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Programme
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de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 16 - 18 May 2001

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

For information*



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2000)— CAPE VERDE 06263.0 (former WIS no. 6263.00)

Assistance to Primary and Pre-school Canteens

Number of beneficiaries	81,500 per year (50 percent girls)
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Duration of project	Four years
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Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	6 052 058
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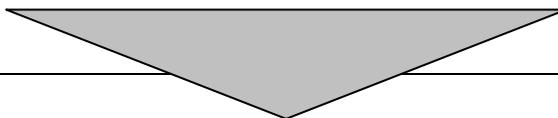
Total food cost	2 793 306
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Total cost to Government	1 850 000
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* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it in advance of the meeting and the chair accepts the request on the grounds that this is a proper use of Board time.

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Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

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.

Director, Africa Region (OSA): Mr M. Aranda da Silva tel.: 066513-2201

Programme Adviser, OSA: Ms C. Berthaud tel.: 066513-2370

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



Draft Conclusion

- The Board took note, in document WFP/EB.2/2001/7-A/3, of the continuation of WFP assistance to 69,500 primary school students and 258 pre-school centres in order to increase schoolchildren's capacity to learn.

1. Classified as one of the least developed countries (LDCs) and low-income, food deficit countries (LIFDCs), Cape Verde is 105th in the UNDP's/HDI ranking. The geographical and climatic situation of the country, the scarcity of arable land and drinking-water, the high rate of population growth and the lack of employment in rural areas result in very high pressure placed on natural resources as well as in soil degradation. Food security is precarious: even in years with good rainfall, the country produces only 20 percent of its cereals needs.
2. Over 30 percent of the population lives in poverty and 14 percent in conditions of absolute poverty, affecting mainly women and in particular unwed mothers.
3. The insufficient level of agricultural production, as well as the rate of unemployment and poverty of the people, directly affect pre-school and school-age children, who in the vast majority, go to pre-school centres or to school without breakfast.
4. At the end of the preceding phases, various measures were put in place to improve the management of project resources. These measures concern notably the training workshops organized in April 2000 for civil servants and warehouse managers of the national counterpart, the introduction of a new manual for logistic procedures, the formulation of a plan to treat and fumigate stocks, as well as the joint development (WFP/Government) of quarterly plans for distribution and assessment.
5. In order to increase the learning capacity of pupils by countering the effects of short-term hunger, to consolidate achievements of the previous phases, especially as regards the high rate of school attendance, and to strengthen to the pre-school sector, WFP approved a project allowing the continuation of assistance by targeting an average of 69,500 students a year (of which 50 percent are girls) in primary schools, bringing together children from deprived backgrounds. The project will also assist 258 pre-school centres attended by 12,000 children (annual average) between 4 and 6 years old, also from deprived homes.
6. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP bases its development activities on five objectives. This project relates to objective 2: to enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training.

