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## **WFP'S FOLLOW-UP TO THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT, ITS ROLE IN THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN**

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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.

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# Executive Summary



During its First Regular Session of 2001, the Executive Board requested that the Secretariat prepare an information paper on WFP's follow-up to the Millennium Summit, its role in the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, and the outcome of the United Nations Special Session on Children. WFP has been pursuing many of the goals set out in those global fora. This information paper covers those that are most relevant to WFP's mandate.

The Millennium Summit and the Millennium Declaration reinforce WFP's ongoing efforts to:

- eradicate poverty and support development;
- protect the vulnerable; and
- meet the special needs of Africa.

The goal of the World Food Summit—to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by 2015—is central to everything WFP does. Both in terms of total volume, as well as country targeting, WFP's programmes represent an impressive contribution to the advancement of the World Food Summit objectives.

The draft Outcome Document of the United Nations Special Session on Children calls for a renewed commitment to ensuring that all children have access to and complete primary education by 2015. WFP is the largest provider of international assistance to school feeding programmes. In 2000, 12.3 million schoolchildren participated in WFP school feeding programmes in 54 countries. Food aid has proven effective in encouraging families to send their children, particularly their daughters, to school, helping to keep them there, and helping children learn better once they are in school.

However, increased resources for WFP's development programmes are essential if WFP is to contribute fully to meeting many of the important development goals of the Millennium Summit, the World Food Summit and the United Nations Special Session on Children.

## Draft Conclusion



The Board took note of the information on WFP's follow-up to the Millennium Summit, its role in the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, and the United Nations Special Session on Children, contained in document WFP/EB.3/2001/4-B.



## INTRODUCTION

1. During its First Regular Session of 2001, the Executive Board requested that the Secretariat prepare an information paper on WFP's follow-up to the Millennium Summit, especially the Programme's role in the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, and the outcome of the United Nations Special Session on Children.
2. These global events are an important platform for addressing issues relevant to the Programme's mandate and operations. They also provide opportunities to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between WFP's activities and those of other United Nations agencies, civil society and governments. WFP, working with partners, seeks to ensure that the Plans of Action emerging from these global summits reflect the importance of the Programme's primary interest—helping the hungry poor.
3. The Declarations or Plans of Action that come out of these global summits are blueprints for future action. Priority areas are identified, and objectives and targets set. Many of the goals set out at the three global fora mentioned above are consistent with WFP's own mandate and reinforce existing programming priorities in both development and humanitarian situations, and in fact, for many years, have been pursued by WFP. This information paper covers a select number of objectives that are most relevant to WFP's mandate.

## THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT

4. The Millennium Summit, held in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, brought together more world leaders than any other United Nations global summit. Those leaders re-affirmed their commitment to a wide range of development goals. Those goals are specified in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by the General Assembly in Resolution 53/202 and shared with the Executive Board at its October 2000 session.
5. Prior to the Summit, WFP senior managers and staff participated in various inter-agency task forces and fora, at which the Programme underlined the critical linkages between hunger and poverty and ensured that these key elements were incorporated into the Summit's preparation and outcome. These fora included the Administrative Committee on Coordination, including its High-level Committee on Programmes; the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee; the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs; and the Secretary-General's Senior Management Group.
6. The Executive Director, accompanied by a delegation of senior managers and staff, attended the Millennium Summit, and following the Summit, WFP actively participated in the inter-agency process to develop a "road map" for implementation of the Declaration within the United Nations system. This road map was submitted to the General Assembly at its 56<sup>th</sup> Session. The Secretary-General is expected to prepare a comprehensive report every five years, supplemented by an annual report on progress achieved towards implementing the Declaration, and WFP will contribute actively to both of these exercises.

### Follow-up to the Millennium Summit Objectives

7. The Millennium Summit and the Millennium Declaration reinforce WFP's ongoing efforts to:
  - eradicate poverty and support development (objective 2);



- protect the vulnerable (objective 5); and
- meet the special needs of Africa (objective 6).

## Objective 2: Development and Poverty Eradication

### ✧ *Enabling Environment*

8. WFP's Enabling Development policy embodies the development and poverty-eradication objective of the Millennium Declaration by committing WFP to use food aid to address short-term food requirements and enable the poorest, most food insecure people to participate in and benefit from development opportunities. Carefully targeted food aid, channelled towards WFP's five priority areas for development, helps to establish an enabling environment for development. By overcoming the obstacle of hunger, people have both the time and the energy to engage in development activities. Eradicating hunger is the first step in eradicating poverty.
9. A detailed report on progress made in implementing this development approach was presented to the Executive Board in May 2001 (WFP/EB.A/2001/4-A).
10. Another indication of WFP's commitment to meeting the Millennium Summit goals on poverty eradication and development can be seen by looking at where WFP assistance is targeted. In 2000, over 90 percent of WFP's operational expenditure for development was targeted to the world's poorest countries, LDCs and LIFDCs. WFP targeted 50 percent of its development expenditures to LDCs. These figures illustrate dramatically how WFP is committed to reaching the poorest and thereby contributing to the goal of poverty eradication.
11. Although WFP is committed to the goal of poverty eradication and the Programme's development activities provide direct support to the world's poorest individuals, funding from donors for these activities has decreased dramatically over the past decade, reducing WFP's ability to contribute fully to the achievement of these goals. In 1991, WFP development funding amounted to almost US\$1 billion; in 2000 this figure fell to US\$226 million. This represents a decrease of 76 percent. WFP's development funding in 2000 was at its lowest level in 23 years and amounted to only 14 percent of the Programme's total budget. Increased resources for WFP's development programmes are essential if WFP is to contribute fully to meeting many of the important development goals of the Millennium Summit.

### ✧ *Addressing Debt in Developing Countries*

12. As part of poverty-reduction efforts, the Millennium Declaration committed the international community to implementing an enhanced programme of debt relief. WFP, together with the other Rome-based United Nations agencies, is supporting an effort by the Italian Government to extend bilateral debt reduction to five developing countries with a high incidence of rural poverty. To date, Ecuador and Egypt have entered into negotiations with the Italian Government and have agreed to work with the three major Rome-based agencies in planning and implementing projects through which funds previously used to service debt could be channelled to increase food security and reduce poverty.
13. Other important goals under Objective 2: Development and Poverty Eradication include promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015. These two goals are treated in the section of the paper dealing with the implementation of the World Food Summit Commitments. Another



important goal, ensuring primary schooling, is covered in the section on the United Nations Special Session on Children, to be held in 2002.

## Objective 5: Protecting the Vulnerable

### ✧ *WFP's Emergency Operations*

14. The Millennium Summit Declaration committed the international community to providing assistance and protection to children and civilian populations affected by natural disasters, genocide, armed conflict and other humanitarian emergencies, so that they could resume a normal life as soon as possible. Hunger is an element of most crises, and all of the Programme's emergency and protracted relief and recovery operations target vulnerable, crisis-affected people.
15. WFP is the largest humanitarian organization in the world. In 2000, the Programme delivered over 2.8 million metric tons of emergency food assistance, helping more than 60 million people affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies. In 2000, WFP spent approximately US\$1.2 billion on humanitarian assistance, including recovery operations in 41 countries. Forty-five percent of WFP's humanitarian assistance was in response to war and civil conflict; 55 percent was dedicated to emergency response to natural disasters. Almost one third of WFP's total emergency and recovery expenditures was devoted to drought and crop failure.

### ✧ *Emergency Preparedness and Response*

16. WFP has taken significant steps during the past 18 months towards improving its emergency preparedness and response. The most important improvements include:
  - The creation of Emergency Response Roster and Training, which is supported with strategically located stocks of essential equipment and food to respond to new emergency situations. By the end of 2001, WFP will have 100 staff members trained and on stand-by to deploy to an emergency anywhere in the world within 24–48 hours.
  - The development of contingency planning guidelines and techniques, which have already been used in the Great Lakes Region, West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Balkans, the Southern Caucasus and South-East Asia.
  - The opening of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi, Italy, which serves United Nations operational agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors and is managed by WFP.
  - The development of the Joint Logistics Centres (UNJLCs), led by WFP, which coordinate logistical assets in emergencies. WFP's lead role in developing the concept further was endorsed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group in February 2001.
  - WFP's Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity (SERC) project identified key areas where WFP emergency response could be reinforced, and proposed concrete measures for doing so. Implementation of SERC recommendations has been generously funded by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



- The four-year WFP-DFID institutional strategic partnership is designed primarily to strengthen WFP's emergency response capacity. Its other objectives are: to enhance the quality of programme management; to make greater use of sustainable livelihood approaches (SLA) in all categories of WFP interventions; and to strengthen the Programme's governance and accountability.
17. A more detailed discussion of WFP's improvements in its emergency preparedness and response can be found in the Annual Report of the Executive Director, presented to the Board in May 2001 (WFP/EB.A/2001/3-A).

### 📌 *Reaching the Neediest*

18. WFP strives to ensure that its assistance reaches and benefits the most needy, giving priority to the most severely affected people. This involves working with other United Nations agencies to secure safe and unimpeded access to affected areas and people at all stages of WFP's operations. Regrettably, for many of WFP's major emergency operations (EMOPs) and protracted relief operations (PROs), reaching beneficiaries and maintaining quality access to them remain a formidable challenge. In Angola alone there are an estimated 500,000 people who remain out of the reach of humanitarian assistance.
19. When access is blocked by natural impediments, WFP mobilizes its substantial logistical expertise to deliver food, using all appropriate means to move it, and when necessary, undertakes Special Operations (SOs) to repair damaged infrastructure. For example, in the United Republic of Tanzania, in response to the eastern Zaire refugee crisis, WFP supported the Tanzanian railway corporation with various inputs, including locomotives leased from South Africa, spare parts and technical assistance to address logistic bottlenecks between the Dar-es-Salaam port and the hinterland.
20. More challenging, however, is when access is blocked by fighting or when warring parties seek to block or deny access to particular groups for political or military purposes. In such situations, WFP works within United Nations institutional arrangements to support access negotiations, ensuring that specific food aid delivery requirements are addressed. For example, in southern Sudan, the recent agreement with the Government and rebel movements will permit United Nations agencies to assess needs and provide assistance in the Nuba Mountains, an area that until now has been very underserved. It is by finding solutions to meet the challenges of reaching the neediest that WFP is able to meet the goal to provide assistance to populations affected by disasters and emergencies.

## Objective 6: Meeting the Special Needs of Africa

### 📌 *Assistance to Africa*

21. WFP's programming clearly reflects the Millennium Declaration's emphasis on meeting the special needs of Africa, with sub-Saharan Africa receiving a major share of WFP assistance. In 2000, WFP:
- provided 1.8 million metric tons of food aid, or 51 percent of its total food deliveries, to sub-Saharan Africa;
  - spent 60 percent of its operational expenditures in Africa, amounting to US\$884 million; this compares with 21 percent of total ODA directed towards sub-Saharan Africa in 1998–1999; and
  - was the largest provider of grant assistance to Africa within the United Nations system.



22. This trend continued into 2001, with more than 143 WFP operations ongoing in sub-Saharan Africa, including:
- 76 development projects;
  - 20 protracted relief and recovery operations (PRROs);
  - 47 EMOPS; and
  - 18 active SOs, complementing WFP relief operations.
23. Moreover, WFP is the largest purchaser of goods and services in Africa within the United Nations system. In 2000, the Programme purchased a total of almost 423,000 metric tons of food in sub-Saharan Africa, for a total value of more than US\$75 million. WFP activities help to promote private-sector development, in the transportation sector as well as in food production and marketing in the region.

### ✦ *Tackling HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases*

24. With regard to the HIV/AIDS challenge in Africa, WFP is taking new measures. In May 2000, the Executive Board agreed that the Programme, in collaboration with appropriate partners, should explore ways of using food aid to prevent and mitigate the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on food security (WFP/EB.A/2000/4-A). WFP has distributed guidance on programming for HIV/AIDS to all country offices and briefed the Executive Board's Annual Session in May 2001 on progress made to date.
25. In response to the Secretary-General's call to action, WFP is working to incorporate HIV/AIDS-related interventions into development and recovery programmes and emergency operations. For example:
- In Uganda, WFP is working with three international NGOs and more than 50 local NGOs and community-based organizations to provide food to street children and orphans so that instead of searching for food, they can attend primary school and acquire various practical skills.
  - In Mozambique, the Country Programme specifically targets 8,000 people living with AIDS, and there are plans to address HIV/AIDS in therapeutic feeding programmes.
  - In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Country Programme includes activities that aim to reduce the vulnerability of HIV/AIDS-affected households to food insecurity, with a particular focus on households headed by women.
  - In Malawi, community volunteers working with malnourished children and expectant mothers are trained in AIDS prevention.
26. In August 2001, WFP sent a package of six projects totalling approximately US\$22 million to its major donors for funding for HIV/AIDS activities. These projects include both new activities and expansions of existing ones. WFP expects to submit more projects to donors for funding before the end of the year.

## Other Millennium Objectives

### ✦ *Peace and Security*

27. The Millennium Declaration commits the international community to promoting peace, security and disarmament. While these elements do not fall explicitly within WFP's





mandate, food aid can contribute to stability by addressing the food needs of crisis-affected and/or marginalized people during emergency, recovery and development interventions.

28. Moreover, since the Millennium Summit, WFP has participated in system-wide United Nations efforts to implement the recommendations of the panel chaired by Ambassador Brahimi, which sought to make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security. The “Brahimi Report” called on all United Nations agencies to improve the integration of the military, political, humanitarian and development dimensions of the United Nations during peacekeeping operations. WFP is often active in this arena, as food aid can play a facilitating role during the return, reintegration and recovery of conflict-affected people. For example, over the last decade, WFP has been active in demobilization efforts in Angola, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

### WORLD FOOD SUMMIT: FIVE YEARS LATER

29. The World Food Summit: Five Years Later (WFS-FYL) is scheduled for 5–9 November 2001. The goal of the conference—to reduce the number of undernourished people by half by 2015—is central to everything WFP does. WFP can make an important contribution to the success of WFS-FYL by concentrating the international community’s efforts on specific actions that help advance the goals and objectives established at the 1996 Summit.
30. WFP has worked closely with FAO in the preparatory process leading up to the WFS-FYL. The Programme prepared a fact sheet detailing its contributions to advancing the goals of the World Food Summit, which was distributed as part of the press information package prepared for the WFS-FYL. The Deputy Executive Director, together with his counterparts at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and FAO, participated in a joint panel discussion on the World Food Summit: Five Years Later at the May meeting of the Committee on Food Security. The Assistant Executive Director, now the Deputy Executive Director, also participated in the High-level Panel on Resource Mobilization for Food Security organized by FAO in June as part of the preparatory process for the WFS-FYL. At that time, he stressed the importance of food aid and the adequate financing of WFP’s development programmes as an important element in making further progress in meeting World Food Summit objectives.
31. The Executive Director and other senior staff plan to attend the World Food Summit: Five Years Later. They will emphasize the contribution that well-designed food assistance programmes are making to achieve the goal of reducing the number of undernourished people in the world today. WFP hopes that the WFS-FYL will provide a platform for governments to re-energize their commitment to putting into place comprehensive food security strategies that address the needs of the hungry poor. WFP stands ready to assist, in accordance with its mandate and policies, governments that put such comprehensive food security strategies into place.
32. WFP shares two important messages with governments attending the WFS-FYL included in “Fostering the Political Will to Fight Hunger”, one of the key conference documents. The first is the fact that hunger as both a cause and effect of underdevelopment and poverty deserves a more prominent place in the international community’s approach to poverty reduction. The second is the importance of taking direct action to tackle the hunger problem. While broad-based development is the long-term hope for the hungry poor, there remains an important role for direct action, such as using food assistance to combat hunger.
33. WFP would add that properly targeted food aid is a key element in a comprehensive approach of direct action against hunger. WFP programmes are directed towards those



countries and populations most affected by undernourishment. Hungry families cannot wait for the benefits of long-term development to reach their door. Their food needs are both immediate and urgent.

### Reducing the Number of Undernourished by Half by 2015

34. Both in terms of total volume and country targeting, WFP's programmes represent an impressive contribution to the advancement of the World Food Summit objectives. In 2000:
  - WFP provided assistance to countries where over 90 percent of the world's undernourished people lived, as identified in the 2000 FAO State of Food Insecurity in the World Report; and
  - over 75 percent of all WFP operational expenses, or more than US\$1.1 billion, went towards activities in 49 countries that had the highest proportion of undernourished people as a percentage of their total population (20 percent or higher).
35. If WFP is to make a real contribution to reducing the number of undernourished people by half, then not only its emergency portfolio but also its development projects must be resourced. The 2001 requirements for development total 981,200 metric tons, or approximately US\$364.2 million. This represents approved development projects and Country Programmes. It does not include requirements for expanded or new operations under the School Feeding Initiative.
36. Resources for 2001 received by the end of August 2001 for development total US\$166 million, approximately 500,000 metric tons, which is roughly half the amount required by the projects and Country Programmes.



37. ***Commitment 1: Ensuring an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full participation of women and men.***
38. Ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women is one of the four objectives under Commitment 1 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. WFP has been at the forefront of United Nations agencies in addressing gender issues through the establishment and ongoing implementation of its Commitments to Women. In 2000, WFP conducted a follow-up survey on the implementation of these commitments. Major achievements noted include:
- In 84 percent of WFP food-for-work activities, women participate in identifying the assets to be created and the work to be performed. In three quarters of these activities, women are reported to control the assets created.
  - In 83 percent of WFP-assisted operations, women serve on committees for the identification of beneficiaries and assets, and on food management committees. In one third of these, women participate in a leadership position.
  - More than half of WFP country offices use food aid to leverage funds or other resources to be used to improve the condition of women.
  - Almost 90 percent of WFP country offices address the Commitments in their design of operations and in contractual agreements with partners, and collect gender-disaggregated information on all types of operations.
  - The proportion of women among WFP's International Professional staff increased from 25 percent in 1996 to 36 percent in 2000.
39. ***Commitment 2: Policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its utilization.***
40. Objective 2.2 under Commitment 2 of the World Food Summit Plan of Action highlights the importance of better information and stronger national Food Insecurity, Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) in order to achieve a reduction in world hunger. WFP has made a significant contribution to implementation of this objective through its vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) units. VAM units are working in more than 35 countries to:
- develop food security and vulnerability databases;
  - assess emergency and chronic food insecurity conditions;
  - reinforce national assessment capabilities; and
  - improve the methodologies of vulnerability analysis.
41. National food security database development efforts include notable successes in China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Kenya, Mali and Nepal. Through VAM, WFP supports capacity-building in the area of food security assessment in many countries, including Cambodia, Guatemala, India, Mozambique, Nicaragua and the United Republic of Tanzania.



42. WFP has also been an important participant in the Inter-Agency Working Group on FIVIMS, where a consensus concerning a new standard on food security assessment methods is emerging and being applied at both the national and global levels. WFP's FIVIMS work is increasingly undertaken through VAM-led cooperative activities involving other United Nations agencies, host governments, NGOs and donors. VAM's FIVIMS theoretical and pilot fieldwork has been generously funded by the Canadian, Dutch, Spanish and United States governments.
43. ***Commitment 5: To prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development.***
44. Commitment 5 of the Plan of Action calls for efforts to mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters and meet emergency food requirements resulting from such disasters. WFP operates the world's largest programme of international food assistance to victims of natural and man-made disasters. Furthermore, WFP is strengthening its commitment to natural disaster prevention and mitigation activities, as called for in the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Out of all the Country Programmes and Country Strategy Outlines approved in 2000, over 80 percent included a disaster mitigation component. Furthermore, 30 times more contingency plans were prepared in 2000 than in any year, including and before 1995, improving WFP's ability to respond quickly and effectively to both natural and man-made disasters.
45. WFP is working with its United Nations partners to ensure that disaster mitigation is fully integrated into United Nations comprehensive programming. In almost one third of the countries that have development activities, WFP chairs the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Disaster Mitigation Theme Group.
46. If WFP is to contribute effectively to mitigating disasters, then these types of development activities need to be resourced.

## OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN

47. The United Nations Special Session on Children, originally scheduled for 19–21 September and postponed until sometime in 2002, will mark the tenth anniversary of the Children's Summit. WFP was active during the preparatory committee meetings, with WFP's Deputy Executive Director and other senior staff working to strengthen both the nutrition and food security content of the draft Outcome Document.

### Ensuring Primary Schooling

48. The Millennium Declaration and the WFS-FYL both emphasized the importance of primary schooling and equal access to education in eradicating poverty and promoting development. Objective 2.4 of the Plan of Action specifically calls for action to support "complete primary education including, where appropriate, school feeding programmes". The draft Outcome Document of the United Nations Special Session on Children calls for a renewed commitment to ensuring by 2015 that all children have access to and complete primary education. WFP's focus at the United Nations Special Session on Children will concern the Programme's work in this area and the recently launched School Feeding Initiative. An update on WFP's school feeding programmes was submitted to the Executive Board at its May session, 2001 (WFP/EB.A/2001/4-E).



49. WFP is the largest provider of international assistance to school feeding programmes. In 2000, 12.3 million schoolchildren participated in WFP school feeding programmes in 54 countries. Food aid has proven effective in encouraging families to send their children, particularly their daughters, to school, helping to keep them there, and helping children learn better once they are in school.
50. The objective of the School Feeding Initiative is to encourage governments throughout the world to put in place national school feeding programmes that will provide nutritious food to all children who need it. Therefore:
- WFP is supporting the establishment, expansion or improvement of *national* school feeding schemes. While it is sometimes appropriate to begin in limited (sub-national) geographic areas and expand from this base, WFP is assisting governments in progressing towards national coverage.
  - WFP is working with governments as its primary partners, as only governments can assume responsibility for national school feeding schemes. Within this framework, WFP works in collaboration with a variety of non-governmental players—both international and locally based entities.
  - WFP is keeping school feeding at the centre of the initiative. In many developing countries, there is much that could be done to strengthen the education system. This is a highly complex and multi-faceted task, one for which food aid is not the most effective resource. WFP's approach uses food aid where *food* is needed. WFP does not monetize food commodities to fund related educational support activities. The Programme relies on appropriate partners.
51. The benefits stemming from school feeding programmes include:
- **Increased school attendance.** In families struggling to make ends meet, a school feeding programme can make the difference between sending children to school or relying on their labour to supplement the family income.
  - **A reduction in the “gap”.** The unequal rate of school attendance between girls and boys persists in a number of countries. School feeding can help close that gap.
  - **Improved learning.** A meal early in the day helps children remain alert and concentrate.
52. Increases in the literacy rates resulting from school feeding also contribute to improved maternal and infant health, and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, especially when girls are educated. The correlation between women's education and improvements in child nutrition cannot be overemphasized.

## Partners

53. WFP is also strengthening partnerships with UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and NGOs to make sure that school feeding is part and parcel of broader efforts to improve access to and the quality of education. Within the broad framework of government coordination, WFP is working constructively with its partners, local and international NGOs and other United Nations agencies.
54. In particular, WFP is working with WHO and the World Bank to include deworming in WFP school feeding programmes. School feeding combined with health education and health interventions can greatly enhance the benefits of education for children.
55. Other examples of collaboration include the Dominican Republic, where WFP is working closely with World Vision (in the construction of school kitchens), WHO



(nutritional investigation and follow-up, deworming), UNICEF and the World Bank (in to undertake a joint study on the gender gap in primary education), together with the Government. Peru offers another example: UNESCO provides support through WFP for the local production of educational materials (posters, nutrition manuals and interactive tools such as puzzles and board games).

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## CONCLUSION

56. WFP is committed to meeting the goals and objectives set out in the Millennium Summit, the World Food Summit and the Children's Summit. Many of these objectives are central to WFP's mandate and operations, and have been reflected in its programming for a number of years. WFP will continue to focus its efforts within the inter-agency process on supporting and advancing those summit objectives to which food aid can make an important contribution. However, the dramatic decline in development resources has made it more difficult for WFP to pursue the key development goals stemming from these global meetings. Stronger support for WFP development programmes would enhance the capacity of the Programme to contribute to the achievement of the major summits' targets and objectives.

