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Programme  
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Mundial  
de Alimentos

**Executive Board  
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**Rome, 6–10 June 2011**

## **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

**Agenda item 11**

*For information\**



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## **DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2010) — LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION 200141**

### **School Feeding Capacity Development**

Duration of project	3 years (1 January 2011–31 December 2013)
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#### **Cost (United States dollars)**

WFP food cost	0
Total cost to WFP	3,929,650

\* 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 points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Regional Director, ODPC\*:                      Mr P. Medrano                      tel.: 066513-2323

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

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## ABSTRACT

1. School feeding programmes (SFPs) are effective safety nets in the Latin American and the Caribbean region that reach up to 80 million children a day: they enhance educational access and completion rates and provide nutritional support to schoolchildren. But 2.9 million children are out of school<sup>1</sup> and excluded from the benefits of national SFPs, even though enrolment in primary education is over 90 percent. The global financial crisis, the volatility of food prices and the extreme weather events are forcing the poorest households to take children out of school to work and reduce their nutritional intake. SFPs are a powerful component of social protection systems that offer benefits to schoolchildren and the community in terms of education, health, nutrition and income transfers to families. They are also a platform for complementary interventions such as deworming, school gardens and sanitation, and they promote local economies through direct procurement of food from small farmers.
2. Regional development project (DEV) 200141 is designed to provide capacity development to enable governments and other stakeholders to improve the sustainability and quality of national SFPs by addressing constraints such as inefficiencies in implementation, weak institutional capacity and poor quality of school feeding components that are preventing SFPs from providing the full range of benefits for vulnerable schoolchildren. It is a non-food-based programme that draws on WFP's extensive experience with successful SFPs in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. During the three-year duration of DEV 200141, WFP will facilitate South-South cooperation, knowledge management, technical assistance and training among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to support the development of national school feeding capacities across the region.
3. DEV 200141 will encourage the use of WFP's eight quality standards for sustainable SFPs<sup>2</sup> to identify gaps in existing national SFPs, which will then be addressed through national plans to improve the design and implementation of SFPs with a view to enhancing quality and sustainability. In addition to the benefits for schoolchildren and communities, WFP will have: i) validated its quality standards for sustainable SFPs; ii) identified SFP components to be improved in terms of quality and sustainability; iii) increased the regional knowledge base; iv) improved cost analysis, models, tools and guidelines; and v) supported the implementation of 12 national plans to address capacity needs for SFPs. Regional DEV 200141 will directly benefit governments by enhancing their capacities to design and implement sound and sustainable SFPs as part of national social protection policy frameworks.

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO. 2010. *Education for All: Global Monitoring Report*. Paris.

<sup>2</sup> 1) strategy for sustainability; 2) national policy frameworks; 3) stable funding and budgeting; 4) needs-based, cost-effective quality programme design; 5) strong institutional arrangement for implementation, monitoring and accountability; 6) strategy for local production and sourcing; 7) strong partnership and inter-sector coordination; and 8) community participation and ownership.