

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
First Regular Session**

**Rome, 21 - 23 January 1997**

# **EVALUATION REPORTS**

**Agenda item 8**

# **E**

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## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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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).



1. The Executive Director is submitting for consideration of the Executive Board evaluation reports on three projects, each emphasizing different facets of the value of food aid in supporting rural development. All three studies provide important lessons on the design, organization and management of such projects.
  - a) Project India 2303(Exp.2)—Rural development in the Krishna Basin command area, Karnataka, provides food for workers on large-scale irrigation schemes. As with other food-for-work projects in India, it operates on the basis of closed-circuit monetization, where the workers may opt to purchase subsidized WFP-supplied food from their daily wage. The funds thus generated are invested to improve the economic and social well-being of the poorest inhabitants of the project area.
  - b) Project Egypt 3214—Land development and settlement in the High Dam Lake Area, assists poor, landless settlers to establish themselves in a new development area based on small-scale irrigation.
  - c) Project Tunisia 4783—Assistance to the rural development project in the mountainous region of the North-west, contributes food to poor peasants in the framework of an integrated rural development project, as food for work on roads and conservation works. In addition, food assistance is used for training and as an incentive for participating in farmers' associations to facilitate the introduction of new agricultural techniques.
2. Common factors which emerge from the findings of the three evaluations include:
  - a) **increased food production:** WFP assistance is clearly resulting in an increase in local food production;
  - b) **increased incomes:** the projects have brought about an increase in the incomes of the participants;
  - c) **target group:** the projects were all commended for an appropriate selection of target group;
  - d) **monitoring and evaluation (M&E):** local M&E efforts are all producing useful results, but more attention needs to be given to utilizing their findings in improving the design and management of the projects;
  - e) **popular participation:** two of the projects (India and Tunisia) give emphasis to the participation of beneficiary communities in identifying and planning key elements of project activities, a practice commended by the evaluation studies for its positive contribution to improving the projects' relevance to community needs; and
  - f) **donor collaboration:** the studies on two projects draw attention to WFP's role in providing food aid to complement contributions from other donors (India – World Bank; Tunisia – Germany, World Bank and European Union).
3. The success of the three projects in delivering benefits to women has been rather variable. In India, women have been the primary beneficiaries of the food rations as well as of the investment of the project's generated funds. In Egypt, the project's design did not envisage an active participatory role for women and the actual results of those activities directed to women have proved disappointing. In Tunisia, despite the role of women being given particular attention in the popular participation programme, their actual participation in project activities was extremely low, although women perceived a substantial benefit in food aid targeted to the family.

