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QUICK ACTION PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1998)—TANZANIA 5975.00

Support to food security and rural infrastructure in drought-prone areas through self-help schemes

Duration	Eighteen months (1 June 1998–30 November 1999)
Total cost to WFP	1,435,824 dollars
Total cost to Government	184,000 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	78,500

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, 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.

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.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

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1. With a population estimated at about 30.8 million and an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent, Tanzania has been ranked by the World Bank as one of the poorest countries in the world. It has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of 656 dollars, and about 60 percent of its population live in absolute poverty.
2. As a country classified as both least developed (LDC) and low-income, food-deficit (LIFDC) whose economy is highly dependent on agricultural production, the Government of Tanzania's main objectives in this sector are to a) enhance food security, ensuring self-sufficiency in food production and improving nutrition; b) increase crop export earnings; and c) improve rural incomes and contribute to poverty alleviation.
3. Indeed, poverty is severe in rural regions where there is limited or no access to social services such as education, health and sanitation facilities, inadequate supply of safe water, environmental degradation, low incomes and gender disparities. In the food-deficit regions many people, especially women and children, suffer from malnutrition.
4. While Tanzania is marginally food-secure in terms of average yearly food production, 40 percent of the population live in regions with a chronic food deficit. Repeated drought/flood conditions in the past two years have led to serious shortfalls in the household food security situation. This problem is compounded by the poor road infrastructure in most rural parts of the country and post-harvest grain losses resulting from insect infestations and humidity.
5. The Country Strategy Outline (CSO) and the Country Strategy Note (CSN) (now being finalized) recognize that while emergency operations (EMOPs) currently dominate assistance to Tanzania, high priority ought to be given to promoting increased food security in food-deficit and disaster-prone areas. In this context, the long-term objective of this project is to support the Government's strategies for increased household food security and the development and maintenance of viable rural infrastructural assets in drought-prone regions.
6. While building on successful experiences under the emergency operation (EMOP 5889), this quick action project seeks to emphasize recovery and longer-term developmental outputs that will help mitigate future food shortages arising from natural disasters. To this end, it will support the following activities, depending on the priorities determined by village communities:
 - a) Three thousand five hundred people (drought/flood-affected) will be engaged in food-for-work (FFW) activities for improved farming techniques in agro-forestry and the maintenance of traditional irrigation systems on about 175 hectares of farmland;
 - b) A total of 9,000 people will participate, using FFW, in the construction and maintenance of 710 kilometres of secondary feeder roads, 450 traditional grain stores, and 146 classrooms; and
 - c) Three thousand two hundred rural women will be given training courses in literacy, hygiene, and productive skills.

