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**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 16 - 18 May 2001

PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

Agenda item 6

For approval



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WFP/EB.2/2001/6-A/1

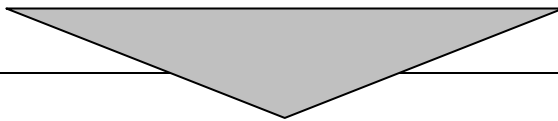
18 April 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**BUDGET INCREASE TO
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT—
NEPAL 03718.1
(former WIS no. 3718.01)**

Assistance to Primary Schools

Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for approval by 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.

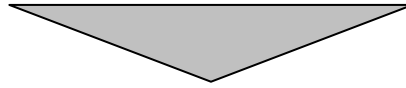
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(OAE):

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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).



Draft Decision



The Board approves the budget increase of US\$5,822,573 to development project Nepal 03178.1—Assistance to Primary Schools (WFP/EB.2/2001/6-A/1).

BACKGROUND

- Under the current “Assistance to Primary Schools” project (April 1998–August 2002) a hot midday meal (*haluwa*) is provided to encourage children to attend school regularly, to relieve their short-term hunger and to provide them with micronutrients to improve their overall health status. The daily per capita ration is 110 g of fortified blended food (composed of 85 g of cereal blend, 15 g of sugar and 10 g of vegetable ghee). In order to maximize the beneficial effects of the food and micronutrients provided, a deworming programme further improves the children's developmental, functional and intellectual capacity. The 2000 mid-term review has shown that the project has significant impact on increasing attendance, reducing afternoon absenteeism and reducing worm infections.

RATIONALE

- The project currently reaches 250,000 children (37 percent of whom are girls) in 16 food-deficit districts with high educational needs. Under the proposed supplementary activity within the School Feeding Initiative (SFI), 200,000 additional children will be targeted in five new districts (Khotang, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Udayapur). The districts were selected on the basis of vulnerability assessment and mapping (VAM) undertaken by the country office in 1999–2000. These districts are highly food insecure, demonstrate other indicators of vulnerability and have a higher than average gender gap, particularly in education. Nuwakot, Rasuwa and Makwanpur are also among the districts with the most trafficking in girls. The proposed expansion supports the Joint United Nations Integrated Work Plan on HIV/AIDS and the United Nations Joint Initiative against Trafficking of Women and Girls, not only by enabling girls to go to school, but also by making them less vulnerable to trafficking. In Makwanpur and Udayapur, the expansion will follow the pattern and coverage of WFP-assisted Rural Community Infrastructure Works (project 05572.1 [former WIS no. 5572.01]), so as to ensure more efficient and cost-effective synergies between these two activities.
- As is the case with the renewed Food for Education (FFE) activity in the upcoming Country Programme (CP), coverage is to be broadened to include pre-primary, primary and lower-secondary schoolchildren (pre-primary to grade 8). The Girls Incentive Programme, piloted in two districts under the present project, and to be expanded under the CP, is also included in this budget increase for SFI. This programme aims to narrow the enormous gender disparities in enrolment by reducing the opportunity cost of basic education for very poor families through the provision of a take-home ration (2 litres of vegetable oil per



month) to the mothers of girls with at least 80-percent school attendance. It should be noted that the programme has proved to have significant impact in the two pilot districts, with the attendance of girls increasing by an average of 11 percent.

4. Community-based Food Management Committees (comprising mainly the parents of students), in collaboration with school authorities, will monitor food distribution and utilization. This includes a nominal vegetable oil allocation to be provided to Food Management Committees to ensure regular and smooth programme implementation.
5. The current phase of the Assistance to Primary Schools project (Nepal 03718.1) will terminate mid-August 2002, and should be followed by the FFE activity under the Nepal Country Programme (2002–2006). In order to meet food requirements for the 2001/2002 school year in the five new districts, a budget increase is proposed under Nepal 03718.1. This supplementary intervention is expected to continue under the FFE activity of the Nepal Country Programme in the five selected districts in subsequent school years.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

6. As part of the School Feeding Initiative, the proposed supplementary activity will require a total of 3,570 tons of wheat-soya blend (WSB) and 1,890 tons of vegetable oil. To make the traditional *haluwa* compatible with local food habits, a total of 677 tons of vegetable oil will be swapped locally for sugar and ghee. The remaining 1,213 tons of vegetable oil will be used as take-home rations under the Girls Incentive Programme.
7. This supplementary activity will enable the extension of assistance to an estimated 200,000 children (85,800 of whom are girls) in 1,422 primary and lower-secondary schools. Moreover, about 57,000 mothers and their daughters will benefit from a take-home ration of vegetable oil (2 litres/mother/month).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

8. The proposed budget increase, reflecting an additional requirement of food and cash against project Nepal 03718.1, is recommended to the Executive Board for approval. The total donor contribution required for 2001/2002 amounts to US\$5,822,573. Details are provided in the annex.



NEPAL 03718.1—ASSISTANCE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS
BUDGET REVISION FOR 2001/2002 SCHOOL YEAR¹
TOTAL COST BREAKDOWN

	Current tonnage ²	Revised tonnage ³	Difference (SFI proposal) ³	Revised cost/MT	Current total value	Revised total value	Difference (SFI proposal)
	(tons)				(US\$)		
WFP COSTS							
A. Direct operational costs							
Commodity							
WSB (without sugar)	4 463	8 033	3 570	362	1 615 606	2 907 946	1 292 340
Sugar	787	787		230	181 010	181 010	
Vegetable oil/ghee	525	2 415	1 890	739	387 975	1 784 685	1 396 710
Total commodities	5 775	11 235	5 460		2 184 591	4 873 641	2 689 050
Transport and superintendence costs							
Superintendence					3 162	16 812	13 650
External transport					315 457	1 161 757	846 300
Landside transport						819 000	819 000
ITSH					294 155	588 995	294 840
Subtotal					612 774 #	2 586 564	1 973 790
Subtotal direct operational costs					2 797 365	7 460 205	4 662 840
B. Other direct operational costs							
Total direct operational costs					2 797 365	7 735 205	4 937 840
C. Direct support costs (DSC)							
					42 000 #	505 433	463 433
D. Indirect support costs (ISC)							
					423 264 #	844 564	421 300
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS					3 262 629	9 085 202	5 822 573

¹ For the school year beginning mid- August 2001 and ending mid-August 2002.

² Commodities planned as per project document for school year 2001/2002.

³ Including food commodities requested under SFI proposal.

The transport and superintendence costs, DSC and ISC costs for the current project are pro-rated for 12 months out of the total 52-month project period (which is 23.08 percent of total costs under these sub-headings as per the original project document. The project started in mid-April 1998 and will end in mid-August 2002).

