
  - a project guidance committee, in which the relevant health services will participate, be established before this expansion commences;
  - a new monitoring and evaluation system, tailored to meet the new project strategies, be established and serve as a management tool;
  - the following changes be made to the current monitoring and evaluation system:
    - i) reduction of the the volume of collected data and the establishment of a centralized data system; and ii) incorporation into the system of measures to ensure the monitoring of the qualitative aspects of the social and education objectives;
  - an interim evaluation (or technical review) be conducted immediately after the start of the third school year (1998/99);
  - a list of all the children (boys and girls) from nomad and transhumant families attending so-called "settled" schools be drawn up as quickly as possible;
  - cooperation with other institutions and with NGOs be strengthened;
  - wider use be made of improved stoves for cooking.

