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**Executive Board
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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2008) — DJIBOUTI 10727.0

Food for Education in Rural Areas

Number of beneficiaries	18,000 (annual average)
Duration of project	5 years (1 January 2008–31 December 2012)
WFP food tonnage	5,226 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	2,995,220
Total cost to WFP	6,004,106

* 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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ABSTRACT

1. Djibouti is a least-developed low-income food-deficit country, with a population of 632,000 people and a 2.8 percent annual population growth rate. It was ranked 148th of 177 countries in the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report* for 2006. Seventy-four percent of the population lives in relative poverty, and 42 percent in extreme poverty. Illiteracy levels are high at 46 percent. The national net enrolment rate for primary education increased from 46 percent in 2000/01 to 55 percent in 2005/06, but geographical disparities persist. In 2005/06, the net enrolment rate in urban areas was 56 percent, but only 43 percent in rural areas. Primary school completion rates are similarly low, with national rates of 68 percent.
2. A joint WFP and Government emergency food security assessment in 2006 identified seasonal vulnerability and food insecurity by livelihood zones, and recommended that school feeding continue in rural areas of Djibouti. A WFP programme review conducted in 2007 also recommended a focus on school feeding. In line with these recommendations, a school feeding project has been formulated that incorporates the results of the school feeding evaluation undertaken in November 2007.
3. The project objectives are to increase primary school enrolment, attendance and completion; and to reduce the gender gap by improving enrolment, attendance and completion rates for girls. It will provide a morning snack and cooked mid-day meal to all children enrolled in the country's 65 rural primary schools, providing 1,080 kilocalories per student per day. In addition, the operation will provide take-home rations to the families of girls in grades 3 to 5 (4,500) who attend school at least 80 percent of the school days.
4. The project is consistent with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008–2012, Millennium Development Goal 2 to achieve universal primary education, the Government Master Plan for Education and the national priorities of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. The project addresses WFP's Strategic Objective 4, "Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition".
5. A national food-for-education strategy is being developed with WFP assistance as part of the wider education sector policy and will act as an entry point for a progressive handing over of the school feeding activities to the Government.