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Programme
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Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

Rome, 23 - 26 October 2000

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 9

For information



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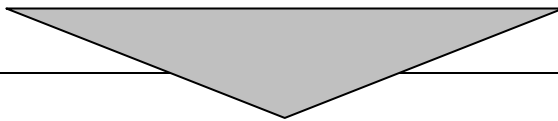
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2000)— GAMBIA 2729.03

Community-based Rural Development

Number of beneficiaries	106,250
Duration of project	Three years (July 2000–June 2003)
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	1,286,775
Total food cost	623,120
Total cost to Government	1,979,979

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.

Director, Africa Region (OSA): Mr M. Zejjari tel.: 066513-2201

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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. Gambia is classified among the least developed and low-income, food deficit countries. The country ranked 163rd out of 174 countries in UNDP's Human Development Report for 1999. Domestic food production only caters for 50 percent of national requirements; over 100,000 tons of rice, the main staple food of the population is imported every year, resulting in a significant rice import bill of US\$40 million. With a population of 1.04 million (1993 census) and an annual population growth rate of 4.2 percent, Gambia's population density is one of the highest in Africa. The average per capita income is US\$320. About 40 percent of the population are below 15 years of age.
2. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses objectives 3 and 5, namely: make it possible for poor families to gain and preserve assets; and enable households which depend on degraded natural resources for their food security to make a shift to more sustainable livelihoods.
3. A total of 106,250 people will benefit directly from the project through the development of swamplands, the conservation of upland soil and water as well as the development of rural infrastructure. It is expected that 7,500 villagers will benefit from the construction of wells, which will increase access to clean water and opportunities for vegetable gardening and rearing of small ruminants. Communities will also benefit from improved school infrastructure: classrooms, kitchens and latrines will be constructed or rehabilitated. The construction of access roads in remote areas will link markets and farmlands, and improve availability of agricultural products and inputs. Particular attention will be given to ensuring women's active participation as direct beneficiaries and managers through village development committees.
4. WFP will undertake the various activities in collaboration with national and international NGOs. These will provide the necessary resources and expertise for the successful implementation of the project.

