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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 21- 23 January 1997

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PROJECT GAZA 5761/Q

(WIS No. GWB0576100)

Support to social safety net programmes in the Gaza Strip

Duration of project	One year
Total cost to WFP	3 916 354 dollars
Total cost to Government	3 761 580 dollars
Total number of beneficiaries	50 000

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

ABSTRACT

The project targets 50,000 ultra-poor, non-refugee Palestinians who are registered as social hardship cases with the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs (MSA). With no appreciable household assets and little or no prospects for employment, the families who will benefit from WFP food assistance represent the underclass of Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip. Following the end of Israeli occupation and administration of Gaza, and the subsequent prolonged and frequent closures of the border that have cut off Gaza's economic lifeline to Israel and the West Bank, the number of MSA social hardship cases is on the rise and their household food insecurity is growing. The administrative and managerial weaknesses of the newly established institutions of the Palestinian Authority (PA), combined with the general revenue crisis the Authority is facing, have crippled the existing social safety net. The donor community, led by the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative, is committed to assisting the PA during the transition period while "final status" peace negotiations continue and while the Authority works on establishing and consolidating political and economic institutions in the Territories. In line with WFP's Mission Statement, the project addresses the urgent food security needs of poor households. Because of spiralling inflation and the rising costs of basic food commodities, food constitutes a valuable income transfer to beneficiaries and an essential complement to the cash stipends received under the MSA's social safety net scheme. Over 65 percent of the households supported by WFP are headed by women, and women volunteers will be involved in every distribution. The project will enable the Government and NGOs to improve and expand their social support and safety net programmes, thus building a capacity to cover the period after withdrawal of WFP assistance and the planned shift from rehabilitation to development activities. In line with the United Nations and donor decision to cover recurrent costs of the Palestinian Authority during a transition period, WFP will cover the full land transport, storage and handling (LTSH) costs of the project.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points for this document are:

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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.: 5228-2641).



