

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
Annual Session**

**Rome, 21–24 May 2001**

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Agenda item 4**

***For information\****

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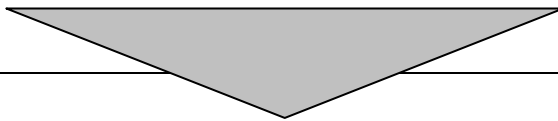
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## **INFORMATION NOTE ON SCHOOL FEEDING**

\* 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 point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Chief, School Feeding Support Unit    Ms A. Mitchell                    tel.: 066513-2534  
(SPF):

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).



## INTRODUCTION

1. WFP has been active in school feeding for 38 years. In 2000, there were WFP school feeding activities in 54 countries, reaching 12.3 million children.
2. In 2000, United States Ambassador George McGovern called for a global effort to ensure that every child in the world has a meal at school. The United States Government committed US\$300 million (in food, transportation and overhead costs) as a first contribution to the Initiative.
3. The United States Initiative supports WFP's long-standing efforts in school feeding and is consistent with WFP's Enabling Development policy. In addition, it contributes to the accomplishment of the global goals of "Education for All" (Jomtien Declaration of 1990 and the Dakar Framework of April 2000) and of halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015 (World Food Summit, 1995).

## STATUS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DONATION

4. On 28 December 2000, the United States announced its intentions regarding the distribution of the contribution: About US\$8 million was held in reserve; WFP was targeted to receive about 48 percent of the US\$292 million distributed; about 44 percent would go to 14 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the remainder was for a bilateral programme with the Dominican Republic.
5. Official notice of the specific donation to WFP was received on 17 January 2001. The commodities offered are: wheat; corn; vegetable oil and oilseed products; corn-soya, wheat-soya and corn-soya-milk blends; non-fat dry milk; and rice. These are provided on a full-cost recovery basis.
6. The increased resources will support already-approved WFP school feeding activities in 21 countries: Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda.
7. The Initiative also supports expansions for six countries' school feeding efforts at levels that the Executive Director may approve under authorities delegated by the Executive Board. These are for Bhutan, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, and Tajikistan (under US\$3 million in food costs in each case). Kenya is receiving a small amount for ongoing development activities and a larger amount as part of the drought emergency operation.
8. In the cases of Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nepal, the proposed expansion of school feeding activities exceeds the Executive Director's delegated authority. These cases were submitted for approval to the WFP Executive Board, at its Second Regular Session in May 2001. The expansion of school feeding activities in Pakistan was also submitted to that Board session, as part of the Country Programme.

## WFP SCHOOL FEEDING SUPPORT UNIT

9. In September 2000, a School Feeding Support Unit (SPF), comprising two professional staff, was established within the Strategy and Policy Division. The Unit has begun to:



conduct a survey of national school feeding programmes worldwide; develop a standard approach to conducting baseline studies for school feeding activities; develop a new approach to monitoring school feeding; and provide support materials for advocacy purposes, for field offices, for governments and for other partners. The Unit will also seek resources for and coordinate technical assistance and training for school feeding efforts worldwide, and will develop, maintain and provide electronic access to a repository of global statistics and resource materials related to school feeding. The Unit is establishing new partnerships to implement these activities, as is explained in more detail in the following sections.

## Specific Activities

### 📌 *Surveys of National School Feeding Programmes*

10. WFP has conducted pilot surveys of national school feeding programmes in Chad, Nicaragua and Mozambique. Based on positive experiences in those countries, a first group of about 20 WFP “Survey and Advocacy Associates”, graduate students from universities around the world, will be trained in Rome from 21–25 May and thereafter sent to assist approximately 55 country offices in conducting the worldwide survey. A second group will be trained in late August and deployed to conduct the surveys in the remaining countries. The survey results will be compiled in a central database and made available on WFP’s website.

### 📌 *Baseline Surveys*

11. WFP has also begun an effort to standardize and implement baseline studies for each country that will receive school feeding resources. The design draws on past WFP and UNESCO experience with school feeding baseline studies, and the (very similar and complementary) indicators developed by the Food Aid and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) group for the United States Agency for International Development. Its goal is to use the same standard core set of measures and similar methodologies in each recipient country. This baseline effort will begin within the next two months. Thus far the Nicaragua regional office has assisted with this effort, as have UNESCO, the Office of Evaluation, and the Cambodia and Rwanda country offices.

### 📌 *Study of Phase-out Countries*

12. SPF has undertaken a desk study of available documentation regarding past WFP school feeding operations that have been phased out. There are more than ten countries where WFP once provided school feeding assistance and then phased out. The desk study will be supplemented by an update regarding the current situation in some or all of those countries. Updates for at least two countries are scheduled to be completed by August.

### 📌 *New Approach to Monitoring*

13. SPF is studying a new approach to monitoring school feeding activities, taking advantage of technological advances and existing systems. Before any decision is taken regarding implementing the proposed system, WFP will complete the examination of feasibility and costs and consult extensively with involved national governments regarding their interest in using the new system.
14. The new approach would facilitate and augment the gathering of accurate and up-to-date reports of basic school-level data by national governments and WFP staff, but it would not



replace current staff monitoring. The new approach would involve the French and United States Governments' Argos satellite system. The Argos system was established by these two governments approximately 20 years ago to track environmental and weather phenomena worldwide. The system has potential for monitoring school feeding operations, using data reported from the school level.

15. Participating schools would be equipped with simple and durable keypad devices with which a designated and trained person at each school would report basic statistics on a monthly basis. The devices would transmit the data to the Argos satellites, which would in turn download it to the (already existing) Collecte Localisation Satellite (CLS), the main Argos "data collection centre" located in France. CLS would sort the data by country, school, etc., and send monthly reports electronically to the respective national governments and WFP, very much as now sends reports to involved governments on environmental phenomena.
16. The data captured through this system would be very basic—numbers of boys and (separately) girls attending and receiving food, the amount of food received, etc. The WFP Commodity Tracking System reports would be cross-referenced with this data to spot anomalies and potential problems. This would allow WFP and its partners to focus their monitoring visits to schools on specific issues related to programme quality and management.
17. The basic feasibility of this approach has been determined to WFP's satisfaction. The Programme is now working with the Scientific Applications staff of the CLS to determine how current transmitter devices used with Argos can be modified to fit WFP programme requirements, and at what cost. WFP will soon begin to consult with a representative sampling of national governments to determine their interest in this system. A formal decision will be taken by WFP thereafter, and if the Programme decides to proceed in at least some locations, an official request to use Argos will be submitted. Implementation could begin as early as December 2001.

### **The Interrelated Nature of These Activities**

18. Each of these—the survey of national school feeding programmes, the baseline studies and the traditional and new monitoring systems—is being designed so as to correlate and cross-reference with the others, so that the same definitions and formats are used throughout.

### **Technical Advisory Group**

19. WFP has approached the United Nations University to establish and manage on WFP's behalf a Technical Advisory Group to review new food products proposed for use in WFP programmes and to advise WFP on product suitability vis-à-vis nutritional value, wholesomeness, food safety and health. WFP has also asked FAO to participate in the Technical Advisory Group. While WFP has been approached in the past regarding new commodities or products for use by the Programme, it has considered these products on a case-by-case basis. This ad hoc approach is no longer adequate, particularly as the global publicity regarding WFP's school feeding operations has resulted in an increase in proposals for WFP to try new products. Once the Advisory Group provided its advice, WFP would perform additional analysis on other suitability aspects such as cost, transport and storage, as appropriate.



## 📌 Deworming

20. Based on successful collaborative experiences in individual countries (especially in Nepal), the World Health Organization (WHO) and WFP have collaborated to design and deliver a multi-country model for deworming schoolchildren. The first joint multi-country deworming workshop was held in late April in Uganda for representatives from both the ministries of health and the ministries of education of seven Anglophone African countries. The participating ministries' representatives were trained and given materials regarding how to implement deworming programmes. They participated in an actual treatment of schoolchildren in a local school, and were assisted in drafting their own country-specific strategies for implementing deworming in their own countries. They then returned to their countries to consult and refine their plans. Once their plans are approved by WHO and WFP, they are eligible for up to US\$50,000 per country to implement treatment programmes for the children in schools assisted by WFP school feeding activities. Most of the funding for this workshop and for the subsequent initial treatment was provided by Canada, through a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) grant to WFP. In the longer term, it is expected that most of the participating governments will be able to pay for the treatment through funds designated for school health activities within World Bank education loans.
21. WFP and WHO are now working with the World Bank to finalize plans for a similar collaborative workshop for Francophone Africa in the near future.

## INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

22. WFP has extensive experience in working with a number of other United Nations and non-governmental operational partners. Specifically within the context of the School Feeding Initiative, WFP has taken steps to expand this collaboration, while still respecting the central role of the national governments of the recipient countries. WFP invited UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations University, WHO, FAO, the International Food Policy Research Institute, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) technical experts and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales of France to collaborate on relevant aspects of WFP's school feeding activities. In addition, the Programme has held preliminary discussions with two foundations.
23. In March 2001, WFP formally became a member of the inter-agency FRESH (Focusing Resources on Effective School Health) initiative. FRESH was launched in a session organized by UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank and Education International during the World Education Forum, Dakar, April 2000 (Strategy Session III.4—"A FRESH Start to School Health: Improving Learning and Educational Outcomes by Improving Health, Hygiene and Nutrition"). In addition to cooperating in the informal FRESH network, WFP carries out partnership activities with the individual agencies involved.
24. UNESCO has continued to be an important collaborator, particularly as relates to technical support, gathering and providing data, and monitoring progress towards Education for All objectives. Owing to the increased workload from WFP, the inter-agency agreement through which UNESCO provides technical expertise to WFP on a reimbursable basis will be reviewed and expanded if necessary.
25. The World Bank has committed itself to doubling its lending for basic education in poor countries, with loans amounting to an estimated additional US\$1 billion per year. In addition, the World Bank is a key member of the FRESH initiative, and is committed to



Education for All and to mother and child health. WFP's active collaboration with the World Bank thus far has been in the area of deworming activities in Africa. WFP and the World Bank are pursuing other opportunities for collaboration, especially in the areas of school infrastructure and child health and nutrition.

26. WHO and WFP are discussing future collaboration, building on the deworming model, to implement additional school health measures.
27. UNICEF is already an important partner, particularly for pre-school feeding efforts, health and sanitation measures, and educational inputs. UNICEF is assigning a staff member to work with WFP's School Feeding Support Unit for 6 to 12 months. The goal of this assignment is to bring about more concrete cooperation in the specific areas of advocacy for children, girls' education, education in emergencies and increasing inputs directly needed for WFP school feeding-recipient schools. Such inputs include: educational inputs, sanitation facilities, and health and nutrition activities such as in-school lessons and treatments.
28. With FAO, several contacts have been made and will be pursued. WFP has approached FAO to work with the United Nations University to organize and participate in the aforementioned Technical Advisory Group to review new products presented to WFP for use in WFP school feeding and mother and child health programmes. In addition, WFP has discussed collaboration with the FAO's Nutrition Programmes Service, the Commodities and Trade Division, and the Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division.
29. WFP will expand collaboration and continue to work with international and local NGOs and foundations that support the education sector in ways complementary to WFP and school feeding. Since the Executive Director's meeting with representatives of interested United States NGOs in October 2000, WFP staff have continued the dialogue with interested NGOs in order to build support and effect implementing agreements for school feeding.

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## FUTURE FUNDING

30. New legislation was introduced in both houses of the United States Congress on 3 May 2001, to establish a longer-term Global Food for Education Initiative, beginning in 2002. The legislation would establish annual funding levels for the programme, arriving at a proposed maximum level of US\$750 million for school feeding in any given year. The legislation has strong bipartisan support and is receiving media attention in the United States.
31. Ten countries and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund have requested additional information in recent months to assist them in deciding whether or not to donate over the longer term. The OPEC Fund has requested specific proposals from WFP for funding non-food items, and Canada has stated that it will continue support to the deworming effort. In addition, private organizations and individuals have expressed interest.

