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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



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— BHUTAN 3734.02

### Support to primary education

Number of beneficiaries	99,640
Duration of project	Four years

#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	3,612,074
Total food cost to WFP	2,447,435
Total cost to Government	4,177,098

### ABSTRACT

Because of the rugged terrain and low population density in Bhutan, for many children the nearest schools are too far away for daily commuting. In recognition of the food insecurity situation in the remote areas of Bhutan and the difficulty of bringing education within the reach of children living in remote areas, boarding schools are an essential feature of education in Bhutan. WFP approved this project to provide food aid as income transfer to families enrolling their children as boarders at primary and community schools and to provide a limited incentive for enrolment at primary day-schools.

The primary objectives of the project are: increasing the enrolment rate and preventing drop-out of students; assisting the Government in fully taking over the feeding of junior high and high school boarders; increasing the enrolment of girl boarders at selected junior high and high schools; and enhancing awareness of gender issues amongst school staff and community members.

During the entire project period, WFP will provide a total of 43,135,500 rations with a food combination of rice, kharang (maize grits), pulses and vegetable oil.

Under this project, in line with the Country Strategy Outline for Bhutan, food aid will be increasingly targeted to primary and community boarding schools where parents carry the full burden of boarding costs and, in the absence of WFP support, many children would be unable to attend school.

WFP will fund a study to examine the future need for primary boarding hostels and their financing options. This study would be followed by a mid-term project review mission, during the second half of 2000. Starting in year one of this project expansion—in accordance with WFP and Government policy—food aid will be gradually phased out from secondary school hostels, where the Government already pays for part of the feeding of boarders, and from primary day-schools where food aid is no longer needed to attract children to enroll.

The project will enhance awareness of gender issues amongst headmasters and teachers as local change agents and address gender gaps in secondary education by improving hostel facilities for girls. The project also envisages the provision of fuel-efficient stoves to school kitchens.

## 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 H. 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).

