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Executive Board  
Second Regular Session

Rome, 13 - 14 May 1999

## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 6



Distribution: GENERAL  
**WFP/EB.2/99/6-A/6**

12 April 1999  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— BHUTAN 5822.00

### Construction and rehabilitation of roads

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Number of beneficiaries | 46,000                           |
| Duration of project     | Four years (July 1998–June 2002) |

#### Cost (United States dollars)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Total cost to WFP        | 2,564,255  |
| Total food cost          | 1,943,860  |
| Total cost to Government | 55,429,592 |

### ABSTRACT

Rugged terrain, extreme temperature variations and heavy monsoon rains, combined with unique geological conditions in Bhutan, result in rapid weathering of rocks and soils, rapid vegetative growth, and heavy run-off. These conditions make roads very difficult and costly to construct and maintain.

In recognition of the need to enhance the sustainability of the road network (construction of new feeder roads, improvement of existing roads, elimination of blind corners, etc.), WFP approved this project to provide food aid as an incentive for mobilizing labour for road works.

The primary objectives of the project are: improvement of access to distribution and marketing channels and to public services such as health and education through construction of feeder roads; improvement in the housing and working conditions of unskilled, casual, locally hired and construction workers and their families; and further investments in construction and continued maintenance of assets created.

In addition, food will be used to improve the diet of Public Works Division workers and their families, and generate an investment resource to improve the housing and working conditions of road workers.

During the entire project period, out of the total 7,395,000 workdays required, WFP will support 2,749,220, while the remaining workdays are to be covered by the Government. WFP will provide a total of 1,786,992 family and 962,228 individual rations consisting of rice, pulses, vegetable oil and iodized salt.

The project will enhance equal payment to women workers, who represent some 30 percent of the direct beneficiaries. Through informal and mobile education systems, it encourages those non-working wives among the workers to carry out self-help initiatives (e.g. extra income-earning activities such as vegetable gardens, weaving, and handicrafts) and thus supports women's economic independence.

WFP, through beneficiary contact monitoring, will look into the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries with a special focus on women. Counterpart funds will be used to support women and children through informal and mobile education, i.e. health, sanitation and family planning.

## 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:

Regional Director: Ms. J. Cheng-Hopkins tel.: 066513-2209

Programme Coordinator: Ms. C. Ushiyama tel.: 066513-2359

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).

