

برنامج
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Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 13 - 14 May 1999

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 6



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/99/6-C/5

7 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BASIC ACTIVITY WITHIN A COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— BANGLADESH 2197.10

Rural development

Total number of beneficiaries	450,000
Number of beneficiaries supported by WFP	195,200
Duration of activity	Two years

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	106,374,867
Total food cost to WFP	64,050,000
Total cost to Government	93,369,200
External funding (bilateral)	131,160,000

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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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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



1. The Country Programme for Bangladesh was approved by the Executive Board in October 1996, with Rural Development as one of the basic activities. Food is used within the framework of larger interventions aimed at supporting the poorest of the poor, increasingly women. The main objectives of the activity are: creation of immediate employment opportunities to improve household food security; creation of individual and community assets; provision of access to skills development and credit and participation in long-term developmental activities.
2. Rural Development is a nation-wide activity supported by the Government, bilateral donors and WFP. It has four components, i.e. road, forestry, water and fisheries. The activity provides employment opportunities to nearly half a million workers annually.
3. A total quantity of 866,000 tons of wheat (500,000 from bilateral donors and 366,000 from WFP) and the cash equivalent of \$37.5 million from the Government are planned to be utilized during the entire four-year period (1997–2000). This is expected to involve two million participants, benefiting more than 10 million people. During the last two years, the activity (supported by the Government, bilateral donors and WFP) has utilized a total quantity of 275,000 tons of wheat and \$8.1 million in cash to support various activities, directly involving 900,000 workers and benefiting nearly 4.5 million people. The activity is now extended for a cycle of two years (January 1999–December 2000).
4. Since January 1997, the activity has been reoriented towards placing a stronger emphasis on people and focusing more on maintenance work. This resulted in an increase in the participation of women. In line with WFP's Commitments to Women, the resource allocation to women has been increased during the last two years from 13 to 33 percent; this is planned to be further increased to 44 percent by 1999 and to 50 percent (or 250,000 women) by the end of 2000.
5. In addition to joint partnership with some 96 NGOs within the forestry and fishery components, collaborations have been established with more than 30 NGOs for the provision of development assistance including savings and credit, which increasingly benefit women.
6. Implementation of various rural development activities is ongoing. They are concentrated mostly during the lean seasons. The allocations of food aid are targeted to priority geographic areas on the basis of their relative food insecurity.
7. In line with the re-orientation of the activity, several key issues are being addressed. Greater coordination and cooperation have been established with the Government, food aid donors and United Nations agencies. More emphasis has been placed on strengthening project design, implementation and improved monitoring. Concerted efforts are being made to bring greater awareness and contributions from the various stakeholders: Government, donors, NGOs, WFP and the general public.

