

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

Executive Board
Second Regular Session

Rome, 12 - 15 May 1998

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.2/98/8-B
6 February 2009
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BASIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES - EGYPT 3214.01 (BASIC ACTIVITY I C)

Land development and settlement in the High Dam Lake area

Duration of activity	Five years
Number of beneficiaries	3,100 settler families plus 800 road workers
Total cost to WFP	5,547,645 dollars
Total cost to Government	19,472,615 dollars
External funding	87,000 dollars (Norway) 1,500,000 dollars (Social Fund for Development)

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.
One United States dollar equalled 3.37 Egyptian pounds (LE) in August 1997.

ABSTRACT

Among the activities of the Egypt Country Programme, approved by the Executive Board in October 1997, is the second phase of a settlement project on the foreshore area of the High Dam Lake. An Operational Contract for the activity was signed between the Government of the Republic of Egypt and WFP on 16 November 1997. Operations commenced on 1 December 1997.

With limits on water availability and in view of the size and growth of its population, Egypt's national food demands depend on food imports and local production. Access to food is uneven, as shown by the high incidence of poverty, especially in Upper Egypt. The activity is fully in line with the national policies of: a) increasing food security, both at the national and household levels; b) utilizing scarce water resources efficiently; and c) moving the population away from densely inhabited areas in Upper Egypt. The project will settle 3,100 families on 15,550 feddans¹ of land on foreshore areas of the High Dam Lake. Beneficiaries will be selected from the landless unemployed and from among poor farmers whose landholdings are inadequate. For the most part, beneficiaries and their families will be selected from rural Upper Egypt.

Beneficiaries will be involved in agricultural development, house construction and the establishment of access roads. To minimize additional investment costs and to better utilize facilities already available in the old villages, farmers will be settled in eight villages adjacent to settlement areas established under the initial phase of the project. One additional village will be established in a new site.

A total of 13,259 tons of wheat flour, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar and tea will be issued to the beneficiaries. Food aid will tide farmers over the initial period until they reach food self-sufficiency, and will be used as part-payment of wages to workers involved in the construction of access roads. Food aid will also be given to trainees engaged in various skills training courses. This second project phase will offer special grants and incentives to promote the participation of women, both in the case of settlers' wives and for households headed by women. For example, temporary shelters provided by the Government of Norway will allow women farmers to move to the harsh project area—as male settlers normally do even before their permanent houses are built. The new phase will also benefit from the lessons learned in Phase I, such as improved and more economic irrigation systems, better settlement planning, and improved access to loans and grants. Funds from the Social Fund for Development will be used for infrastructure development and for training in house construction and irrigation methods.

Under the previous phase, some 3,330 poor families were settled between 1988 and 1996 on 16,650 feddans of land. An evaluation conducted in April 1996 found that the foreshore farming was successful not only in raising the living standards of landless and near-landless poor beneficiaries, but that it also achieved quite high overall economic rates of return. Beneficiary families who were initially very poor raised themselves above the poverty level after three to four years of farming in the project.

¹1 feddan = 0.42 hectares.

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, a.i.: P. Bourgeois tel.: 6513-2725

Programme Coordinator: N. Crawford tel.: 6513-2467

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 6513-2641).

