



Executive Board

Third Regular Session

Rome, 21 - 24 October 1996

PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED PROJECTS

Agenda item 8 d)

E

Distribution: GENERAL

WFP/EB.3/96/8-D/Add.7

2 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PROJECT JORDAN 2422 (Exp.3)

Development of forestry and rangeland

Total food cost	3 616 200 dollars
Total cost to WFP	4 734 180 dollars
Date approved by the CFA	29 May 1992
Date plan of operations signed	18 November 1992
Date notification of readiness accepted	3 December 1992
Date of first distribution	1 July 1992
Duration of WFP assistance	Five years
Duration of project as at 31 December 1995	Three years and six months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar equalled 708 dinars in December 1995.

This document is produced in a limited number of copies.
Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring it to the meetings and to refrain from asking for additional copies.

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for consideration to the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.

The WFP focal points dealing with this document are:

Regional Manager: M. Hammam tel.: 5228-2208

Desk Officer: G. Atif tel.: 5228-2321

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT AND OF WFP ASSISTANCE

1. The project aims to improve the income and living conditions of the rural population and support environmental rehabilitation by increasing the area under forest cover and improving rangelands in the semi-arid regions. Accordingly, the long-term objectives of the project are to: assist the Government in the regeneration of the natural vegetative and forest cover to support animal husbandry in conservation and range development activities; stem environmental degradation and increase range productivity by planting fodder shrubs; expand the green cover in the highland; and control erosion in the Zarqa river catchment area.
2. The immediate objectives are to: reduce soil erosion and improve environmental conditions by expanding forest and rangeland areas; improve animal production and the income of small livestock owners by rehabilitating their degraded pastures and rangelands, and improving resource management; increase agricultural productivity through the application of proper soil conservation and agronomic practices; encourage cooperative members and small farmers in the project area to develop their lands by planting fodder shrubs; create job opportunities for the rural population by involving them in producing seedlings, tree-planting and establishing forest roads and fire lines; help ensure the household food security of cooperative members and small farmers in rural areas; and develop water resources by constructing water reservoirs and check dams, using funds generated by the project.

IMPLEMENTATION

3. The project is implemented under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), whose Department of Afforestation and Forestry (DAF) deals with operational matters, including the coordination of activities undertaken by the Jordan Cooperative Organization (JCO). The project receives technical support in extension services provided by the National Centre for Research and Technology and by the Directorates of Plant Protection and Animal Production. At the central and provincial levels, there is a well-managed project control unit which is specialized in forestry and range management and staffed with 36 individuals involved in food management. The Government has reinforced project staffing with 131 forestry/range officials and 530 junior technical and administrative staff, including 134 regular forest guards and 40 radio operators.
4. In order to reinforce the implementing capacity of the DAF and assist it to build up an adequate monitoring system, WFP also provided some non-food items (agricultural tools), and micro-computers with printers, as well as training for two local staff.



FOOD MANAGEMENT

5. The food situation from the inception of the present phase to 31 December 1995 is as follows:

Commodities	Actual total commitment	Quantities received (tons)	Percentage of quantities received vs actual commitment
Wheat	11 350	7 330	65
Vegetable oil	378	214	57
Pulses	1 008	478	47
Canned fish/meat	419	261	62
Sugar ¹	4.2	45.2	100
All commodities	13 159.2	8 328.2	63.3

¹ Transfer from the previous phase

As at 31 December 1995, a total quantity of 7,772.4 tons of commodities had been distributed, representing 93.3 percent of the overall quantities received and 59 percent of the total commitment. WFP commodities are received at the Port of Aqaba and then dispatched to project warehouses, taking into account the allocation for each implementing agency and the requirements for various activities.

6. Post-delivery losses were insignificant, representing only 0.07 percent of the total quantity delivered. These small losses occurred during inland transportation. Within the project area, two main and seven regional warehouses were set up to store and distribute WFP food commodities.
7. Under the original phase and the first expansion of the project, WFP allocated 6,100 tons of wheat for monetization. The generated funds, which were initially destined to provide loans to the small herders/farmers for the lamb fattening operation, were reallocated as recommended by the WFP/FAO management review-cum-appraisal mission of September 1991. These funds were utilized to ensure the project's sustainability by constructing water points (cisterns, check dams) in the range reserves as well as implementing other actions to strengthen the range cooperative activities. At December 31 1995, a total of 183,000 dollars (25 percent) had been disbursed.
8. The low disbursement rate of the generated funds was reviewed with the Government. Accordingly, a revised implementation programme has been established to ensure more regular use of the funds. In addition, WFP's collaboration with FAO for the support to eight milk cooperatives is expected to utilize 226,000 dollars in 1996.



GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION

9. The Government of Jordan has met all its obligations as stated in the plan of operations. At 31 December 1995, the Government had contributed 15,971,000 dollars, representing 109.2 percent of its prorated contribution for the period under review.

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

10. The project has benefited from UNDP/FAO technical assistance under range management projects JOR/70/010, JOR/87/007 and RAB/84/025 which were designed to complement and provide support to WFP project Jordan 2422. It has also benefited from FAO Technical Cooperation project TCP/JOR 6611 - "Support to sheep cooperatives in southern Jordan", which was approved at the end of 1995, and elaborated jointly by the Government and the WFP office in Jordan with a view to establishing sustainable cooperatives in milk collecting/cooling processing centres. A triangular cooperation through a cost-sharing arrangement was established. The cooperative societies will finance the construction of the infrastructure; WFP will finance the material for the cooling centres for cheese processing from the generated funds; and FAO will provide the technical assistance and necessary training.

ASSESSMENT

11. The planned afforestation programme was totally achieved. The Forest Department has extensive technical implementing capacity; however, afforestation programmes are often hampered by limited resources and low wages. While delayed food arrivals seem not to have hampered the achievement of project targets, they probably have had an adverse effect on some of the beneficiaries; the extent and ramifications of such adverse effects are presently being examined.
12. The annex shows achievements, from the inception of the project to 31 December 1995 (three years and six months), in terms of physical work completed and rations distributed.
13. While the project has made considerable progress towards the achievement of targeted activities, most of which were completed ahead of schedule, there is scope to improve targeting to the poor in ways that are more consistent with WFP's Mission Statement. Nonetheless, a key element in improving the productivity of rangelands has been the participation of the community of grazers, organized in cooperative societies, supported with an integrated package of assistance that includes water harvesting (cisterns and check dams) and the provision of milk collection/cooling centres to enable rural women to generate income from the sale of cheese and other milk products in small-scale, cooperative-based processing plants.
14. In order to sharpen targeting of the poor and select activities appropriately, WFP has



undertaken a socio-economic study in Jordan. The objective of the study was to establish the socio-economic profile of the poorest strata and to provide WFP with the necessary tools to target effectively its assistance to these groups, adapting project activities and technical packages to their resource base and farming systems in ways that they can sustain, eventually, without food aid. The study is being finalized and its findings will be used in the formulation of a natural resource management project due to start in mid-1997.

15. An appraisal mission conducted in June 1996 determined that both the forestry and range components should place more emphasis on providing benefits to the local population. The concrete environmental benefits are already evident in the range areas and to a lesser extent in forested areas. Given the harsh environmental conditions and the type of forest intervention, it is difficult to achieve greater impact at this time. Furthermore, according to a FAO study, the project succeeded in increasing range productivity from 42 feed units (FU)¹ before the project to 125 FU after establishment, and in improving the range cover and plant species (composition and production) - a result of improved grazing management.
16. The project is demonstrating its success in helping to arrest environmental degradation and improve rangeland productivity. While rangeland degradation has already reduced forage production by more than 50 percent, without remedial action it will decrease by a further 33 percent over the next 15 years. Land degradation of this scale manifests itself as desertification. Its cost to the economy is equivalent to a loss of livestock support capacity from the present 1.1 million head to 700,000 over a 20 to 30-year period. The value of lost rangeland production, measured in terms of imported barley substitute, will be about 7.25 million dollars a year by the year 2005. Immediate action, such as that being pursued by WFP in this project, can help reverse or at least stem the trend of environmental degradation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

17. The major bottleneck that the project has faced is the repeated delays in food delivery. Since performance of project activities is closely linked to the availability of WFP inputs, the erratic delivery of food consignments disturbed relations between government institutions and implementing range cooperatives. A more regular supply performance is required.
18. The appraisal mission confirmed that strengthening of the participatory approach is critical for increasing the productivity and sustainability of the rangeland areas and for sustaining benefits derived by the target group of cooperative members, and recommended that:
 - a) the present area for each cooperative be expanded in order to provide benefits to more beneficiaries;

¹ One FU is equivalent to one kg of barley.



- b) demonstrations be carried out in order to increase the variety of species and enhance soil and water conservation measures;
- c) extension for the Government of Jordan and local cooperative members (especially women) be strengthened; and
- d) targeting be improved to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits to the poorest.



ANNEX

DETAILS OF TARGETS AND ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995
--

Activities	Units	Total targets		Prorated targets as at 31.12.95		Achievements as at 31.12.95		Achievements of work expressed in %		Achievements of workdays expressed in %	
		Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Against total target	Against prorated target	Against total target	Against prorated target
A. Afforestation											
– Gradoni lines	ha	7 500	825	5 250	577.5	6 222	607.4	83.0	118.5	73.6	105.1
– Pitting	ha	7 500	300	5 250	210.0	6 222	229.2	83.0	118.5	76.4	109.1
– Planting	ha	7 500	225	5 250	157.5	4 670	131.2	62.3	89.0	58.3	83.3
– Maintenance	ha	7 500	225	5 250	157.5	5 700	154.5	76.0	108.6	68.7	98.4
B. Interplanting											
– Site preparation and Gradoni lines	ha	5 000	100	3 500	70.0	4 097.2	80.0	81.9	117.1	80.1	114.4
– Digging of pits	ha	5 000	200	3 500	140.0	4 097.2	150.5	81.9	117.1	75.3	107.5
– Planting	ha	5 000	150	3 500	105.0	3 151.0	90.5	62.6	89.5	60.4	86.2
– Maintenance	ha	5 000	150	3 500	105.0	3 567.0	63.9	71.3	101.9	42.6	60.8
C. Silviculture tending											
– Thinning & pruning	ha	2 000	100	1 400	70.0	1 612.0	78.4	180.6	115.1	78.4	112.0
D. Forest roads											
	km	500	50	350	35.0	363.0	36.3	72.6	103.7	72.6	103.7

continued



**DETAILS OF TARGETS AND ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1995**

Activities	Units	Total targets		Prorated targets as at 31.12.95		Achievements as at 31.12.95		Achievements of work expressed in %		Achievements of workdays expressed in %	
		Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Physical targets	Workdays (1,000)	Against total target	Against prorated target	Against total target	Against prorated target
E. Seedling production											
- Forest trees & Fodder shrubs (units)	No.	35 000 000	525	24 500 000	367.5	24 500 000	351.6	70.0	300.0	67.0	95.7
F. Rangeland development											
1. Forest Department	ha	10 000	400	7 000	280.0	7 823.0	269.6	78.2	111.8	67.4	96.3
- Site preparation	ha	10 000	300	7 000	210.0	7 823.0	225.5	78.2	111.8	75.2	107.4
- Digging of pits	ha	10 000	300	7 000	210.0	6 058.2	172.7	60.6	86.5	57.6	52.3
- Planting	ha	10 000	200	7 000	140.0	6 058.2	134.5	60.6	86.5	67.2	96.1
- Maintenance	ha	10 000	200	7 000	140.0	6 058.2	134.5	60.6	86.5	67.2	96.1
2. Jordan cooperative - organization		3 500	840	2 450	588.0	2 200.0	528.0	62.9	89.8	62.9	89.8
3. Zarqa River Basin project											
- Planting	ha	1 000	120	700	84.0	812.2	97.5	81.2	116.0	81.2	116.0
- Reseedings	ha	500	30	350	21.0	400.0	24.0	80.0	114.3	80.0	114.3
Total			5 240		3 668.5		3 425.3				
Average									68.0		97.1

