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**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

Rome, 20–24 October 2003

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR— (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2003)— SIERRA LEONE 10270.0

Community-based Primary School Feeding

Number of beneficiaries	160,000 pupils
Duration of project	September 2003–August 2005 (two school years)

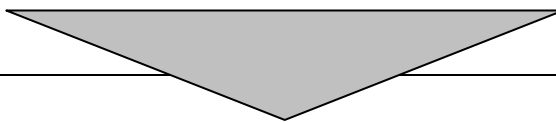
Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	6,224,522
Food cost	2,974,920

* 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 for information to the Executive Board.

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):

Senior Liaison Officer (ODD): Mr T. Lecato tel.: 066513-2370

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. Sierra Leone is classified as both a least developed and low-income, food deficit country (LDC/LIFDC). The decade-long civil war, which officially ended in January 2002, led to the destruction of much of the country's basic social infrastructure, including education and health facilities. Population displacement and the associated chronic food insecurity in many areas disrupted school activities and reduced the opportunity of children throughout most of the country to access primary education. Lack of food prevents many children from entering school or, in some cases, forces them to be frequently absent.
2. This development project will address issues of enrolment, absenteeism and drop-out, and will be concentrated in the western and northern regions of the country, which are classified by the Government in its National Recovery Strategy as priority areas.
3. The Government's objective for the education sector calls for improving access to and enhancing the quality of education for all schoolchildren. This includes the rehabilitation of school infrastructure, the creation of incentives for teachers to work in hardship areas, and the provision of teaching materials to schools. WFP support to the education sector will complement the efforts of other partners, including the World Bank, UNICEF, other United Nations agencies and bilateral donors in helping the Government achieve this objective. WFP collaboration with UNICEF in the de-worming activities proposed under the project is expected to forge strong partnership between the two agencies.
4. As part of meeting the objectives of WFP's Enhanced Commitments to Women, an important project component is enhancement of gender awareness among school staff and local communities, especially with regard to the importance of girls' education and the participation of women in the school-management activities. Raising awareness of HIV/AIDS through the medium of the school-management committees is expected to be an important component of the sensitization programme of the project.
5. This project addresses priority 2 of the five priorities of the WFP Enabling Development policy: enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training.
6. This project is intended to bridge the gap (mid-2003 to mid-2005) during preparation of a comprehensive WFP country programme, being submitted to the Executive Board in June 2004, with a view to harmonization with the 2004–2007 UNDAF, currently under formulation.

