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**Executive Board
Second Regular Session**

Rome, 17 - 19 May 2000

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

For information



Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.2/2000/7-A/6/Rev.1

3 May 2000

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1999)— CHAD 6171.00

Promotion of Food Security and Natural Resource Management in the Sahelian Zone

Number of beneficiaries	154,000
Duration	Two years
Tonnage	4 756 tons

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	2,513,312
Total food cost	958,510
Total project cost	2,664,312

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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(s) 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 the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2645).



1. Chad is classified as both a least developed (LDC) and low-income, food-deficit country (LIFDC). According to the survey on consumption and the informal sector for Chad (ECOSIT) of 1995/96, 54 percent of its population lives below the poverty threshold. In 1990, UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Chad 150th out of 160 countries, while the HDI for 1997 placed it 162nd out of 174 countries, with a per capita gross national product (GNP) of US\$ 230 (Human Development Report, 1999). The infant mortality rate is 201 per 1,000 live births, and maternal mortality stands at 827 per 100,000 (Demographic and Health Survey of Chad, 1996/97).
2. The project is in line with the objectives of the Government's revised Orientation Plan, 1998–2005, regarding increased priority agricultural production of commodities such as cereals to meet national requirements, reduced malnutrition and food insecurity, and the improvement of incomes for households of small producers. The project also meets the objectives of the International Convention on the Fight Against Desertification, whose National Plan of Action for the Environment is under preparation.
3. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses objectives 4 and 5: mitigate the effects of natural disasters, in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind; and enable households which depend on degraded natural resources for their livelihoods to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.
4. The project targets five agro-pastoral prefectures in the Sahelian zone. These are characterized by cyclical food insecurity and a seasonal rural exodus, as well as by a high concentration of poverty, vulnerability to climatic vagaries and degraded soil in rain-fed agriculture areas.
5. The project aims to:
 - strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries to increase and manage their productive assets in a sustainable manner;
 - increase beneficiaries' incomes and production capacity;
 - fill the short-term food deficits of beneficiary households, thus enabling them to build up household reserves; and
 - improve the condition of women beneficiaries by reducing their workload and increasing their participation in community decision-making bodies.
6. The project contemplates the construction of small village infrastructure through water harnessing and watershed management, thanks to beneficiaries engaging in intensive-labour works. The project will thus support various natural resource management initiatives already active in several communities in the Sahelian zone (soil and water conservation, water point construction, etc.), in collaboration with various partners (multilateral and bilateral partners, and NGOs).
7. The project's activities will contribute specifically to increasing cultivable land area and land productivity, diversifying food availability, improving access to water for domestic use, decreasing erosion and soil degradation, restoring vegetation, and enhancing the participation of women in decision-making bodies.



8. During the project's two-year duration (2000–2001), approximately 30,800 direct beneficiaries, 15,400 of them women, will receive on the one hand a food supplement prepared on the work sites, and on the other a dry ration to build a household stock. Food assistance will permit an increase in direct beneficiaries' daily working capacity, the supply of a food supplement to their households and a reduction in men's seasonal migration. Besides achieving these goals, natural resource management works will also contribute to lightening women's work load.

