

Executive Board Second Regular Session

Rome, 24 - 26 March 1997

## EVALUATION REPORTS

## Agenda item 5

## **COVERING NOTE**



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- 1. The Executive Director is submitting to the Executive Board for its consideration four evaluation reports which together cover a wide range of WFP's activities. Each examines the sustainability of benefits from WFP assistance and identifies factors contributing to this, often with a very broad-based relevance for WFP's assistance portfolio.
  - a) "Ex-post evaluation of impact and sustainability of selected WFP-assisted projects in China" looks at four completed projects. Two of these (projects 2639 and 2697) are recently completed irrigation schemes. The others (2744 and 3146), land improvement projects, were re-evaluated with up-dated information. All are shown to have been highly successful model projects, demonstrating significant economic returns as well as environmental, institutional and benefit sustainability.
  - b) "Thematic evaluation on food aid and tribal peoples: Forestry projects in India" considers the achievements and effects of WFP assistance to tribal people in India, delivered through five development projects carried out in forest areas. The study notes the improvements in benefit to these chronically food-insecure communities achieved through the steady evolution of project design, but also identifies areas where attention is still required.
  - c) "Thematic evaluation of project Brazil 2732: Feeding of pre-school and primary schoolchildren in depressed areas" reviews the successful phasing out of WFP assistance as part of the process of closing down a country programme. WFP assistance to Brazil's National School Feeding Programme was brought to an end with the decentralization of responsibility to local authorities. WFP's technical assistance in developing training packages for personnel in the North-east greatly assisted the process of decentralization. The study identifies many useful lessons in preparing school feeding projects for a successful hand-over and phase-out.
  - d) "Evaluation of WFP-assisted emergency relief operations in the Caucasus" assesses the contribution made by WFP relief assistance in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. More particularly, it reviews the impact of the Caucasus Logistics Advisory Unit (CLAU), which was established to revitalize the regional transport/logistics network, essential to the delivery and distribution of relief supplies. The evaluation found that, while the food assistance has been valuable in preventing hunger and malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups, the CLAU operation has had important long-term benefits in improving the operations of the port and rail network in the region.
- 2. Factors which have contributed to the success of these activities include:
  - a) appropriate systems developed by the respective governments to ensure institutionalization of the approach applied in the activities and continuity of effort, in many cases with support actively provided by WFP for the development or application of such systems; and
  - b) increased attention to participation of the beneficiary community in decision-making in the selection, planning and implementation of the activities, as well as in the maintenance and management of assets.



