REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

For information

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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY-31 DECEMBER 1999)— CAMBODIA 6188.00

Supplementary Feeding of Mothers and Young Children in Food-insecure Areas

Number of beneficiaries	**108,500**
Duration	Eighteen months
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	4,211,301
Total food cost	2,174,560
Total cost to Government	176,621

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to 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 point(s) indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).

1.   While great strides have been made towards political stability and social recovery in Cambodia, the country continues to face enormous challenges in providing the most basic access to food and essential health services. This is especially true in the case of rural areas, where 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line.

2.   With the worst national malnutrition rates among children under 5 years of age in Southeast Asia, [1] as well as alarming rates of low birth weight, anaemia, and underweight among mothers, Cambodia's nutritional situation is a silent emergency.

3.   In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses Objective 1—Enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs.

4.   WFP's response to the situation under this quick action project will provide mothers and children (6 to 59 months) living in food-insecure areas with an essential food supplement which will be part of integrated community development initiatives implemented by partner NGOs (*inter alia*, CARE, Lutheran World Services, Catholic Relief Services, Partnership For Development, and Adventist Development and Relief Agency).

5.   Cooperation between NGOs and Government partners will allow project participants to benefit from a judicious mix of interventions aimed at improving their health and nutritional status at critical points in their development.

6.   In targeted areas all children between 6 months and 5 years of age, and expectant and nursing mothers, will receive supplementary feeding. In addition, they will benefit from growth monitoring activities, health and nutrition education, and basic health care and preventive health activities. Community-based structures will implement activities at the village level, and capacity-building of local volunteers will be stressed through extensive training. Monitoring and evaluation components will play a strong role in determining future involvement in supplementary feeding projects.

7.   The operation will be implemented as a pilot activity in order to assess the appropriateness of implementation and design strategies. The lessons learned from it will guide the possible expansion of supplementary feeding in Cambodia.

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[1] National stunting rates of 56 percent, underweight rates of 52 percent and wasting at 13 percent (Socio-Economic Survey of Cambodia/Multi-indicator Cluster Survey, 1996), and seasonal sub-national rates of acute malnutrition at 20 percent for children under 5 (WFP/UNICEF, 1998).