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# **INFORMATION NOTES**



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## **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE— CAMEROON 04387.1 (WIS no. 4387.01)**

This document should be read in conjunction with the document “Summary Report of the Mid-term Evaluation of Cameroon Project 04387.1” (WFP/EB.3/2001/6/4).

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RECOMMENDATION	ACTION OFFICER/ UNIT	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
<b>Recommendations for the current project</b>		
The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) should ensure that WFP assistance is made more effective by providing more active support to the beneficiary schools' educational framework. Failing this, the project risks not being able to achieve its principal objective, which is an educational one.	Country office	This is a long-term issue, which is currently being addressed by the Ministry of Education, for example by the training of more teachers. Current weaknesses may take several years to overcome, however, due to budgetary and other constraints.
In order to ensure proper monitoring of the project's implementation and measure its educational impact, MINEDUC must reinforce the capacities of its staff members who participate in project management, particularly with regard to statistical data collection and processing. Support for this might be sought from the different multilateral and bilateral technical and financial partners who are present in Cameroon and operate in this area.	Country office	This is currently in progress. During the mission, the Ministry of Education announced a modest allocation of additional funding to improve its monitoring of the project. Further assistance from multilateral and bilateral sources will be investigated.
The project's central coordination unit and its provincial units must take steps to ensure that only the project's intended beneficiaries (schoolchildren aged 6 to 14) benefit from WFP food supplies provided by the school canteens.	Country office	Action is being taken. Although it is sometimes difficult for school principals to turn away younger children (aged 5 and below) from school, the problem has been noted only in a few relatively remote schools.
The central and provincial coordination units should ensure that school principals do not enrol children in the WFP beneficiary schools who could otherwise be enrolled in schools closer to their places of residence.	Country office	During its monitoring, the country office will pay particular attention to this problem.
The provincial coordination unit should ensure active and sustained community participation in the management of the school canteens.	Country office	Active community and parents' participation in the management of the school canteens is an underlying principle of the project. This will be further encouraged by the country office through the provincial authorities.
As a result of the large increase in student enrolment in the beneficiary schools, a limit needs to be set for the number of students who may benefit from the canteen. Otherwise lack of food resources may become a problem in the medium term.	Country office	The country office, in consultation and agreement with the national project management, has now set a beneficiary limit to ensure that food aid resources are sufficient in the medium term.
It may prove necessary to concentrate the beneficiary schools geographically in order to reduce secondary transport costs and the migration of students from non-beneficiary schools.	Country office	The selection of schools is being reviewed on an annual basis. To the extent fair and feasible, a greater geographical concentration of schools will be attempted.



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WFP and its counterparts should ensure that women become more active participants in the parents' associations and on the school canteen management committees.	Country office	This aspect will be given particular attention by the country office during its future monitoring.
The WFP country office in Cameroon, in collaboration with the regional logistics adviser, should recalculate the internal transport, storage and handling (ITSH) matrix in order to make certain that WFP can stay within the limits of its ITSH-related budgetary commitments for the duration of the project. WFP should also assess the manner in which the Government is respecting its commitments in this regard.	Country office with Regional Logistics Adviser (ODY)	A review and recalculation of the ITSH matrix for the Cameroon school feeding project is currently in progress. This will be followed by a review of the extent to which the Government is respecting its commitment with regard to ITSH.
WFP should establish a sub-office at Bertoua in order to improve monitoring activities in the Eastern Province, some preparatory work having already been done in this regard. It would also be advisable to add another locally recruited assistant to the staff of the office at Garoua in order to strengthen monitoring activities in the three other provinces.	Country office	A sub-office has now been established in Bertoua, to improve project management and monitoring in the Eastern Province.
The project's Basic Documents were created based on an assumption of 180 school days, when in reality the number of school days does not exceed 165. Consequently, future food assistance needs should be calculated based on a maximum of 165 school days per year.	Country office	Food assistance needs are now being calculated based on a maximum of 165 days per year, instead of 180 days per year.
WFP should make certain that the useful "School Canteen Practical Management Guide" is distributed to all beneficiary schools, as several schools visited lacked this basic document.	Country office	The country office is ensuring that the "School Canteen Practical Management Guide" is distributed to all beneficiary schools.
<b>Recommendations for the future project (expansion within the framework of the future Country Programme)</b>		
Priority should be given to the North and Extreme North provinces in view of their socio-economic and food security indicators, which are obviously more unfavourable. The low school attendance rate in Adamaoua Province (52.8 percent) justifies continued WFP assistance. In the context of the forthcoming Country Programme, however, WFP and the Government should redefine policies and strategies with regard to school feeding for rural primary schools in the Eastern Province.	Country office with Regional Programme Adviser (ODY)	A review of WFP assistance to schools in the Eastern Province of Cameroon will be undertaken as part of preparations for the forthcoming Country Programme. The special situation of the forest peoples (pygmies) in the Eastern Province will have to be taken into account.
Given the fact that dry rations serve as a form of revenue transfer (and do not have any specific nutritional objective), WFP could limit dry rations to 50 kg of cereals per eligible female student per school term.	Country office	This recommendation will be taken into account during the preparation of the next phase of the school feeding activity under the new Country Programme.

