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## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Agenda item 3**

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON WFP'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION**

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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.

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## **PROGRESS REPORT ON WFP'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION**

1. At its Third Regular Session of 1997, the Executive Board reviewed the measures and indicators proposed by the Secretariat as the basis for its report to the FAO Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action in 1997. The Board agreed that the format suggested was appropriate, and that the Secretariat's report would be submitted to the CFS by the end of January 1998.
2. In accordance with decision 1997/EB.3/3, the progress report submitted to the CFS is attached for the information of the Board.
3. The abbreviated versions of the Commitments, Objectives and Actions used in the progress report are based on the format used by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Network on Rural Development and Food Security for reporting inter-agency follow-up to the Summit. Some of the abbreviations may seem puzzling in that they may not reflect all the main elements found in the Plan itself. Therefore, delegates are kindly requested to refer to the World Food Summit Plan of Action when reading the progress report.



## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY ON WFP'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

### INTRODUCTION

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) supports the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action (SPA) in many concrete ways. Of the 27 Objectives included in the seven commitments of the SPA, 19 are directly relevant to WFP's activities, and 66 Actions comprised therein are directly supported by WFP's resource commitments. The status of WFP's follow-up to these Actions for the period up to the end of 1997 is shown in the Annex.

### WFP FOLLOW-UP TO THE COMMITMENTS OF THE SPA

#### *Commitment One: Enabling environment*

2. WFP firmly believes that strengthening opportunities and options for women is a key condition to assuring an enabling environment for the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

#### *Objective 1.3*

3. At the Beijing Conference, WFP launched a set of Commitments to Women with the aim of reducing gender-related inequalities that affect access to food, and opportunities for employment and education. A programme is in place to achieve a series of targets related to gender equity and women's empowerment by the year 2001.

#### *Commitment Two: Access*

4. WFP uses food aid to help the poor achieve self-reliant growth. In deploying its scarce resources, WFP aims to reach the poorest people in the neediest countries. In accordance with its Mission Statement, WFP currently allocates 93 percent of its development assistance to low-income, food-deficit countries (LIFDCs) and 53 percent of such assistance to least developed countries (LDCs).

#### *Objective 2.2*

5. Food insecurity and vulnerability mapping is a priority activity. Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) units are already established in eight country offices. The planned expansion of VAM will enable WFP to provide essential support to some 29 countries over the next four years. WFP, in collaboration with its partners, especially FAO, will help build national capacity. WFP is an active participant in the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information Mapping System (FIVIMS) initiative spearheaded by FAO. It chaired two sub-committees during the reporting period covered in this paper. WFP will continue its strong support to FIVIMS, in particular through its VAM activities.
6. A nutritional safety net for expectant and nursing mothers and infants and children is critical to preventing lasting damage to health, mental vigour and future labour productivity. WFP responds to the problem of child malnutrition by providing a nutritional supplement in integrated health and health education programmes. A policy paper submitted to the Executive Board (EB) in 1997 (WFP/EB.3/97/3-B) outlined ways and means of strengthening WFP's interventions, including those that address micronutrient



deficiencies. As decided by the EB, future Country Strategy Outlines (CSOs) will, as a matter of priority, examine the potential for addressing the problem of child malnutrition.

7. Insufficient food consumption by poor farming households during the lean season reduces labour productivity, which in turn may lessen future food production. WFP's food-for-work (FFW) programmes are an effective safety net mechanism in the context of seasonal food shortages. In the formulation of country strategies, WFP will define options for maximizing this "pre-investment" to achieve increased food production.

#### **Objective 2.4**

8. WFP's school feeding programmes address short-term hunger, helping children to improve their concentration and learning capacity. They also help attract poor children to schools and retain their attendance. As part of meeting the Commitments to Women, WFP allocates 50 percent of its resources for education to girls and women. WFP is committed to continuing this form of support to children's education in the neediest communities.

#### **Commitment Three: Sustainable food production**

9. The target populations of WFP interventions often live and work in the least resilient and most threatened environmental areas. WFP works to help poor communities adopt sustainable coping strategies in order to address environmental problems.

#### **Objective 3.2**

10. WFP uses food aid projects to help poor people protect and enhance the natural resource base - the source of their food supplies. WFP's activities include FFW employment through forestry and soil and water conservation activities; incentives to improve household food security and agricultural production through small-scale irrigation; and support to rehabilitate and protect land resources. These activities contribute to combatting desertification and land degradation. In order to increase the effectiveness of these interventions, WFP has begun adopting participatory approaches in determining the scope and timing of projects and benefit sharing. In October 1997, WFP participated in the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification, and will continue its strong support to the Convention.

#### **Commitment Four: Trade for food security**

11. WFP fully supports the view that well-functioning markets are necessary in order to achieve sustainable household food security.

#### **Objective 4.1**

12. WFP supports the development of internal market systems and ensures that the targeted food assistance it provides does not cause market disincentives. Commodity purchases made from donor cash contributions are increasingly made in developing countries (at present, 50 percent of total purchases), thereby stimulating regional and local production and trade.

#### **Commitment Five: Emergencies**

13. WFP has a clear mandate to provide food aid to save lives in refugee and other emergency situations. It is committed to using food aid in a way that is as conducive to development as possible.



### **Objective 5.2**

14. WFP's VAM units help formulate disaster prevention and preparedness strategies. Their capabilities are being strengthened, for example, by incorporating a wide range of risk factors relevant to most affected countries and areas within those countries, as well as by seeking active inter-agency collaboration and support. VAM units continue to build closer links with related facilities in other organizations (FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS), WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and NGOs) to increase efficiency and avoid duplication of efforts.
15. WFP recognizes that it has to play a much larger role in disaster mitigation work, and will explore approaches and avenues for a stronger response to this challenge.

### **Objective 5.3**

16. WFP considers contingency planning to be a key element in response management. This involves developing potential scenarios in areas at risk, determining contingency measures and establishing preparedness facilities. Such activities are heavily dependent on inter-agency collaboration, especially in programming, logistics and security. WFP will expand its contingency planning initiatives to cover all the relevant countries. In collaboration with its partners, WFP has initiated processes for planning appropriate responses to the potential effects of El Niño, particularly in southern Africa and Latin America.

### **Objective 5.4**

17. WFP believes that food aid used in relief activities can play a crucial role in facilitating the transition from relief to development. Major rehabilitation programmes in Angola, Rwanda and Mozambique have been undertaken on the basis of this premise. A policy paper to be presented to the EB in May 1998 will propose new approaches and guidelines for field operations to assist in, among other things, better conceptualization of issues, better collaboration and increased beneficiary participation.

### **Commitment Six: Investment**

18. With over three decades of experience in working directly with the hungry poor, WFP has the knowledge and capacity to be a leading agency to advocate on behalf of food-insecure poor people in order to augment funding for their food security.

### **Objective 6.1**

19. WFP works closely with national authorities to encourage programmes that will directly benefit the hungry poor. It will work with other United Nations agencies, NGOs and other organizations of civil society to enhance the effectiveness of programmes to combat hunger. In this regard, WFP was an active participant in the panel discussions on country agricultural-sector strategies organized by FAO in 1997. WFP seeks FAO assistance also in the preparation of CSOs. In addition, it has an ongoing collaboration with IFAD on rural development projects.

### **Commitment Seven: Follow-up to World Food Summit**

20. Consistent with WFP's people-centred approach, the country offices will continue to give priority to developing effective collaboration and partnerships with NGOs and community groups. Currently, WFP works with more than 1,000 national NGOs and over 200 international NGOs. Ten Memoranda of Understanding with international NGOs have been



signed at the headquarters level. The commitments and objectives of the SPA will be reflected appropriately in WFP's country programming framework.

**Objective 7.2**

21. WFP is an active participant in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Network on Rural Development and Food Security, which is led by FAO and IFAD. Country offices will participate fully in the Thematic Groups that have been or will be formed under the ACC Network.



## ANNEX

**World Food Summit  
Plan of Action:  
World Food Programme Follow-up**

**Commitment One****Objective 1.1***action 1.1 (b): **develop democratic, participatory processes:***

36 projects with explicit participatory components in 22 countries; new guidelines to increase explicit participation

*action 1.1 (d): **recognize indigenous people***

3 projects in India and 1 in Colombia for tribal development

**Objective 1.3***action 1.3 (a): **mainstream gender in policies (Beijing):***

WFP's Commitments to Women pursued through field-level Gender Action Plans, training, and establishment of MOUs with partners

*action 1.3 (c): **women's access to institutions:***

Efforts to improve gender balance within WFP have resulted in women accounting for 28.7 per cent of the total international staff

*action 1.3 (d): **women's education and training:***

21 projects in 19 countries have vulnerable women group training components

*action 1.3 (f): **improve gender-specific data:***

Reporting formats which include gender indicators are being developed and used in training sessions

**Objective 1.4***action 1.4 (a): **invest in human resource development:***

Children's education supported through 42 school feeding projects in 38 countries; women's education and skills training in 21 projects in 19 countries; nutrition interventions for children and mothers in 27 mother and child health (MCH) projects in 22 countries

*action 1.4 (b): **combat discrimination:***

Actions on 1.3 (a) above address issues of gender discrimination; marginalized people are assisted with tribal development projects

*action 1.4 (d): **protect children (1990 Summit):***

ILO is consulted to ensure that projects meet ILO standards regarding children

**Commitment Two****Objective 2.1***action 2.1 (a): **implement Copenhagen:***

Assistance to hungry poor for self-reliant growth is provided through 134 development projects in 57 countries, reaching some 20 million people

Also, assistance is given for human resource development, as indicated under objective 1.4 (a) above

*action 2.1 (b): **training:***

28 vulnerable group development training activities in 21 projects in 19 countries

*action 2.1 (c): **encourage stable rural employment:***

9 FFW projects in 9 countries to address seasonal hunger/unemployment



**action 2.1 (d): fair return and sustainable agriculture:**

65 projects in 34 countries to support forestry, soil and water conservation/rehabilitation for sustainable agriculture

**action 2.1 (e): access to agricultural resources:**

20 schemes in 20 countries to support access to agricultural resources in the context of resettlement and rehabilitation schemes

**Objective 2.2****action 2.2 (a): develop FIVIMS:**

VAM assistance, which also serves local capacity-building, in 34 countries

**action 2.2 (b): work for the unemployed:**

106 projects in 53 countries provide employment through FFW

**action 2.2 (c): safety nets for the food-insecure, especially children:**

27 MCH projects in 22 countries provide supplementary feeding as a safety net for food-insecure children and mothers

Also, assistance for seasonal unemployment as indicated under action 2.1(c) (above)

**Objective 2.3****action 2.3 (a): monitor food supplies and reserves:**

12 joint food assessment missions held with UNHCR in 14 countries; 17 joint food assessment missions with FAO

**action 2.3 (c): encourage traditional foods:**

Support to local production of traditional foods and development of local markets through local purchases for WFP projects: \$137,000,000<sup>11</sup> spent for 582,000 tons of local purchases in developing countries, accounting for 50% of total food purchases

**action 2.3 (f): promote community-based programmes:**

See follow-up under action 1.1 (b)

**action 2.3 (g): prevent/control microdeficiencies (ICN):**

6 projects in 5 countries to provide low-cost blended foods

16 projects in 15 countries to fortify food

**Objective 2.4****action 2.4 (b): promote access to clean water, sanitation:**

9 projects in 9 countries to support promotion of clean water/sanitation facilities

**action 2.4 (c): promote access to primary education:**

42 projects in 38 countries to help poor children attain primary education

**action 2.4 (d): promote nutritional and health education:**

15 projects in 15 countries with explicit components to support nutritional and health education

**Commitment Three****Objective 3.1****action 3.1 (g): aquaculture:**

2 projects in 2 countries with components to support fish farming

**action 3.1 (h): forestry to enhance food security:**

43 projects in 32 countries to enhance food security through forestry

**Objective 3.2**


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<sup>1</sup> All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.



**action 3.2 (a): monitor natural resources for food production:**

65 projects in 34 countries to support natural resource conservation/rehabilitation for food production

**action 3.2 (b): improve use of resources for food production:**

65 projects in 34 countries to support forestry, soil and water conservation/rehabilitation for food production

**action 3.2 (c): improve use of water:**

22 projects in 16 countries to support reduction of impact of droughts and floods

**action 3.2 (g): forests conservation and sustainable use:**

65 projects in 34 countries to support forestry, soil and water conservation/rehabilitation for food production

**action 3.2 (k): special actions for stressed areas:**

Assistance to 29 areas affected by refugee settlements/emergencies

**Objective 3.5****action 3.5 (d): develop, diversify rural markets:**

Support to development and diversification of local markets through local purchases for WFP projects (see action 2.3 (c) above) Also, 35 projects in 20 countries support rural infrastructure building needed for market development

**action 3.5 (f): develop training for resource management:**

56 projects in 37 countries have training components for resource management

**action 3.5 (h): promote rural finance systems:**

7 projects in 7 countries have credit components to support community credit projects

**action 3.5 (n): develop South-South cooperation (nutrition):**

Preparation of catalogue of relevant institutions to promote sharing of knowledge on food assistance (to be completed by mid-1998)

**Commitment Four****Objective 4.1****action 4.1 (a): develop/promote internal markets:**

Development of local markets through local purchases for WFP projects (see action 2.3 (c) above)

**Commitment Five****Objective 5.2****action 5.2 (a): prepare vulnerability information:**

34 countries receive VAM assistance, including initiatives for use of VAM information: collaborations/partnerships in this work include those with Famine Early Warning System of USAID (FEWS), FAO Global Information Early Warning System (GIEWS), UK-Save the Children Fund (SCF-UK), Community Information and Epidemiological Technologies (CIET), CARE, FHANIS (a local Zambian NGO), and Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Mapping System (FIVIMS) and several universities

**Objective 5.3****action 5.3 (a): strengthen response mechanisms:**

Response mechanisms include Rapid Response Teams, Contingency Planning and Augmented Logistics Intervention Team

Stand-by arrangements are in place in North Korea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, and in the Great Lakes region

Two Contingency Planning exercises took place in the Sahel region and southern Africa

**action 5.3 (b): supervision of response mechanisms:**

Monitoring of relief operations is being strengthened, especially with respect to relevant performance indicators

**action 5.3 (c): food security reserve policies:**

It is WFP's policy to support country-level food reserves; however, in this reporting period WFP does not have such interventions



**action 5.3 (d): promote triangular food aid:**

See action 2.3 (c) above

**action 5.3 (e): protect lives of civilians:**

9 evacuations assisted by WFP in 4 countries

**action 5.3 (f): protect access to food:**

WFP food aid to save lives reached 24.6 million people, providing 1.5 million tons in 45 countries in 1996; 1997 estimates would be similar

**Objective 5.4****action 5.4 (a): review standards for food relief:**

17 joint WFP/FAO food needs assessments in 17 drought-affected areas

1 UNHCR/UNICEF/WFP tripartite review exercise on operational coordination in the Great Lakes region (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo) and one UNHCR/WFP joint evaluation mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**action 5.4 (b): foster transition from relief to development:**

In 11 protracted relief operations in 11 countries, in 14 emergency operations in 14 countries and in 13 development projects in 6 countries, WFP supports transition from relief to development

**action 5.4 (c): pursue post-emergency rehabilitation:**

(As above)

**Commitment Six****Objective 6.1****action 6.1 (b): strengthen human resource development and public institutions:**

560 counterparts trained to strengthen national capacity-building

**action 6.1 (c): encourage partnerships:**

51 projects in 33 countries have partnerships for co-financing

83 projects in 40 countries have partnerships for technical collaboration. In 75 countries, there is also collaboration with NGOs

**Objective 6.2****action 6.2 (a): raise funding for food security:**

Special appeals for additional contributions to support development activities resulted in over 100,000 tons of food pledged

**action 6.2 (c): invest in food security and natural resources:**

65 projects in 34 countries to support forestry, soil and water conservation/rehabilitation for food production

**action 6.2 (f): focus ODA on the neediest:**

93% of total WFP development assistance to LIFDCs

53% of total WFP development assistance to LDCs

**action 6.2 (j): promote investments for small-scale producers:**

7 projects in 7 countries have explicit credit components to support community credit projects

**action 6.2 (k): invest in human resource development:**

The WFP portfolio on education, health and nutrition in 40 countries totals 818 million dollars

**Commitment Seven****Objective 7.1****action 7.1 (d): encourage role of civil society:**

Collaboration with some 200 international NGOs and 1,100 national NGOs



*action 7.1 (f): collect nutrition information:*

Nutrition information is collected by VAM units in 34 countries

**Objective 7.2***action 7.2 (b): UN discussions on FIVIMS:*

WFP actively participated in all the FIVIMS consultations called by FAO

*action 7.2 (c): improve data collection:*

Data are collected by VAM units in 34 countries

*action 7.2 (f): increase cooperation and synergy:*

Preparation of catalogue of relevant institutions to increase cooperation and synergy on food assistance (to be completed by mid-1998)

*action 7.2 (g): focus on national capacity-building:*

51 activities on counterpart training in 23 countries

Preparation of catalogue of technical expertise to be finished by mid-1998

*action 7.2 (i): assist countries in implementation:*

Assistance through country programming, and bilateral and UN system-related consultations

*action 7.2 (j): UN follow-up at national level:*

WFP participation under leadership of UN Resident Coordinator

Country offices will actively participate in thematic groups under ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security

*action 7.2 (l): partnerships for cooperation:*

Preparation of catalogue of relevant institutions to promote sharing of experience and expertise on food assistance to be finished by mid-1998

*action 7.2 (m): raise profile of food security:*

1 seminar with eminent scientists on ending the inheritance of hunger; publication of advocacy paper on hunger as a cause of poverty; dozens of TV, radio and press interviews and speeches in European Union, United States, Japan and other major donor countries to augment funding for food security

**Objective 7.3***action 7.3 (c): report to the CFS:*

Submission of report to CFS

*action 7.3 (f): report to ECOSOC:*

Submission of report to CFS/FAO Council/ECOSOC

