Executive Board Second Regular Session

Rome, 22 - 24 May 1996

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Agenda item 8

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

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PAKISTAN

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 1. This document contains recommendations for review and approval by the Executive Board.
- 2. Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. The WFP staff dealing with this document are:

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STRATEGIC FOCUS: FOOD INSECURITY AND **POVERTYSTRATEGIC FOCUS: FOOD INSECURITY AND POVERTY**

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The Country Strategy Outline (CSO) for Pakistan (document 1. CFA:38/SCP:13/7/ODM/Add.1) was submitted for information to the Sub-Committee on Projects (SCP) in December 1994. Its preparation involved an iterative process of consultative meetings and exchanges of information with government and project authorities, United Nations agencies and donors, in addition to vetting through the headquarters review and approval process. As a result of the CSO process, the Country Programme, consisting of CFA-approved projects, has been re-targeted and redesigned to conform to WFP's mission statement and policy commitments to women, with a sharpened focus on poverty and food insecurity, as well as monitorable genderresponsiveness and sustainability. Details of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) are attached, in summary form, to this document (Annex VII). The WFP Country Programme (1994-98) corresponds to the period of the Government's five-year Development Plan and this CSO approved by the Government in April 1996.

The hungry poor: priorities in addressing their needs

- 2. Poverty in Pakistan is widespread. Despite near self-sufficiency in food at the national level, there are tremendous disparities within regions and between income groups. Poverty is particularly acute in areas with low rainfall or dry, marginal soils -Baluchistan, southern Sindh, the hilly and mountainous parts of northern Pakistan and some areas in southern and western Punjab - and is compounded by persisting feudal systems of land tenure. Health and nutrition indices are lowest in Baluchistan and southern Sindh and, similarly, in respect of girls' education. Although economic growth has registered an impressive average annual increase in GDP of 5.5 percent, grain production at 2.4 percent is outstripped by a high population growth rate of 2.9 percent which threatens to overtake hard-won productivity gains. Annual crops, maize and wheat, give poor yields and leave the soil bare during the heavy summer rains. Hunger and food insecurity are, however, caused less by production constraints than by problems of distribution and access.
- The over-exploitation of natural resources in the areas bordering Afghanistan 3. (Baluchistan and NWFP) is exacerbated by the relatively long-term presence of one of the largest refugee populations in the world: Afghans on both sides of the border are now dependent on Pakistan for augmenting their cereal supplies. Population pressure has led to the cultivation of marginal, sloping land, and tree cover continues to be removed for firewood, fodder and timber, thus compounding erosion problems and limiting water retention through excessive run-off. Also, the sheep and goat populations on the open hillsides far exceed carrying capacity, with the grassland's soil protective function diminished.
- The poor and vulnerable constitute a significant proportion of the population, although 4. sufficient studies have not been undertaken to determine their number and their breakdown by age and gender. The poverty line is estimated at about 185 to 210 rupees a month, depending on the province, equivalent to a household food basket of 2,550 calories per adult. Gross disparities in income distribution are reflected in the share of

total income of the lowest quintile of the population, which stands at only 5.7 percent, as compared to nearly 50 percent for the highest quintile. The geographic distribution of poverty and food insecurity correlates closely with gender disparities in health and education indices: at the family level, women and girls from poor households and infants in their first year of life are trapped by lack of access to health and education.

- 5. The major current concern in the Government's eighth five-year development plan (financial years 1994-98) is the social sector. Stagnant for some decades, almost every social indicator for the country (literacy, education, health, nutrition, population growth rates, access to family panning services) is at the bottom of the world scale. The joint government/multi-donor social action programme (SAP) combines the concentration of investment in these areas to try to ensure that Pakistan's social progress catches up with its economic success.
- 6. Major new environmental conservation programmes are being launched, following the finalization of the National Conservation Strategy and the Forestry Sector Master Plan. Programmes in natural resource management (NRM) focus particularly on the northern forestry belt and community; women's participation is, belatedly, being understood as crucial to ensuring their sustainability.
- 7. Government priorities are reflected in the recently approved Country Strategy Note (CSN), which, like the WFP development portfolio, concentrates on social action and natural resource management, with particular emphasis on institutional reform, gender equity and sustainable development. The CSN covers the same period of the Government's current five-year development plan as does the WFP Pakistan Country Programme.

Assessment of WFP's past and ongoing country activities

- The CSO draws on earlier management reviews of the Pakistan development 8. portfolio, which had recommended, inter alia, a simplification of the prevailing commodity logistics strategy, characterized by unsustainably numerous, high-volume/low-value commodities which were costly to transport and deliver to beneficiaries. Such a simplification has been put into operation: the commodity basket destined for direct food distribution in the two social sector projects (girls' education and MCH) is now comprised of a single high-value commodity - vegetable oil - and is proving to be highly cost-effective in transferring income to participating families. Its high market value and low bulk for transportation yields an alpha value of 1.24, despite the coverage of many remote districts within the health and education programmes. For the five food-for-work projects in the sector of natural resources management, the introduction of food stamps in exchange for WFP-supplied wheat delivered at port (rather than for direct distribution at project sites) is also proving to be effective in their outreach to and coverage of beneficiaries, as well as in their cost. During 1995, wheat exchange was above C and F prices of commercial imports, although rates must now be increased in accordance with 1996 world market levels.
- 9. While the feeding of Afghan refugees, under successive PROs since mid-1985, had previously dwarfed the size of the Pakistan development portfolio (at a ratio of 10:1), the phasing out of refugee care-and-maintenance feeding in 1996 has reversed the balance of the Country Programme. The 1995 WFP/UNHCR/Donor PRO assessment mission

confirmed previous recommendations on the setting up of safety nets for vulnerable groups among the residual Afghan refugee population, thus forging linkages along the continuum from relief to development in Pakistan. These actions have helped to attract additional bilateral aid to co-fund projects with WFP, and to strengthen partnerships with local and international NGOs by sharing a common strategy for development and refugee assistance.

10. WFP has been a pioneer in its pursuit of SAP and NRM sectoral priorities. Until the mid-eighties, WFP-funded forestry projects constituted a "pre-investment" in the shift from traditional timber plantations to social forestry and watershed management, subsequently expanded under Dutch and German assistance. These programmes are now considered "bankable" enough to attract loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The success of WFP's innovative use of take-home rations as an incentive for parents to send their daughters to school has become a replicable model in areas where cultural constraints may impinge on girls' access to education; the same holds for WFP's provision of a tin of oil against the attainment of health milestones (prenatal check-ups or child immunization, for example).

Strategic focus of the WFP Country Programme

- 11. Based on the geographic mapping of poverty and food insecurity, WFP development interventions are concentrated in two broad sectors where food aid has been shown to make a significant difference in the lives of the poor and food insecure and where government and donors are more recently according highest priority: the social action programme (SAP), focusing on improving the access of girls' to basic education and that of mothers and children to primary health care; and natural resource management (NRM), particularly in "refugee-impacted" areas, focusing on social forestry and watershed management and responsive to gender issues in resource management decision-making processes. These priority sectors are fully consistent with the government-approved CSN.
- 12. The Country Programme consists of the redesigned CFA-approved projects, as outlined above and as tabulated in the attached project data sheets (Annex XI). Emphasizing capacity building and a participatory approach, it is highly targeted and concentrates WFP assistance in some of the very poorest areas of Pakistan. It offers food incentives to mothers to participate in MCH programmes, to parents to send their daughters to primary school and to poor farm families to change their land use practices in favour of tree plantation and grassland development; and opens up these schemes to the most vulnerable of the refugee populations.
- 13. The Executive Board is requested to endorse the country strategy, as detailed in the CSO, approve flexibility of resource allocation between country activities during the programme period within the total resources already committed (50 million dollars¹ over the five-year period 1994-98) and approve an additional 25 percent in supplementary resources to expand the core activities of the social action programme to other priority geographic target areas and disaster-affected regions.

¹ All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

PROGRAMME OF COUNTRY ACTIVITIES (PCA)

Country programme resources

- The current development portfolio divides resources equally between social action 14. programmes (one health, one education project) and natural resource management (five projects, two of which include rural road components). Proposed programme delivery from 1994 to 1998 are 50 million dollars, averaging 10 million dollars a year, but potentially growing to 13 million dollars as project implementation develops. This is justified on the basis of country status and population vulnerability, past trends in resource utilization and the present cost-efficiencies in the new logistics strategy (see Annex I). Refugee food assistance needs have been declining from an annual average of over 100 million dollars in the eighties to an estimated five million dollars in 1996. The core programmes of social action and natural resources management have been calculated at 12 million dollars of WFP inputs, annually, in the latter part of the Country Programme period (see Graph in Annex I). Each element could be contracted in the absence of resources, but programme expansion would require governmental approval to assume the annual budget for co-financing additional activities. PRO-financed assistance (five million dollars in 1996) is not included in this total, neither is any from IEFR.
- 15. A Country Programme of this size, although consistent both with previous utilization levels and future forecasts of resource expectations, is still small in relation to overall food intervention needs. For only 20 percent of the population to be supplied with minimum levels of calories and proteins, at least 1.25 million tons of extra cereals (c.i.f. cost 250 300 million dollars) would be required. Present WFP commitments would be less than five percent of this figure. Food requirements to provide incentives only for girls to attend primary schools and mothers to visit MCH centres would be much smaller. In addition, logistics constraints and limits to government financial and management capacity would in any case limit "effective demand". Nevertheless, WFP social action programme resources would be expected to cover only 10 to 20 percent of school girls and less than 25 percent of MCH attendees considered reachable.
- 16. Bilateral resources have continued, pledged fund for the non-food components of WFP assisted projects (see project data sheet in Annex XI), and joint programming is also beginning with NGOs. These actions are expected to improve project quality and timeliness in circumstances where provincial governments have difficulty in resourcing complementary inputs. They may also help expand activities (bilateral or through WFP) for identified high-priority groups or areas, according to jointly agreed food aid strategies. A third option is that such resources replace WFP assistance in programmes where food aid has helped demonstrate a positive approach to sustainable development, but where future investment is more likely to come from the international lending institutions. Some activities are already marked for phase-out, with local authorities, communities or private resources taking over. Other works, such as rural roads and forest tracks, are starting to be undertaken only with food incentives and without a cash labour component.
- 17. Annual resource requirements will be matched with individual project work plans. These, in turn, will be justified by performance as measured in annual reviews, with the country office and MINFAL apportioning resources where commodity availability is

restricted for basic programme activities. Supplementary programme activities might involve expanding core projects to new districts within priority geographic target areas or in disaster-affected regions, if additional resources are made available.

Basic programme activities

Social action programme (SAP)

- 18. Within the Government's programme, two specific objectives are considered suitable for assistance through project food aid: attracting expectant and nursing mothers to obtain health services and encouraging parents to send their daughters to primary school. Two approved projects already address these aims (see also project data sheets).
- 19. Assistance to primary health care - project 2237 (Exp.3), encourages expectant mothers to register at health centres for examinations and vaccinations against tetanus. An incentive consisting of a tin of edible oil is given for this and for a second check and booster vaccination later in the pregnancy. Bringing the baby in for weighing and BCG vaccination merits a third can of oil, whilst a fourth is provided after the child is immunized against DPT. At each visit, the mother receives health information on child care and nutrition and family planning advice. Government health units usually attract only poor mothers. By selecting such centres in disadvantaged rural areas and urban slums, the focus is placed only on the most vulnerable groups and at a time when the nutritional and income transfer to the family is most crucial. Primary health care is a top government priority assisted by many donors. Better attendance can be encouraged by incentives but is ultimately only sustainable through the education of the mothers. Early results have mostly been positive - registrations are up by 40 to 90 percent. Immunization, although now improving, was affected by a lack of vaccines in the first half of 1995.
- 20. Promotion of primary education for girls project 4185, also provides oil incentives, this time to the parents of girls attending schools in districts with very low female participation in primary education. A take-home oil ration for each month of full attendance is already having a significant effect on both enrolment and regular attendance of students and teachers (see document CFA 40/SCP 15/4/OMM/Add.1). The project is conceived primarily as supporting multi-donor efforts to improve the quality of primary education, as well as expanding and improving classroom facilities in conservative rural areas with no previous tradition of sending girls to school. The incentive oil ration is only for an introductory period, i.e., until participation rates catch up with current urban levels in Baluchistan and NWFP provinces (50 percent). Plans are in progress to start a similar project in Sindh and to explore possibilities in southern Punjab. Assistance on the same lines is being planned by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for non-government schools in several areas, and they will co-fund the support activities for village development councils and parent/teacher committees undertaken through local NGOs.
- 21. Both projects support actions critical to the social development of women in Pakistan, where encouragement to participate may accelerate progress in attaining acceptable levels of health, education and family self-reliance. Their review in 1996 will involve assessment by representatives of bilateral, NGO and United Nations agencies, together with the participating local authorities and WFP headquarters. Appraisal of any new programme would be needed in early 1998 before commitments are fully utilized.

Natural resource management (NRM)

- 22. All NRM projects are situated in poor and marginal areas. In the north, sites are mostly on bare and eroded hills which are subject to flash floods. In the west, they are in semi-arid valleys. Almost all areas have experienced a large influx of refugees, and many localities are susceptible to earthquakes and landslides. Original objectives had focused mainly on protective forestry, concentrating on tree planting and water control structures as physical outputs, with the selection of species, technical design and area management left to local forestry departments. This is now changing with the adoption of a social forestry approach.
- 23. Encouragement is given to village committees to map out their own land use plans and to take responsibility for maintenance of plantations and managed grazing. Participation of women is being encouraged, particularly in running community or household nurseries and farm forestry plantations, and in choosing the types of trees and shrubs planted. Economic returns on locally harvested grass and fuelwood from shrubs have become more important factors in determining land use strategy, and require further study and research investment. Although some projects, which had previously obtained co-financing and technical support, are more progressive than others, all are moving towards a participatory approach involving low-cost technologies and focusing on training, extension and demonstration to increase income from marginal lands, whilst improving sustainability and replicability. Food aid given as an income transfer continues to be an incentive, cushioning against the risk of change. Details of the geographically separate NRM projects are given in the project data sheets, indicating donor co-financing and NGO involvement to date.
- 24. Consideration will be given to co-funding NRM projects adjacent to existing sites, if financial and technical management inputs are already assured and a role for further food interventions can be justified. Food aid (food stamps) incentives in the current projects will be refined further to focus more sharply on poor communities within the watershed (livestock herders, women in search of income-generating opportunities, landless or otherwise disadvantaged groups), with a hand-over of the more routine investment role in plantation forestry and infrastructure to the international and regional banks.

Refugee activities and emergency contingencies

With the phase-out of refugee care and maintenance feeding, only a safety net 25. provision has been retained for the most vulnerable, pending their return to Afghanistan. Socio-economic surveys have already been undertaken that identify areas of high priority, and resource provision has been included in the 1996 PRO. One component will consist of edible oil incentives to refugee mothers attending Basic Health Units and girls attending primary schools, together with rations of oil for new arrivals plus similar incentives for NGO-assisted training centres for women, as well as for the handicapped (for details see document CFA 40/SCP 15/4/OMM/Add.1 and project data sheet in Annex XI). Thereafter, any remaining vulnerable groups would be included in the ongoing WFP regular programme of SAP. Some provision is also made to supplement the resources available to NRM projects employing refugees. In the event of local natural disasters, food will also be available to assist victims at least where health centres are functioning. While this is not expected to be a major intervention mechanism in disaster management, it might provide an initial response in times of crisis. No additional resources are planned for emergencies. If significant food requirements are needed, requests will be made accordingly, and any new resources obtained will be channelled through the most appropriate mechanism in ongoing operations. Temporary employment in food-for-work schemes may also help disaster-affected groups, in addition to some of the residual case-load of refugees.

Supplementary programme activities

26. As the current WFP social action programme covers only 10 to 20 percent of school girls and less than 25 percent of MCH attendees considered reachable, core activities in this sector could be expanded both in areas of current activities as well as to other priority geographic target areas (e.g., Sindh and southern Punjab). To effect this expansion, the Executive Board is requested to approve an additional 25 percent of present resource allocation to the SAP sector.

Key issues and risks

27. Recent experience with the use of food stamps has confirmed their potential cost-effectiveness. Similarly, the incentive effect of providing edible oil to women and girls participating in health and education programmes is currently positive and logistically workable. Both require regular reassessment. The issue of gender, in the context of community participation, will continue to challenge the implementing and partner agencies. WFP studies on the background to women's future involvement, as participants in, and managers of, the process, indicate that scope will be contingent on linking training and inputs to economically and socially appropriate activities (see Annex X). Such involvement also implies a sufficient resourcing of funds and assistance from the Government and the local and international communities. Another continuing concern is the fear that natural and man-made disasters will wipe out the gains made in sustainable economic and social development. The growth of poverty and food insecurity is firmly linked with population growth and the consequent erosion and deterioration of the environment. Local as well as refugee families face higher risks in future in the country's marginal borderlands. The awareness of the geography and causes of vulnerability, as reflected in the CSO, is a pre-condition for minimizing risks.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Programme appraisal

28. The present portfolio is fully appraised and already approved by the CFA. Projects have subsequently been adjusted in line with the CSO and to conform with WFP's mission statement and policy commitments to women.

Programme implementation

Capacity-building

29. WFP has the staff to implement the Country Programme. The resources which are most crucial to the successful implementation of food intervention programmes are the people responsible for their organization and management and the participants themselves. All projects are involved with training or education of the beneficiaries through schools, health centres, village committees. This is financed by government agencies and donors. WFP assistance in this area has been focused on funding training of counterparts in data analysis, gender sensitisation, accounting, monitoring and reporting. To date, the limited Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) resources from the Programme have been supplemented by funds generated locally through the sale of packaging materials and from bilateral donors. Extra funding will need to be identified to strengthen the institutional capacity of counterpart management and local community group structures in social mobilization, rapid appraisal techniques and assessment of programme impact. Special studies to underpin the programme review will be undertaken by NGOs, consultants, and/or the technical units of the government agencies concerned. Overall local costs for supplementary training and evaluation are estimated at 29,000 dollars annually (see Training Plan in Annex VI).

Food logistics arrangements

30. A simplified and cost-effective commodity logistics strategy (elaborated in the CSO) is successfully being implemented for all development projects which, for SAP projects, involves the distribution to beneficiaries of a single high-value commodity, oil; and, in NRM projects, food stamps, which beneficiaries can redeem in project areas against the WFP-supplied wheat delivered to the port of Karachi. With the phase-out of refugee care and maintenance feeding, these food aid modalities are increasingly likely to encompass the most vulnerable of the refugees as well.

PROGRAMME MONITORING AND AUDIT

31. Programme performance monitoring is a measure of more than specific project indicators. Three areas in particular need to be highlighted - cost-effectiveness of food aid transactions, progress in support of policy initiatives and, most importantly, whether targeting is efficiently focused on the poor and whether the process is sustainable. In the latter area especially, the perceptions of programme decision-makers and the beneficiaries themselves will be sought.

- 32. Food transaction costs are relatively simple to monitor. Wheat logistics costs or monetization can be compared with commercial transactions. Shop prices of a standard food basket in project areas are regularly checked and inflation monitored. Direct handling and distribution of edible oil are also costed at each step in the logistics chain. Comparison of cash, food stamp and food transfers will provide the basis for a reassessment of the commodity logistics strategy adopted.
- 33. Policy support assessment is more complex. In the first place, WFP is only one of many donors co-funding social action and land-use management change. Any evaluation of progress would have to be a corporate effort, where the Government and the donors agree on not just a package of institutional reforms, policy objectives and technical and social strategies, but also a common list of indicators on which to judge improvements. This is largely the situation in SAP. In natural resource management, the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) also specifies goals, but is less detailed on institutional mechanisms and practical strategies to ensure reaching them. Clear steps need to be agreed upon in operationalizing the social forestry approach and ensuring that coordination mechanisms include all technical groups and community partners. The process has begun with the establishment of a Forestry Commission, and stakeholders are starting to refine a list of policies, objectives and indicators of progress. Village land-use planning also cannot become the engine of sustainable natural resource utilization without a much greater investment in training, extension, demonstration and further research into the competition for land. Pending a joint choice of indicators by government authorities and donors, Annex IV includes some of the actions and expected results that might be appropriate to monitor this programme area.
- 34. Poverty targeting envisions one or two levels of directed allocation, focused on disadvantaged districts and, in the case of primary health care, with further selection to poorest localities by project health officials. The recently agreed compilation of a district-and gender-disaggregated socio-economic database to be undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), funded by WFP and several other United Nations agencies and to be available later in 1996 will help ensure an independent poverty targeting mechanism. Thereafter, the programme relies on self-selection through participation in social action or community works. Indicators of priority areas include low enrolment in education and health programmes, food deficit, low family income levels and limited employment opportunities in agriculture or industry; these will be updated periodically. Surveys will be conducted from time to time to see how effective the self-targeting mechanism has been in ensuring the participation of the poorest families and women. These will also reassess and refine the indicators selected as measures of poverty and food needs.

Annual reviews

Annual reviews of WFP-assisted projects were introduced in 1995 to formalize the 35. tracking of progress, ensure a more frequent assessment of achievements than is possible through interim evaluations (usually only carried out at three- to five-year intervals). The review takes into account all earlier monitoring and implementation reports (PIRs, COPRs), the recommendations of the six-monthly local Project Coordination Committee (PCC) meetings and latest audit reports (annually by the Government and six-monthly financial audits by WFP external auditors in Pakistan). In addition to the participation of government and local project authorities, it is hoped that the involvement of independent agencies (United Nations, bilateral, NGO) will help guide the future progress of the intervention. (Note should be taken that the annual joint review of refugee operations by UNHCR and WFP has had the participation of major donors as full members for several years). Report formats are similar to those of Project Progress Reports previously submitted to the SCP. The reports are also available locally to interested donors. Management Reviews are undertaken periodically to address sectoral concerns, operational logistics, and institutional and reporting mechanisms. These reports are also provided to interested donors locally. In 1996, the Management Review will concentrate on the SAP sector. The PCC will be expanded by inviting the donor, NGO and United Nations agency representatives who regularly participate in annual project reviews.

Indicators

36. Indicators of project performance and outputs are included in each individual Project Summary. Since the start of operations, some have been modified to focus more on issues of gender and community participation. In particular, the natural resource management projects record the formation of village committees and their participation in the design and implementation of local land-use plans. Women's committees, women's participation in decision-making and programme operations, training and input delivery are also included. For health and education projects, the crucial results indicators are those comparing school and health centre enrolment and attendance with and without food incentives. Provincial government health (HMIS) and education (EMIS) statistics are used to chart improvements in the quality and uptake of services. Such data are supplemented by the multi-donor SAP monitoring system (Annex IV). The PRO safety net component for refugees monitors the nutritional and socio-economic status of the vulnerable groups (UNHCR-funded), in addition to food transfers. In all project interventions, indicators of negative effects, including disincentives and local market displacement, will also be monitored.

Programme adjustments and supplementation of country activities

37. Although no major new funding is foreseen in this programme cycle, programme adjustments are regarded as continual, based on regular monitoring data from individual projects and the annual reviews, as well as the broader sectoral reviews/evaluations of the SAP and NRM scheduled in 1996 and the mid-term programmatic review planned for 1997 (see paragraphs 38 to 41 and Annex IV on Monitoring Plan). These data would underpin the initiation of new pilot or experimental interventions within the existing strategy -- for example, starting social action or natural resource management projects in other districts, or financing new mechanisms for income transfer to targeted families -- funded either within the approved ceiling plus the resource supplementation of 25 percent being requested of the Executive Board, and/or by attracting additional resources bilaterally.

EVALUATION

38. In-depth evaluation of a programme of food interventions must involve government authorities, donors, United Nations and NGO partners and the participants themselves. Although reliance will be mostly on existing reports, additional studies to update information in some areas - e.g., the socio-economic situation of particular target groups and geographic regions - will be necessary. The process will be as important in strengthening "ownership" as in improving quality and efficiency. It will involve workshops at the provincial and federal level as preliminaries to revising and improving both strategy and programme content. The advice of the WFP Executive Board will be crucial in focusing the Mid-term Review (and later the Terminal Review) on the most important issues and problems.

Management review

39. A comprehensive review of the SAP (involving WFP, the Government and donors) is scheduled for April/May 1996; a key feature of this review is a common list of performance indicators.

Sectoral evaluation

40. WFP's 25-year involvement in forestry and environmental management activities in Pakistan will be evaluated in September/October 1996. In addition to assessing the performance and achievements of present and past projects, it is expected that the evaluation will draw on the experience of bilaterally-aided programmes in the sector, combining the conclusions and recommendations of all the major interventions in this field. Study reports have already begun to be collected and it is also planned to involve beneficiaries as well as local government authorities in both planning and conducting the evaluation. The results will form the basis for appraising a future NRM component of the Country Programme when current projects terminate in 1998/9. The report would also contribute to studies being undertaken to establish and guide the future operation of a multi-donor funded Forestry Commission.

Mid-term and terminal reviews

41. The mid-term review of the WFP assistance programme as a whole is scheduled for 1997. This would take into account the watershed management sectoral evaluation and a management review of the SAP sub-programme in 1996, and all previous annual project reviews. Cross-cutting topics encompass project design, management, financing and monitoring, highlighting issues of quality, priority, timeliness, continuity and coordination, with particular focus on poverty targeting, gender concerns, beneficiary participation and sustainability. Reassessments will need to be made of the costeffectiveness of food transactions and changes in food security, both at a national and community level. The CSO highlights the need for preparedness for natural disasters and new influxes of refugees. Contingency planning and institutional strengthening will require review, as will the performance of projects attempting to bridge the gap between relief and development. The Terminal review is scheduled in late 1998/early 1999.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL

42. The Executive Board is requested to endorse the country strategy as detailed in the CSO and approve flexibility of allocation of resources between country activities during the programme period within the total resources already committed. In addition, the Executive Board is requested to approve a 25 percent supplemental allocation to enable expansion of the core activities of the social action programme to other priority geographic target areas and disaster-prone regions.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

ANNEX III

ANNEX IV

MONITORING PLAN WFP PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN - ANNUAL MONITORING PLAN FOR 1996

Month	Project *	Sub- proj.	Event	Pro.	Document Type	HQ	Federal Agency	World	Food Pro	ogramme	Donor	UN	NGO
FEB	4003	RD	AJK rural road impact study	К	Rd impact study report			CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM			
	2237 (Exp.3)		Annual review	Ρ	Annual review report		MOH	DCD	ZM	MAK	EU	UNICEF	CRS
MAR													
	4256 (Exp.5)		Accounts	BFK	Annual accounts		SAFRON	DCD	YJ				
	4256 (Exp.5)		Terminal reports	BFK	Terminal reports		SAFRON	DCD	YJ			UNHCR	
	4659		Annual review	F	Annual review report		MINFA	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	NL	FAO	SRSC/ AKRSP
	2237 (Exp.3)		Annual review	В	Annual review report		MOH	CD	ZM	MA	EU	UNICEF	CRS
PR													
	2237 (Exp.3)		Annual review	F	Annual review report		MOH	CD	ZM	SA	EU	UNICEF	CRS
	4256 (Exp.6)		Safety net review	BFK	Safety net plan		SAFRON	DCD	YJ		USA/EU	UNHCR	Various
MAY	2237 (Exp.3)		Annual review	S	Annual review report		MOH/ME	CD	ZM	AK	EU	UNICEF	CRS
	SAP		Management review	Ν	Review report	OMM	MOH	CD	ZM	FO/SAP	EU	UNICEF	CRS
JUN	4003	RD/ILM	Annual review	К	Annual review report		MINFA	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	AUST/ITA	FAO/UNDP	
JUL	2309		Annual review	F	Annual review report		MINFA	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	AUST/ITA	ADB	SRSC/ WDA
AUG	2451		Annual review	F	Annual review report		MINFA	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	GER	ADB/ILO	
ОСТ	NRM		Sectoral evaluation	FKB	Evaluation report	OEDE	MINFA/ EUAD	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	NL/GER/ AUST/ITA	FAO/UNDP/A DB/ILO	SRSC/ WDA
	4185		Annual review	BF	Annual review report		MINFA/ ME	CD	ZM	MS	EU	UNICEF/ WB	CRS
DEC	4377		Annual review	В	Annual review report		MINFA	CD	WFP Staff	SO/SH/KM	ITA	FAO/UNDP	

* All projects with financial assistance/transfers from WFP or bilateral donors are audited every six months, all others annually.

MONITORING PLAN - ACRONYMS

F	=	NWFP	CD/DCD	=	Country/Deputy Country Director WFP	ADB	=	Asia	n Development Bank
В	=	Baluchistan	UNHCR	=	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNDP	=		ed Nations Development Programme
K	=	Kashmir	ME	=	Ministry of Education		FAO	=	Food and Agriculture Organization
Р	=	Punjab	MOH	=	Ministry of Health		UNICEF	=	United Nations Children's Fund
S	=	Sindh	SAFRON	=	States and Frontier Regions Div.		EU	=	European Union
Ν	=	National	MINFA	=	Ministry of Food and Agriculture		GER	=	Germany
AUST	=	Australia	WDA	=	Women's Development Association		ITA	=	Italy
NL	=	Netherlands	AKRSP	=	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme		CRS	=	Catholic Relief Services
USA	=	United States of America	ILO	=	International Labour Organization		SRSC	=	Sarhad Rural Support Corporation
			WB	=	World Bank				

PROJECTED MONITORING PLAN - 1997-98

1997		1998
 Annual review of NRM and SAP projects will continue in 1997 Food stamps review early 1997 Mid-term programme review mid-1997 	- - - -	Annual review of NRM and SAP projects will continue during 1998 End of phase review of projects 4003 and 4377 during mid-1998 Appraisal for expansion of SAP beyond existing resources during early 1998 Terminal programme review early 1999

Monitoring Staff:

Three WFP international (one consultant) and 15 national professional staff are directly involved in project progress monitoring and audit. They are stationed in Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar, Swat, and Hyderabad. Two NGOs with 14 monitoring staff are hired for NRM monitoring. The Government provides 650 supervisory and extension staff for NRM and over 1,200 for monitoring the progress of WFP SAP projects.

ANNEX V

SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME MONITORING

Key SAP Indicators - Education

Primary school enrolment rates (K-5) girls/boys Trends in primary enrolment (annual percent change) urban/rural girls/boys Percentage of female teachers in government schools urban/rural Percentage of rural government primary schools with girls: boys/teacher ratio 1:40, 1:25, below 1:25 Percentage of rural government primary schools without building Public expenditure on education as percentage of total public expenditure Total expenditure on education as percentage of GNP

WFP Education Project Indicators

Trends in enrolment levels of girls by class by district Trends in attendance, drop-out, repeaters and teacher's attendance levels School committee formation and parents' perception

Key SAP Indicators - Health

Life expectancy at birth (year) [disaggregated by gender] Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 lives) Crude birth rate (per 1,000 lives) Crude death rate (per 1,000 lives) Population per doctor Population per bed Contraceptive prevalence rate (percentage of females 15-49) Percentage of children under one year fully immunized Percentage of pregnant women immunized against TT Percentage of pregnant women registered to total prenatal population Public expenditures on health as percentage of GNP

WFP Primary Health Project Indicators

Trends of daily registration of expectant women Extent of TT, BCG and DPT - 1 coverage Percentage of women registering in first tri-semester Frequency of visits to centre by expectant women Percentage of women bringing child at first post-natal visit Status of quality of MCH services provided including beneficiaries' perception

ANNEX VI

TRAINING PLAN 1995 - 1998

The overall plan objective is to strenghthen the capacity and capabilities of WFP and counterpart staff to improve the effectiveness of programme implementation and assessment of outcomes. The plan is based on a series of need assessment exercises and reviews conducted in close consultation and collaboration with the respective government departments. The strategy is to cover a broad spectrum of training activities by combining group formal group and informal training, the latter through study tours and exchange visits. The following training areas have been identified for implementation during the plan period: M&E, impact assessment, computer training, gender, exchange visits and study tours, community development, programme and financial management. The training areas have been outlined further into specific-sector courses as well as co-funding arrangements, which will continue to be on a tripartite basis: WFP M&E funds, sales proceeds from the Government and bilateral donors. The implementation of the training plan has already commenced during 1995 with the successful organization of a series of courses in gender, M&E, PIR and data analysis for counterpart staff. These efforts will be intensified further during the planned period. (See plan outline below).

		Implementation period				Source of funding			
Sector	Туре	1995	1996	1997	1998	Government sales Proceeds	W	FP	Bilateral Donors
							M&E	HQs	
NRM	M&E workshops	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		•
	PIR training	Х	Х	Х			Х		
	Computer users training	Х	Х				Х		
	Impact studies		Х				Х	Х	
	Beneficiary impact studies								
	Exchange visits		Х	Х				Х	Х
	Gender-specific training	Х	Х				Х		
	Exchange visits for women		Х	Х				Х	
SAP	Counterpart training	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		
	M&E workshops at the district level		Х	Х	Х		Х		
	M&E workshops at the federal level	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		
	Exchange visits		Х		Х			Х	
WFP STAFF	Computer skills training		Х					Х	
	Management and FIS system		Х					Х	
	Programme management skills		Х	Х				Х	
	Community development skills		Х	Х				Х	
	Gender and development		Х	Х			Х	Х	Х
	Study tours		Х	Х				Х	

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SUMMARY OF WFP'S GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP)

The gender action plan is aimed at improving the indicators for women's socio-economic development (short-term) and empowering women by ensuring their inclusion in decision-making bodies (long-term). More specifically, WFP's projects are designed with a view to increasing women's participation in environmental conservation and improving their access to primary health care facilities and education. WFP has targeted areas where socio-economic indicators are particularly a cause for concern - environmental degradation in poor and marginal districts is reaching alarming proportions, and gender disparities in access to health and education are usually significant in the same areas.

The gender action plan sets out a list of goals/objectives to be attained in the current programme period. These include more gender-balanced staffing to ensure access for female beneficiaries, encouraging wider participation of women in projects through a process of needs assessment and linkages with community-level organizations, identifying training needs for beneficiaries, WFP female staff and female staff of counterpart agencies, and investigating the possibility of expanding projects into areas not previously covered. It also plans to assist government agencies in establishing a gender-disaggregated database and has introduced a more gender-sensitive reporting format for current projects.

In the last year, WFP has initiated and conducted several gender-related activities in SAP and NRM projects. A detailed study on the role of women in WFPassisted projects was prepared, as was the gender action plan itself. Gender concerns were integrated into project and programme documents, and certain projects were modified to incorporate women's concerns at the planning stage. In addition, women were made direct recipients of food stamps, and female counterpart staff were included in training exercises. A new process of monitoring which included beneficiary contact monitoring (BCM), aimed exclusively at female beneficiaries, was also initiated. WFP has also recruited more female staff and has conducted a gender sensitization workshop for all WFP-assisted NRM project staff. An effort was also made in the last year to contact NGOs and other donors dealing with gender issues, and regular participation was ensured in meetings of networks such as Information on Women in Development (INWID). WFP also chaired the Inter-Agency Working Group on collection of gender disagregated socio-economic data and agreed to co-fund the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) database for completion by April/May 1996.

The full GAP will become a key part of the Country Programme Document and, together with the Training Plan, will underpin the support to implementation and focus the review process.

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KEY NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENT MONITORING AREAS

Policy, Planning and Participation

Update/revision of forest legislation and policy promoting sustainable development Widespread introduction of village land-use planning and planting the species of farmer's choice Encouragement of alternate sources of energy Encouragement of sustainable systems based on area livestock carrying capacity Improved management plans for state forests and private lands involving full user participation Increased involvement of NGOs in natural resource management Better and more appropriate delivery of technical and extension services in the watersheds Gradual increase of cost-sharing of inputs by recipient farmers/communities Equitable/expeditious disbursement of sales proceeds to local people (Guzara and protected forests) Establishment of efficient wood-using industries

Training, Extension and Services

Recruitment of new forestry staff, especially women Establishment of training facilities to re-orient towards the social forestry approach Training of forestry, agriculture and livestock extension staff in integrated environmental management discipline Expanded use of GPS measuring system for reliable and rapid measurement of areas under various land management systems

Research and Impact

Improvement in socio-economic conditions through better management of land resources Production and availability of fuelwood, timber and fodder Improvement in quality of livestock Reduction in siltation of the big dams Regular reviews and periodic studies

WFP NRM PROJECT INDICATORS

Planning, Participation and Training

Villages surveyed for improved land management, committees formed (male/female) Training - technical and social mobilization (male/female) Agreements made for reforestation/grassland improvement Village Land Use Plans developed - farmers/families involved - women_' involvement, species selection

Implementation

Procurement and utilization of inputs, workdays (male/female) Nurseries established - of which women-established/home-based nurseries. Quality and number of plants Plantations, flood protection, soil conservation and range management activities undertaken. Crops/products to be produced (by men/women). Quality of plantation, protection and conservation works Roads/paths made, quality of works and villages/communities connected

Effect

Fuelwood and fooder production, access to women, consumption, sales and prices; food prices Special studies on women's participation and income; impact of roads on local transport cost, access to services Equity in provision of employment, food stamp/cash incentives, wage rates

ANNEX IX

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	WFP DEVELOPMENT AND PRO PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN									
Number/name	Value/duration	Executing agency	Objectives	Target group	Area	Donor Co-financing				
Social action pro	gramme (SAP)									
4185 Promotion of primary education for girls in Baluchistan, NWFP, Sinc and Punjab CFA 31 SCP 6	WFP \$7.6m Gov. \$ 1.0m 5 years from 1.5.1994	Education Depts. of NWFP Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab	-Increase enrolment, improve attendance and reduce drop-out rate at girls' primary schools in rural areas -Reduce absenteeism of female teachers in such schools	Primary school girls & females in areas with the lowest participation rates of girls in education which are also some of the poorest areas in the country	be expanded to Sibi, Bolan,	Swedish contribution US\$ 563,800 for trucks and NFI. US\$ 50,000 Dutch grant for food stamps. Cooperation with CRS in Dir district and other selected pilot areas				
2237 (Exp.3) Assistance to primary health care CFA 29 SCP 4	WFP \$ 26.3 m Gov. \$ 15.3 7 years from 1.1.1992	Ministry of Health, Spec. Education and Social Welfare	-Encourage attendance of expectant/nursing mothers in health centres -Increase the use of primary health care facilities	Expectant and nursing mothers and children attending health centres in poor rural areas N.B. Experimental use of incentives for community/health workers and TB outpatients under treatment to be considered	Selected districts in Punjab, Baluchistan, NWFP, Sindh and AJK Priority is given to areas where social indicators (health and female education) and economic indicators (household income, production and employment) are lowest	development banks) assist this sector in support of outreach and quality improvement in health and				

Refugee assistance (PRO)

PRO 4256 (Exp.6) WFP \$ 5.1m Feeding of Afghan Gov. \$ 2.0m refugees in Pakistan 1996

CFA 40 SCP 15 Ministry of State and Frontier Regions Division (SAFRON)

-Mitigate the negative effects of termination of care and maintenance feeding of Afghan refugees through targeted social safety-net activities -Enable marginal/vulnerable groups to become self-reliant through education and incomegenerating skill training programmes

About 2,000 families (new Refugee villages are arrivals at Nasir Bagh) and vulnerable groups (estimated at about 10% of the total refugee population residing in camps)

concentrated in border areas of health, drinking- water, NWFP, Baluchistan and Punjab, although some refugees live in the larger towns of these provinces

UNHCR responsible for education and incomegenerating activities as well as the safety-net activities. Several NGOs are involved in these activities as implementing patners. The Commissionerates of Afghan Refugees (CAR) continue to be responsible for coordination of operational and policy matters involving donor and government assistance

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ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PAKISTAN IN THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTOR

WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

HIGHLY MOBILE (little or no purdah, usually the poorest PARTLY MOBILE (purdah, but movement possible) HIGHLY RESTRICTED (strict purdah, woman restricted to household)

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF WOMEN

Social environment

Homogenous groups	HIGHEST participation	SOME participation	VERY LITTLE participation but possible
Heterogenous groups	LESS participation	LESS participation	LEAST participation
Economic environment	[household work plus]	[household work plus]	[household work plus]
Access to resources	SOME (through access to market, although limited)	LITTLE (limited to clan)	NONE (totally dependent on men in family)
Decision-making	SOME	LITTLE	NONE
Labour force participation	HIGH (actively involved in agriculture, collection of fuelwood and fodder, herding in nomadic/livestock areas	MEDIUM (involved in collection of fuelwood and fodder, village-based herding & stall feeding of livestock	LOW (embroidery, knitting; only users of fuelwood and fodder, stall feeding of livestock
Political environment			
Decision-making	LIMITED	LIMITED	VERY LIMITED
Group formation	POSSIBLE (within clan)	POSSIBLE (within clan)	VERY LIMITED
Group activities	POSSIBLE (within clan)	POSSIBLE (within clan)	VERY LIMITED

POTENTIAL FOR WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES/ACTIVITIES

Women/family nurseries	on village level	on village/clan level	within compound
Vegetable gardening & fruit-trees	on family land	on family land and within compound	within compound
Poultry raising (incl. training and basic veterinary services)	within compound	within compound	within compound
Improved fuel-efficient stoves	within compound	within compound	within compound
Women's production of stoves	on village level	on village/clan level	within compound
Agro forestry	on private land	on family land	-
TRAINING AND INTERVENTIONS			
Skills improvement	in groups within clan, but not necessarily home-based	home-based or neighbourhood groups	home-based skills
Income generation	non-traditional activities	home-based or neighbourhood	home-based traditional
Inputs/credit	start-up inputs/loans	start-up inputs/loans	start-up inputs/loans
Technical advice	required	required	required
Use of food stamps	possible	limited	not recommended
Matching village funding	possible (although mostly poorest people)	possible	possible (if men are convinced
Other training	health, hygiene and nutrition	health, hygiene and nutrition	awareness-raising on health hygiene, food and natural resource preservation

ANNEX XI

PROJECT DATA SHEETS (WFP development and PRO projects in Pakistan)

WFP/EB.2/96/8

Number/Title	Value/Duration	Executing Agency	Objectives	Target Group	Area	Donor Co-financing
NATURAL RESO	URCE MANAGE	MENT (NRM)				
2451 (Exp.1) Assistance to Tarbela & Mangla watershed CFA 33 SCP 8	WFP \$ 11.8m Gov. \$ 15.4m 5 years from 1.7.1993	NWFP Forestry Department MINFA to liaise for policy matters.	 Reduce soil erosion and flood hazard by treating 155 acres of private land through plantation, check dams, treatment of gullies, stone protection walls, prohibiting access to livestock Educate farmers in integrated land use techniques Organize village committees to participate in planning and management of assets 	will benefit 10,000 small land- holding families. Benefits will include	Project area is located within districts of Abbottabad, Mansehra and Kohistan. Estimated population 6 million. The whole area, which includes the middle catchment of the River Indus and the Mangla and Tarbela dams, is environmentally degraded due to overpopulation and livestock pressure.	
4659 Environmental Rehabilitation in Malakand Division of NWFP CFA 32 SCP 7	WFP \$ 7.7m Gov. \$ 13.9m 5 years from 1.1.1994	MWFP Forestry Department. MINFA to liaise for policy matters	Reduce soil erosion/flood hazard treating 95,000 acres private land through plantation, check dams, stone protection walls, protection walls, prohibiting access of livestock. Increase availability of fire wood, timber and fodder for livestock	14,000 families expected to directly participate in project. Land owners will benefit from increased income for fuel wood and timber. Much larger group will benefit from improved grazing and fodder availability.	Population of about 4 million. Swat, Chitral and Buner districts in Malakand Division of NWFP. Watersheds of several rivers have overgrazing and fuelwood problems through population pressures and impact of refugees.	cash component of wage and technical
4003 Rural development in the North-East CFA 30 SCP 15	WFP \$ 9.1m Gov. \$ 14.1m 5 years from 1.7.1993	LG & RDD ¹ Forestry Dept. AJK ² MINFA to liase for policy matters.	Reduce soil erosion/floods hazard, treating 30,000 acres private land through plantation, check dams, stone protection stone protection walls, prohibiting access of livestock. Promote sustainable rural development by improving the infrastructure, particularly rural roads, through labour intensive schemes identified and executed by the communities	5,000 families to put part of their land under forestation. 1,500 farmers to benefit from soil conservation/pasture development. Assist 14,500 workers mainly involved in road construction.	All of the AJK districts. Most underdeveloped with primarily agricultural economy. Average family holding 3.4 acres includes 2 acres of bench terraces. The area is very mountainous and road access to villages is poor. High population and livestock levels add to erosion problems.	UNDP/FAO technical assistance to Suketar project and World Bank assistance to land use planning unit. Australia assistance of A\$ 3m (wheat) for monetization to cover cash wage
4377 Water resource conservation and development in Baluchistan CFA 34 SCP 9	WFP \$ 1.9, Gov. \$ 2.6m 5 years from 1.9.1993	Forestry Depart. Baluchistan MINFA to liaise for policy matters.	Promote sustainable rural development through labour intensive schemes in watershed, Karez rehabilitation for water and land conservation	About 5,000 farmers will be directly involved in project activities; of these, 2,000 will be engaged in Karez/soil conservation activities, 1,200 in domestic/animal water supply scheme and 1,800 in range watershed water development works.	Qila Salfullah, Qila Abdullah, Loralal, Quetta, Pishin and Mastung districts. Baluchistan consist of 44% of country's total area with only 5% of population. Mostly rugged highlands and deserts with arid to semi-arid climate and a water table lowering significantly each year.	FAO/UNDP providing technical assistance. Italian assistance of approx. US\$ 700,000 through food monetization to cover improved monitoring/supervision costs and supply of essential tools/equipment.

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	PROJECT DATA SHEETS (WFP development and PRO projects in Pakistan)									
Number/Title	Value/Duration	Executing Agency	Objectives	Target Group	Area	Donor Co-financing				
2309 (Exp.2) Rural development and conservation works in NWFP CFA 28 SCP 3	WFP \$ 8.0m Gov. \$ 16.0m Originally 3 years from 1.7.1991 Restarted in 1996 after redesign	LG & RDD ¹ and Forestry Dept. NWFP under coordination of provincial PEDD. Policy matters with MINFA.	Promote sustainable rural development and conservation activities through labour-intensive schemes. Outputs include village plantations and rotational grazing, also rural roads.	Assist about 13,500 participants in rural infrastructure development and 4,800 farmers in reforestation and soil conservation activities.	Kohat, Karak, Bannu, Lakki districts of NWFP (especially the areas heavily impacted by Afghan refugees). The region is semi-arid and mostly reliant on rain-fed agriculture and livestock.	6 Volvo trucks donated by Sweden were sold and proceeds used to buy smaller vehicles for monitoring and supervision. AusAID is financing wages training and equipment/tools requirements of the forestry componen Project will coordinate with upcoming ADB project in the area. Two NGOs (SRSC and WDA) are involved for social mobilization, training and monitoring purposes.				

¹ Local Government and Rural Development Department. ² Azad, Jammun and Kashmir.

ANNEX XII

PAKISTAN COUNTRY STRATEGY NOTE (CSN)

(1994 - 1998)

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