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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 2001)— RWANDA 10079.0

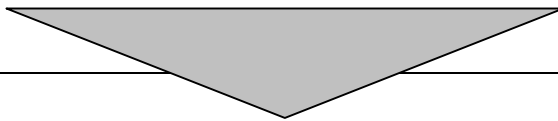
Support to Improved Self-reliance for HIV/AIDS-Affected Households

Number of beneficiaries	25,000 (monthly average)
Duration of project	1 September 2001–28 February 2003
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total project cost	3,203,407
Total food cost	1,232,820

* 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.

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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. Since the first AIDS cases were identified in Rwanda in 1983, the disease has progressed dramatically, affecting people of all ages, especially women and children. The national prevalence rate has reached 11.2 percent: 10.8 percent male and 11.3 percent female. There is no significant difference between urban (11.6 percent) and rural (10.8 percent) prevalence rates. The 1997 population-based sero-survey, conducted by the Ministry of Health, revealed that the virus infects a large number of people between the ages of 15 and 49.
2. The Government of Rwanda is reorienting its approach towards HIV/AIDS from largely health-related activities to activities that address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on significantly affected groups. Several donors, national and international, have initiated pilot activities exploring ways to improve the food security of these groups. WFP initiated this pilot project to support community-based activities that focus on vocational skills training and income generation. These activities are expected to strengthen coping mechanisms and to accelerate the reintegration of target groups into productive activities, thus mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on household food security. Food assistance is provided to participants in life-skills training and community-elected peer counselling to promote family and community care. Through such interventions, the project will contribute to breaking the vicious circle of poverty and infection. Take-home rations will be used as incentives and compensation for opportunity costs and as provision for family members to improve household food security.
3. The project will focus primarily on two of the five strategic priorities of WFP's Enabling Development policy:
 - to enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; and
 - to make it possible for poor households to gain and preserve assets.
4. The interventions are designed within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and address the combined problem areas of HIV/AIDS and food insecurity. The target groups of this pilot project are similar to those identified by the Government and the United Nations system.

