

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 21 - 23 January 1997

PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agenda item 9 b)



Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.1/97/9-B/Add.4

17 December 1996

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

PROJECT ZAIRE 5732

(WIS No. ZAI 0573200)

Food security in Kinshasa

Project duration	Two years
Total cost to WFP	2 517 443 dollars
Number of beneficiaries	40 000

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

This document is produced in a limited number of copies. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies

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:

Deputy Regional Director: V. Sequeira tel.: 5228-2301

Desk Officer: S. Porretti tel.: 5228-2383

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).



1. The continuing political crisis in Zaire has resulted in the collapse of the country's public sector and of its banking system. Development financing has fallen sharply and production has reached a point of stagnation. This crisis has triggered a steady drop in living standards and a significant rise in unemployment and poverty, which has in turn brought about a major migration of rural populations to urban areas.
2. This situation has particularly affected Kinshasa, where it is estimated that in 10 years the population has grown from three to five million. A large proportion is made up of farmers (around 400,000) who have settled in the immediate city outskirts, around the "Pool Malebo" marshes. Project beneficiaries will be 5,000 future assignees of land plus their families, i.e., approximately 40,000 persons. Around 70 percent of beneficiaries are women.
3. Studies conducted by FAO have revealed, among others, that the Pool Malebo floodplain has considerable agricultural potential, and that it has highly favourable conditions for rice cultivation, i.e., a potential cultivable surface of around 6,000 hectares, a permanent availability of water and a large potential workforce in its vicinity.
4. The studies are also being used by the European Union (EU), which is funding a pilot project (in the same area and using the same approach as that of project Zaire 5732) for the development of an initial parcel of 200 hectares. Other donors are funding basic project activities: Italy has financed the restructuring of the biological laboratory and Belgium is the largest donor to the Centre for Integrated Development (CDI)-Bwamanda, the NGO responsible for project execution.
5. The project will also benefit from the experience acquired within the framework of the programme funded by China between 1980 and 1990. Although the programme was discontinued after the 1992 uprisings, there is some infrastructure left, which will be used to start up the project.
6. The aim of the project - which is integrated with the activities carried out by the above-mentioned donors - is to develop 2,000 hectares of land. This would enable a yearly production of 12,000 to 16,000 tons of paddy, (some 10 percent of Kinshasa's annual rice imports), with two production cycles a year.
7. The project's strategy focuses on the following:
 - a) local purchases (3,590 tons of food) with a view to encouraging the flow of production from the surplus areas of the North into Kinshasa;
 - b) technical training on land management;
 - c) logistic support and training of farmers (men and women) who are part of farmers' groups, in order to facilitate their access to markets.
8. Food aid represents a net advantage over cash remuneration, considering the repeated devaluations of local currency, coupled with the constant lack of basic food stocks in Kinshasa. Food aid will also serve to encourage volunteers to engage solely in land development activities.



