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Agenda item 10

For information*



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Assistance to Vulnerable Groups in the Construction of Community Assets in Albania

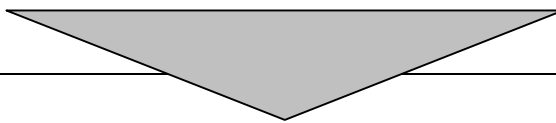
Number of beneficiaries	66,300
Duration of project	18 months (1 July 2002–31 December 2003)

Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	6,662,227
Total food cost	2,850,074

* 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 in advance of the meeting and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that this 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, Eastern Europe Bureau (ODR): Mr S. Malik tel.: 066513-2209

Programme Officer, ODR: Mr P. Guest tel.: 066513-2622

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. Under the previous Balkans Regional emergency operation (EMOP) 6136.2, WFP mainly supported unassisted/unemployed families. Albania was part of the regional operation at the time of the Kosovo crisis. With the end of the conflict and improvements in the socio-economic conditions in the region, WFP assistance has been phased out, with the regional EMOP terminating on 30 June 2002.
2. The post-communist transition has exacerbated food insecurity in rural and semi-urban areas; chronic unemployment, poor social service investments and impoverishment are widespread. Poverty in Albania relates primarily to low incomes and widespread unemployment. The collapse of pyramid schemes in 1997 had many negative repercussions on household food security. Despite a strong political commitment, the Government cannot provide adequate assistance to the most vulnerable families, let alone foster the creation of assets that could lead to the eradication of poverty. WFP food aid will support the Government's longer-term poverty reduction programme. In addition, WFP will use the 18-month period of the PRRO to contribute to finding durable solutions to food insecurity in Albania.
3. The objectives are to: (a) contribute to alleviating poverty by improving household food security; (b) strengthen participatory structures through support to rural and urban self-help activities; and (c) empower marginalized women through activities designed to address their specific needs. WFP's programme activities will focus on three key areas: Communal Forestry and Pasture Management (53 percent); Social Sector Assistance (15 percent); and Community Asset Building through FFW (32 percent).
4. The Communal Forestry and Pasture Management project activities are an expansion of pilot activities developed by WFP in collaboration with the World Bank under EMOP 6136.2. The combination of the WFP ration and the financial incentives provided through the World Bank will ensure a sufficient level of food security for the participation of workers and allow for the timely implementation of community works under the PRRO. Social-sector assistance will focus on vulnerable women participating in activities carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These activities include counselling, social integration and health care. Community asset building through food for work (FFW) is targeted to the poorest regions of Albania in the northern prefectures. Participants will contribute to the construction or rehabilitation of assets for their community (feeder roads, irrigation canals, water pipelines, etc.).
5. A total of 12,237 tons of wheat flour, vegetable oil and salt will be distributed to some 63,000 beneficiaries during the period 1 July 2002–31 December 2003. The Forestry and FFW activities will be undertaken for 12 months out of the total 18 months. The ration for the social sector component will be provided on a monthly basis for the full duration of the PRRO.

