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Programme  
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Mondial

World  
Food  
Programme

Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
First Regular Session**

**Rome, 13–15 February 2012**

# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

*For information\**



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2011) – REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 200211

### Safety Net Programme

Number of beneficiaries	23,436
Duration of project	12 months (1 July 2011–30 June 2012)
WFP food tonnage	109 mt
<b>Cost (United States dollars)</b>	
Total food cost	415,340
WFP cash/voucher cost	1,202,880
Total cost to WFP	2,591,144

\* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

**This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information**

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Regional Director, ODN\*                      Mr S. Samkange                      tel.: 066513-2262

Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

\* Regional Bureau Nairobi (East and Central Africa)

## ABSTRACT

1. This pilot safety-net project aims to enhance the capacity of the Government to reduce hunger by implementing a safety net programme in suburban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire.
2. The project will distribute electronic vouchers monthly to extremely vulnerable households, who will exchange them for food in authorized shops. The targeting criteria include households whose monthly income is less than US\$60, households headed by women – especially those who are pregnant, nursing or caring for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) patients. The vouchers will enable beneficiaries to fill the gap that deprives them of food, forces them to take children out of school and to sacrifice healthcare; they will be distributed on the condition of regular school enrolment and use of health services. The project aims to ensure that PLHIV, TB patients, malnourished children under 2 and pregnant or lactating women will adhere to their treatment and receive a nutritional supplement in addition to the vouchers.
3. This project is based on the WFP safety net feasibility study and surveys carried out between May and September 2010. The feasibility study recommended the use of vouchers because they would enable households to save US\$10 per month compared with the distribution of food. The project is supported by the Government, which is committed to investing more in social protection under a policy to be spelt out and implemented with a view to giving the poorest people access to social services. The project is in line with the 2008–2013 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and the 2009–2013 United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
4. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action with WFP assistance through non-governmental organizations; it will be coordinated with the operations of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization. The objectives are to:
  - i) enhance the capacity of the Government to reduce hunger by providing training and capacity development in implementing safety-net programmes in suburban areas of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire (Strategic Objective 5);
  - ii) support the Government in reducing undernutrition to below critical levels and breaking the inter-generational cycle of hunger (Strategic Objective 4);
  - iii) meet the food and nutrition needs of PLHIV and TB patients (Strategic Objective 4); and
  - iv) improve school enrolment and attendance in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire among children aged 6–12 (Strategic Objective 4).<sup>1</sup>
5. The intention is to integrate this pilot project into future government social-protection programmes such as the National Social Protection Strategy, which is being formulated with the assistance of UNICEF and the African Development Bank. National empowerment will be guaranteed because the Government is committed to covering the voucher costs of the project. At the end of the project, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Humanitarian Action is expected to set up an inter-ministerial unit to coordinate the National Social Protection Strategy and its safety-net programmes.

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Objective 4 – Reduce chronic hunger and undernutrition; and Strategic Objective 5 – Strengthen the capacities of countries to reduce hunger, including through hand-over strategies and local purchase.