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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2001

In accordance with the methods of work of the Executive Board, the present document reflects the main points of its deliberations to be taken into account by the Secretariat in the implementation of the Board's decisions and recommendations, contained in document WFP/EB.2/2001/11.

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EVALUATION REPORTS

Mid-term Evaluation of Country Programme—Mozambique (1998–2001) (2001/EB.2/1)

1. The Board noted the recommendations and drew attention to the correct identification of beneficiaries and the focusing of activities. One representative observed that the resources for disaster preparation and mitigation were limited. Several representatives pointed out that information on the impact of WFP's work was scant. A number of representatives drew attention to the fact that the new formula for calculating direct support costs should be applied only after an examination of the effectiveness of the present model. The Secretariat explained that the mid-term evaluation prioritized the process while the Country Programme (CP) evaluation focused on impact. In response to a question, it was pointed out that different participatory workshops were being held that were intended to ensure that beneficiary governments were involved in evaluations' conclusions.

Summary Report of the Mid-term Evaluation of Country Programme— Ghana (1998–2002) (2001/EB.2/2)

2. The Board noted the recommendations. The representatives felt it was important to take account of national priorities and WFP's Enabling Development policy. Some representatives pointed out that the report seemed contradictory since it indicated that the Country Programme was consistent and well integrated but that its objectives were too ambitious. Others referred to the scant information on output indicators. In this connection, the Board was informed that the Office of Evaluation was drawing up guidelines to help staff devise more efficient follow-up strategies and systems, including standardized lists of output indicators. It was also stated that the CP's scope was regarded as excessive from a financial and administrative point of view, owing to the lack of staff and resources.

Summary Report of the Mid-term Evaluation of Country Programme—India (1997–2001) (2001/EB.2/3)

3. The Board noted the recommendations and drew attention to the cluster approach using vulnerability criteria for WFP activities in India. It likewise noted the efforts made towards decentralization and beneficiary participation. Some representatives pointed out that to prepare the Country Strategy Outline (CSO) it was important that a summary of the lessons learned from earlier evaluations be made available. The Secretariat assured the Board that the recommendations of programme evaluations and the conclusions of other studies and assessments of activities were taken into account in the drafting of CSOs.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Country Strategy Outline—Mozambique (2001/EB.2/4)

4. The Board endorsed the CSO and pointed out that it reflected the priorities of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance



Framework (UNDAF). The Board also drew attention to the close contact between WFP, the Government and donors in drafting it.

5. Although a number of representatives praised the fact that the local purchase of food was being promoted, they also referred to the difficulties pertaining to purchasing standards regarding classification, quality control and cost. The Secretariat added that the difficulties relating to transport costs and the tax on local purchases were being resolved in ongoing discussions with the Government.
6. Concerning the absence of a national food aid policy, the Board was informed that WFP was collaborating in drawing up a legal framework that linked the different aspects of food aid with local production, and that purchasing guidelines were being drawn up to guide farmers' associations in relation to the food aid programme.
7. Some representatives pointed out that the country offices had to be more active in establishing partnerships, especially for development activities. One representative referred to the need for additional inputs for the Food for Development Fund (FDF). The Secretariat explained that the Government and donors were working more actively in identifying the non-food resources needed for the FDF and for activities related to school feeding.
8. One representative suggested that WFP examine the financing of multiple donations managed by the Government. The Secretariat pointed out that the Government was administering a set of funds to strengthen institutional capacity and that it could, within the framework of the FDF, administer support activities financed by various donors.
9. Many representatives expressed their satisfaction with the inclusion of activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the next Country Programme. The Board noted that WFP was drafting policy guidelines on food aid and HIV/AIDS, and that it had set up a working group to formulate that policy and examine operational and resource questions.

Country Strategy Outline—Ghana (2001/EB.2/5)

10. The Board endorsed the CSO. Some representatives observed that the Country Programme had been formulated in the context of the CCA and the UNDAF and that it was consistent with the Government's priorities.
11. Several representatives praised the effectiveness of the CP's geographical selection, whereby future activities would be concentrated in three regions in the north where poverty was greatest. Further strengthening of vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) capacity was urged.
12. Bearing in mind the resources planned to be made available for the Country Programme, a number of representatives asked whether WFP could support the activities in the social and agriculture sectors. The Secretariat pointed out that the agriculture sector could be supported only if resources permitted and provided that conditions for a satisfactory activity existed.
13. Some representatives asked why the Country Programme was not being implemented fully. The Secretariat replied that the Government had needed more time than anticipated to make the donor funds available, but that those conditions had now been met.
14. Some representatives asked whether the beneficiary food basket was balanced and whether food deliveries were being monitored. The Secretariat replied that the food basket



was being examined and that the following CP would evaluate the food requirements of local communities. Also, WFP and the Government were jointly and regularly evaluating the monitoring and supervision of products.

15. Referring to the positive results of the experimental study on alternative HIV/AIDS treatments, one representative suggested that the study be conducted in other countries. The Secretariat informed the representatives that legal questions relating to the patent needed to be resolved first.

Country Strategy Outline—India (2001/EB.2/6)

16. The Board endorsed the CSO and drew attention to the emphasis placed on advocacy activities and the use of the activities as models to improve the Government's food security programmes. Many representatives were pleased to learn that children and women were being given priority. It was explained that, although special attention was being paid to children under 3, WFP would not be limiting assistance solely to that group. Several representatives urged that the Programme continue examining the possibility of combined action with United Nations bodies, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
17. Representatives were satisfied to note the process for decentralizing CP management proposed in the CSO and the greater emphasis being placed on local consultations and community participation. One representative urged WFP to study in greater depth the possibilities for community participation in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
18. The Board highlighted the close collaboration between the WFP country office and the Indian Government in formulating the CSO, which took two years.

Country Strategy Outline—Sri Lanka (2001/EB.2/7)

19. The Board endorsed the CSO and supported the procedures for beneficiary selection. It accepted the new nutritional activities proposed and the orientation of aid towards mothers and children in food-insecure areas. Some representatives underlined the need to step up coordination with United Nations bodies. The Secretariat observed that it would be appropriate to link the new protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) in Sri Lanka to the Special Food Security Programme (SFSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), given that there were many areas common to both.
20. The Board was informed that WFP activities were focused on providing humanitarian assistance to victims of the current conflict. In reply to a question from a representative, the Secretariat explained that some past activities would continue under the proposed Country Programme, and gave the Board details of WFP's monitoring work, both in and outside the conflict-affected areas.

Country Strategy Outline—Honduras (2001/EB.2/8)

21. The Board endorsed the CSO and recommended that the next Country Programme include activities linked to preventing and mitigating the effects of disasters. In view of the fact that the Government does not have a food security policy, some representatives pointed out that WFP should give more prominence to this question so that it is included in the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy.



22. One representative pointed out that Honduras would benefit from the School Feeding Initiative, through WFP and an NGO, and recommended that close coordination be maintained between all partners to ensure quality education.
23. The Secretariat reported that food-for-work activities for asset-creation were planned, and would benefit women in particular. They would be accompanied by training opportunities supported by partners in the field.

Country Strategy Outline—Rwanda (2001/EB.2/9)

24. The Board endorsed the CSO and noted the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition in the reconstruction period. The Board was pleased to hear of the planned gradual displacement of food aid activities by development activities. The Board underlined the importance of strengthening partnerships, improving VAM, maintaining local purchases, continuing to promote gender equity and adopting participatory approaches in monitoring and evaluation.
25. Some representatives pointed out that disaster mitigation activities had to be integrated in other CP activities and no longer remain autonomous. One representative stressed the need to take account of beneficiaries' expectations and boost local capacity.
26. The Secretariat observed that conditions in the country had developed from a very urgent situation to a stage where aid activities were called for. It also informed the Board that a VAM unit had been established in the country office.

Country Programme—Pakistan (2001–2003) (2001/EB.2/10)

27. The Board approved the Country Programme and drew attention to the fact that the CP was being adjusted to the CSO. It praised the CP's focus on women and children, and its adaptation to the Enabling Development policy. The Board also praised the CP's integration in the Government's Poverty Reduction Programme.
28. One representative pointed out that partnerships with the NGOs had to be strengthened. In this connection, the Board was informed that WFP was collaborating with NGOs in asset-creation activities for women in rural areas. As regards education and health activities, another representative expressed concern regarding possible duplication of activities by other bodies. The Secretariat assured the Board that WFP maintained collaborative associations with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
29. Some representatives drew attention to the use of VAM and minimum quality standards in the selection of education and health services. A number of representatives pointed out that the monitoring plan used output indicators, and praised the coordination with the Government in beneficiary contact monitoring and in conducting periodic studies.
30. In reply to a question concerning the relatively short duration of the Country Programme, the Secretariat reported that in this way it would be possible to harmonize the CP with the planning cycles of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) bodies.



Country Programme—Nepal (2002–2006) (2001/EB.2/11)

31. The Board approved the Country Programme and welcomed WFP's strategic approach, in which provision was made for a shift in activities from the relatively richer lowlands to vulnerable people in mountain areas.
32. Some representatives expressed concern regarding the possible impact of the civil conflict in the western regions of the country on WFP's activities. The Secretariat pointed out that work was already ongoing in dangerous areas and that there had been no problems.
33. One representative asked whether the process of strengthening capacity also covered ministries. The Secretariat replied that this process was a priority of the donor community and that WFP was making its contribution at the district and community levels.
34. Some representatives pointed out that when shifting activities from the lowlands to remote mountain areas WFP had to pay attention to coordination and partnerships. It was felt that WFP's partnership with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) was unique among its kind and could be applied to other CPs.
35. Some representatives drew the Secretariat's attention to the fact that the local purchase of food did not exhaust the capacity of markets in remote areas. The Secretariat pointed out that food was always bought in surplus low-lying areas and redistributed in food-deficit hill and mountain areas in order that the infrastructure created by WFP activities would contribute towards extending market access.

Country Programme—United Republic of Tanzania (2002–2006) (2001/EB.2/12)

36. The Board approved the Country Programme and highlighted the close coordination with the Government in drawing it up. It expressed its appreciation of the incorporation of the lessons learned, the efforts to adapt to the Government's strategies and policies, coordination with donors and the promotion of local and regional purchases.
37. Several representatives highlighted the importance of ensuring that the work of WFP was in line with the national strategy for agriculture and rural development. The Government representative confirmed that the Country Programme fully supported national strategies and policies.
38. Several representatives mentioned the importance of strengthening coordination through local purchases and addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS, including by means of education. The Secretariat pointed out that the activities relating to HIV/AIDS would be based on WFP's comparative advantage and on the availability of resources.
39. One representative reported that VAM had to be integrated in the national structure for food security analysis and perfected even more so as to allow for a geographical orientation of aid and flexibility in the selection of beneficiaries.
40. In answer to a representative, the Secretariat informed the Board of the close coordination with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the Participatory Development Irrigation Project, and with FAO in the Special Food Security Programme.



Country Programme—Nicaragua (2002–2006) (2001/EB.2/13)

41. The Board approved the Country Programme and congratulated WFP on the innovative activities it was carrying out and the good results achieved, as in the case of Assistance to Street Children. It recommended that the experience gained be applied in other countries. Likewise recognized was the use of the logical framework, and in this connection, the Board recommend that this management tool be integrated in all the Country Programmes put before it.
42. The Board stressed the importance of the disaster preparation and mitigation activities. One representative highlighted the fact that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative had enabled the Government to apply the health and education strategy.
43. It was thought that the level of basic activities was adequate and reasonable, while that of supplementary activities was overly ambitious, given the limited resources.

Country Programme—Guatemala (2001–2004) (2001/EB.2/14)

44. The Board approved the Country Programme and was pleased to note that it was focused on priority areas, especially on women and children. The Board congratulated WFP on the quality of the CP.
45. The Board valued the important contribution from the Government and United Nations bodies in drawing up the CP and congratulated the Government on its work in improving logistics and reimbursing the commodity losses that took place between 1995 and 2000.
46. Several Board representatives praised the use of the logical framework and results-based management and were pleased to note that much progress had been made in relation to the use of such management tools in the Latin America region.

a) Budget Increase to Development Activity for Executive Board Approval—Ethiopia 10004.0/Act3 (2001/EB.2/15)

b) Budget Increase to Development Activity for Executive Board Approval—Mozambique 10012.0/Act2 (2001/EB.2/16)

c) Budget Increase to Development Activity for Executive Board Approval—Nepal 03718.1 (2001/EB.2/17)

47. The Board approved the budget increases to WFP development activities in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nepal. A number of representatives drew attention to the impact of school feeding on human capital through the improvement of the nutritional status of boys and girls, and also on the rise in enrolment rates and increase in school assistance.

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation for Executive Board Approval—Armenia 10053.0 (2001/EB.2/18)

48. The Board approved PRRO 10053.0 in Armenia and expressed its appreciation that the activities were directed towards improving the situation of the poorest segments of the population, especially women and children. It thought it was suitable that the PRRO should be part of a national poverty reduction strategy. One representative drew attention to the



inclusion in the document of a section on cost containment, while another pointed out the usefulness of carrying out an evaluation one year after implementation of the project.

49. In reply to a question from a representative, the Secretariat pointed out that the nutrition and food security survey had been carried out in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR and that the evaluation of food security was adjusted to the methodology drawn up by the Save the Children Fund. In reply to another question on food-for-work activities, the Secretariat replied that their scope would depend on the availability of non-food items provided by partners.

- a) Development Projects Approved by the Executive Director, 1 July–31 December 2000 (2001/EB.2/19)
- b) Budget Increases to Development Projects Approved by the Executive Director, 1 July–31 December 2000 (2001/EB.2/20)
- c) Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Approved by the Executive Director (1 July–31 December 2000)—Djibouti 06266.0 (2001/EB.2/21)
- d) Budget Increases to Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Approved by the Executive Director, 1 July–31 December 2000 (2001/EB.2/22)

50. The Board took note of the development projects and PRROs, and also of the budget increases to development projects and PRROs, approved by the Executive Director, 1 July–31 December 2000.
51. Many representatives referred to the difficult situation in the Palestinian territories and to new events in that region, and requested that the Board consider an increase in resources for development project 06276.0, in view of the difficult conditions of the population and the requirements of food security, support for economic activities and support for the role of women. Some referred to the humanitarian nature of such a request, while others pointed out that any new development projects had to be evaluated. One representative wondered about how to collect the necessary additional resources. Another representative observed that the Board had to follow existing procedures where an emergency was believed to exist.
52. The Secretariat advised that it would take account of the Board representatives' comments in its evaluations. It added that WFP's priority was to ensure that the necessary resources were available for the PRROs and emergency operations in progress, and that these operations were planned in such a way that assistance was granted to those most in need.



REPORTS BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Relevant to the Work of WFP (2001/EB.2/23)

53. The Board took note of the report, and in particular the recommendations relevant to WFP, and also the follow-up action that the Secretariat was to carry out in its permanent coordination with the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations.
54. The JIU representative stressed that the document should be adjusted to the format used by United Nations bodies and include detailed and informative observations that represented "best practice".
55. The Board expressed satisfaction concerning the permanent dialogue between the JIU and WFP and showed an interest in WFP's policy on the use of consultants' services, the recruitment and retention of young professionals, and the handling of inspection and investigation procedures. Concerning the monitoring system, the Secretariat advised that it would communicate its proposal to the JIU after the examination and the results of an internal consultation. It hoped to submit a definitive proposal to the Board during the Third Regular Session, 2001.
56. The Board expressed its concern regarding unequal geographical representation of WFP staff, especially in the management area, and agreed that this aspect was a fundamental criterion for the contracting of staff, in addition to a candidate's qualifications and to transparency in the process.
57. In response to a request from a representative, the Secretariat advised that it would publish the JIU reports on the WFP website.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2001

58. The Board approved the Summary of the Work of the First Regular Session, 2001, which its Rapporteur had drawn up and which had been circulated to the representatives for their observations.

OTHER BUSINESS

59. One representative, supported by several representatives of the Board, requested that the difficulties with respect to resources for the PRRO Assistance to Refugees from the Western Sahara be examined, owing to a possible worsening of the beneficiaries' food situation on account of a lack of resources. Many representatives urged that full support be given to this PRRO and expressed their concern regarding the inadequacy of funds that affected it.
60. The Secretariat described the measures that had been adopted to request additional resources for the PRRO in question, among them a visit to donors at camps and the contributions that have recently been confirmed or that are being negotiated. In reply to a



question from a representative concerning monitoring and transparency, the Secretariat pointed out that WFP had engaged extra staff and introduced a new commodity tracking system.

61. Some representatives observed that, although the recent examination carried out by the Secretariat had revealed that the difficulties in mobilizing resources were not related to the creation of the PRRO category, some specific operations showed serious deficits. The Secretariat pointed out that some of the operations with insufficient financing had begun very recently, and made the point that it often took some time before the results of requests for resources were forthcoming.