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World
Food Executive Board
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Programme de l'Alimentation

Rome, 21 - 24 October 1996

PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED PROJECTS

Agenda item 8 d)

PROJECT CÔTE D'IVOIRE 3358 (Exp.1)

School feeding programme

Total food cost	15 346 320 dollars
Total cost to WFP	19 525 320 dollars
Actual number of beneficiaries	210 000
Date approved by the CFA	28 October 1993
Date plan of operations signed	30 May 1994
Date notification of readiness accepted	30 May 1994
Date of first distribution	1 October 1994
Duration of WFP assistance	Four years
Duration of project as at 31 March 1996	18 months

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar equalled 500 CFAs in March 1996.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information 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.

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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

Long-term objective

1. The project was designed in support of the national education policy foreseen by the Human Resources Development Programme (PVRH) of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire. The programme aims to achieve an overall school enrolment of 90 percent by the year 2000 and to improve the efficiency of the educational system at all levels. It places special emphasis on girls' education.

Immediate objectives

2. The project will contribute to increasing enrolment, reducing drop-out rates and improving the learning capacity of students in primary and high schools in the peri-urban and rural areas of the country. In teacher training centres (CAFOPs), the project aims to permit budgetary savings to be used for improving the quality of training.

Outputs

3. The number of primary school canteens assisted is expected to increase from 1,530 to 1,800 - for a total of 185,000 children - by the end of the project. Three thousand trainees will benefit from support to 14 CAFOPs, and a further 1,800 students in rural high schools will be assisted. Rations are also earmarked for the canteen managers and cooks (5,700 by the end of the project). The total number of rations to all categories will amount to 329,810,000. The level of budgetary savings was not established during the project's formulation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Executing authority

4. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has integrated successfully the school canteen programme into the educational system. At the national level, the project is managed by a National Directorate for School Canteens (DNC) staffed by a core group of finance, logistics and monitoring specialists. In the provinces, the advisers of the Regional Directorates for National Education (DREN) supervise the project with the assistance of the Primary Education Inspectorates (IEP). The inspectors must also supervise the management, the teaching activities and the canteen. In each school, the Principal appoints a teacher who is responsible for the food, the kitchen and the cooks. This responsibility involves promotion prospects if it has been satisfactorily discharged.



Logistics

5. The DNC takes possession of the commodities at the Port of Abidjan, delivers them to five central warehouses and from there to a series of "drop-off points" in the provinces. Transport to the schools is thereafter the responsibility of DREN and of the inspectors, who organize the final deliveries. The system covers all 10 regions of the country and functions efficiently.

FOOD MANAGEMENT

6. At 31 March 1996 the number of beneficiaries had reached 210,000 against a target of 175,000. WFP has advised the Government that no additional commodities could be provided beyond those stipulated in the plan of operations; the Government has agreed to phase out distributions in better-off, low-priority areas. Some delays in rice deliveries were experienced because of WFP resourcing problems. Post-c.i.f. losses as of the cutoff date amounted to 164 tons (1.42 percent of deliveries). Most losses occurred between the port and the "drop-off" points. Almost all losses from trucks were compensated by the owners through invoice reductions.

GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION

7. The Government's obligations were met fully with respect to personnel, internal logistics and storage. DNC's overall budget for 1996 amounts to 375 million CFA.

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

8. The Government of Italy has donated kitchen utensils, cups and spoons for a value of 300,000 dollars; these were distributed in all provinces by DNC. The Government of Sweden has funded the construction of six warehouses for an amount of 908,600 dollars. All works have been completed and the stores handed over to the Government. Technical supervision was funded from a donation of 83,000 dollars by the Government of Switzerland. The Government of the Netherlands is funding the construction of 572 latrines in schools covered by the project for an estimated amount of 268,000 dollars.
9. Côte d'Ivoire's education programme is supported by the Banque Africaine de Développement, which has committed 30 million dollars for eight high schools and 500 classrooms, and the World Bank, which has committed one million dollars for 10 model schools. UNICEF has committed 6,000 dollars for 1992-96 to support low-attendance schools in the North-East and in Abidjan. The French Coopération provides approximately 12 million dollars for the improvement of primary education. WFP assistance is targeted to a number of these institutions.



ASSESSMENT

10. The project conforms with WFP's Mission Statement and contributes to the Government's strategy of promoting education for all and giving women an equal role in the country's development. Project objectives and achievements are generally consistent with WFP's operational guidelines for assistance to education.
11. While it is difficult to establish a quantitative link between school canteens and the project's educational objectives, an overall increase in school enrolment in depressed areas during the project's execution has been noted. In these areas, cultural objections to modern education - particularly that of girls - are still very strong.
12. The canteens also help stabilize children's attendance and improve concentration. When a long break in WFP supplies took place in 1995, attendance dropped noticeably and picked up again when the canteens reopened.
13. The project has begun to attract more girls to school, particularly in the disadvantaged provinces, as verified by a WFP technical review mission conducted in mid-1996. The mission estimated that the project has contributed not only to increasing girls' enrolment in the disadvantaged provinces (by approximately 20 percent), but also to ensuring a more regular attendance. Baseline data on gender were not, however, recorded at the beginning of the project.
14. At the national level (DNC), the project is managed by a female director assisted by a small, mostly female, staff. The project management is motivated and effective. Women are less in evidence at the regional level and in the parent-teacher associations. Women teachers are underrepresented in rural schools, but 100 percent of cooks are female.
15. The project currently covers all the provinces of the country and does not always target the poorest populations. In some cases, better-off schools benefit from the project while they could probably manage a canteen with their own local resources. This imperfect targeting is generally due to considerations of regional balance.
16. The project is participatory in its objectives and management, as school canteens are in great demand and enjoy a high degree of support from the local communities. Parent-teacher associations effectively monitor the canteens' management, and the deliveries of WFP food, and contribute cash, materials and labour to the construction and maintenance of the schools and the canteens.
17. The funds generated from parents' contributions are properly accounted for and jointly managed by DNC and WFP. Initially these funds had to be borrowed for the urgent payment of port and stevedoring services, for which a government budget had not yet been made available. This loan has now been repaid. A total of 350 million CFA was deposited; it will be used for strengthening project monitoring. WFP has requested the Government to draw up a comprehensive utilization plan.
18. The local value of the daily ration ranges from 200 to 300 CFA and parents contribute only a small fraction of this cost. Most parents agree that their contribution might have to



be raised as a first step towards self-sufficiency.

19. Monitoring of food utilization involves DNC, the DRENs, the primary education inspectors and the parent-teacher associations. The monitoring of commodities is effective, but project authorities have not yet developed a system for measuring the achievement of objectives. In 1996/97 the World Bank will conduct an extensive evaluation of school canteens in Côte d'Ivoire, which will cover most of the project's aspects.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20. This progress report is based on the findings and conclusions of a WFP management review mission with the participation of UNESCO, which took place in May 1996.
 - a) The project supports approximately 2,100 canteens in all provinces. Its geographical coverage does not accord sufficient priority to the poorest areas. It would be more effective in terms of education and gender development if it were more firmly oriented towards the four or five most disadvantaged provinces.
 - b) It is proposed that the project include fewer canteens, but that each canteen be able to serve a larger proportion of the pupils, up to 100 percent of the children in the smaller schools.
 - c) It is recommended that priority access to the canteens be granted to girls when it is not possible to accommodate all the children.
 - d) For economic reasons, it is recommended that the project's basket of commodities be adapted, partially substituting rice with maize or other products, since rice is a more expensive staple that the children do not often find at home.
 - e) WFP intends to increase local procurement of commodities, as is already the case with palm oil, 325 tons of which have already been purchased under the project.
 - f) The project's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system needs to be improved, as it provides good information about food aid logistics, but is not sufficiently informative on the project's impact in respect of enrolment, attendance and gender development.
 - g) Assistance to CAFOPs and high schools no longer conforms to WFP guidelines on assistance to education and should be discontinued at the end of the project. The objective of budgetary savings has not been achieved.
 - h) It is recommended that the Government begin to plan a phase-out of WFP assistance in the medium term and prepare the communities to take greater responsibility for their schools and canteens. As a first step, the beneficiaries' contributions should be readjusted.



ANNEX

COMPARISON OF TARGETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS (as at 31 March 1996)

	According to plan of operations	According to plan of operations prorated as at 31.3.96	Achievements as at 31.3.96	Achievements in percentage
Number of canteens covered	1 800	1 800	2 100	117
Number of beneficiaries	185 000	175 000	210 000	120
Commodities (tons)	Total committed	Prorated as at 31.3.96 (36% of commitment)	Delivered	% of prorated commitment
Rice	27 044	9 817	6 093	62
Vegetable oil	2 028	736	1 055	143
Canned fish/meat	2 704	982	1 282	130

