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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

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Agenda item 11

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2010) — LESOTHO 200199

School Meals Programme

Number of beneficiaries	110,000 (51 percent girls)
Duration of project	2 years (1 January 2011–31 December 2012)
WFP food tonnage	7,524 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	2,390,454
Total cost to WFP	4,833,128
Total cost to Government ¹	1,304,794

¹ The Government of Lesotho will provide funding for 30,000 of the 110,000 beneficiaries.

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information

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 points 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 Ms I. Carpitella, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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ABSTRACT

1. Since 2008, Lesotho has been deeply affected by the global financial crisis. Revenue from the Southern Africa Customs Union, which forms a large portion of the Government's budget, decreased by 56 percent in 2009; government revenue in general is expected to decline by nearly 30 percent in 2010–2011. Remittances from migrant workers in South Africa have declined significantly in recent years as a result of retrenchment in the mining industry. A reduction in textile exports has severely affected the normally robust textile and clothing industry.
2. In recent years, the Government gradually took over responsibility for much of the school feeding programme, with the expectation that it would run the entire programme by the end of 2010. However, owing to the economic downturn, WFP has been requested to continue providing assistance for two more years, from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012.
3. As part of its long-term education strategy, the Government is committed to providing free and compulsory primary education. It provides school meals to roughly two thirds of schools in the country, while WFP covers the remaining one third. Assuming a favourable economic forecast, the Government should be able to take over the entire school meals programme by the end of 2012.
4. Development project 200199 provides food assistance to communities in the remote and economically disadvantaged mountainous regions of Lesotho. The objective is to provide an incentive for impoverished families to enrol their children in school, and to enhance regular attendance and learning retention.
5. Whenever possible, WFP endeavours to procure food for this project locally. WFP is responsible for delivering food to schools, and collaborates with non-governmental organizations and government ministries on complementary interventions, including school gardens, woodlots and orchards. The project works in conjunction with the activities of other United Nations agencies, such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) projects in health, sanitation and HIV prevention education.
6. Following the recommendation of a 2009 mid-term evaluation, WFP and the Ministry of Education and Training will work together to harmonize existing monitoring systems, including using common monitoring tools and performance indicators. WFP will work with the Ministry to improve communication facilities between district offices and the Ministry's headquarters, to optimize the efficiency of a common monitoring system.
7. The Government will provide WFP with funding to feed 30,000 of the 110,000 children in WFP-assisted schools. The two-year period will also be used to fine-tune a national school feeding approach that will eventually be applied to all primary schools in Lesotho. Throughout, WFP will continue its efforts to develop the Government's technical and managerial capacity to take over the entire project.
8. An evaluation will be undertaken towards the end of 2012 to determine:
 - the Government's progress towards achieving sufficient resources to operate the school meals programme;
 - progress in achieving the technical and managerial capacity required to take over the remaining WFP-assisted schools; and
 - the effectiveness of project components in enhancing enrolment, attendance and learning retention.