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Agenda item 5

*For information**



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DEVELOPEMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR— (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2003)— SIERRA LEONE 10302.0

Integrated Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition

Number of beneficiaries	192,000
Duration of project	18 months (1 January 2004–30 June 2005)
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food cost	1,577,410
Total cost to WFP	3,130,141

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions of 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, West Africa Bureau Mr M. Aranda da Silva
(ODD):

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



1. The WFP Sierra Leone Integrated Mother-and-Child Health and Nutrition project will be part of a comprehensive programme to reduce maternal and early childhood mortality associated with malnutrition. The activities planned under the project will contribute to strengthening nutrition capacity at the district level and strengthening health and nutrition education programmes at clinics and in communities. The food component provided by WFP will be enhanced by complementary activities carried out by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in partnership with WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In the pilot district, where lack of access to nutritious food has been identified as a major problem contributing to malnutrition, all pregnant (from the second trimester) and lactating women and their children under 2 will be targeted for supplementary feeding in an attempt to prevent malnutrition. Distribution of a fortified pre-mix will be part of an integrated antenatal and under-5 care campaign. In nine other districts, WFP support will complement the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies to improve prevention, early detection and management of childhood malnutrition (i) by making available supplementary food for malnourished children and (ii) by supporting partner agencies in setting up a growth-monitoring system. In all projects, partners will pool resources for capacity-building and strengthening health and nutrition education, including HIV/AIDS awareness. WFP food will be an incentive for beneficiaries to use the services offered and to benefit from the education.
2. The project will contribute to increased access to quality social services, one of the four expected outcomes of the 2004–2007 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The activity is in line with “improved nutrition and health status of women and children”, one of the four priorities under WFP's new Strategic Plan, and corresponds to priority 1 of the Food Aid and Development Policy “Enabling young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutrition and nutrition-related health needs”. It is fully compliant with the WFP Enhanced Commitments to Women (ECW) 2003–2007, and seeks to contribute to ECW 1 “Meeting the specific nutritional requirements of expectant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls, and to raise their health and nutritional awareness”. The goals of reducing child and maternal malnutrition are priorities in the Millennium Development Goals.
3. This quick-action project is intended as a basis on which to formulate a comprehensive health and nutrition activity in the upcoming WFP country programme 2005–2007, which will be submitted to the Executive Board in June 2004, with a view to harmonization with the 2004–2007 UNDAF.

