

Executive Board Second Regular Session

Rome, 12 - 15 May 1998

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GAMBIA 5932.00

Primary school feeding (transitory project)

Total cost to WFP 2 328 748 dollars

Total cost to Government 141 458 dollars

Food requirement 2 937 tons

Number of beneficiaries 96 000 schoolchildren

Duration of project Ten months:

School year 1997/98 (Jan.-June 1998)

School year 1998/99 (Sept.-Dec. 1998)

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

ABSTRACT

The project aims to address the problem of a gap in the supply of food to primary schools. It was devised to compensate for the extended preparation time required by the Government to create the conditions for a targeted, sustainable proposal that fully incorporates WFP guidelines and a phasing-out strategy. While representing a continuation of previous WFP assistance to the education sector, the project also marks a transition from an open-ended approach to one which includes strategic features essential to effecting a sustainable and finite intervention. Specifically, those areas which have already achieved the enrolment target of 74 percent for 1998 set out under the Revised National Education Policy will not be considered for inclusion; emphasis will be placed instead on assisting those which have yet to do so. The number of areas covered will be progressively reduced as they achieve the established target.

The project will contribute the Government's objective of improving the access to, and quality and relevance of, education; it will specifically serve as an incentive for increasing enrolment and improving attendance in primary schools, especially of girls. Food aid will be an integral part of the resources deployed in a coordinated effort by the Government, WFP, the World Bank, NGOs and the cooperating communities to raise the primary school gross enrolment ratio to 95 percent by the year 2008, at the same time improving attendance, quality and relevance of education, and promoting gender equity.

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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:

Chief OSA/4: O. Sarroca tel.: 6513-2505

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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.: 6513-2641).



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