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Programme  
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Programa  
Mundial  
de Alimentos

Executive Board  
Third Regular Session

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# REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

***For information\****



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## DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 2001)— CAMEROON 10031.0

### Food Security and Rural Development in the Extreme North Province of Cameroon

Number of beneficiaries	25,000 (of which 5,000—or 20 percent— are female)
Duration of project	Twelve months (1 May 2001–30 April 2002)

#### Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	484 461
Total food cost	229 200
Total Government cost	15 000

\* 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.

Director, Central Africa Regional Bureau (ODY): Mr H. Arthur

Senior Liaison Officer, ODY: Mr K. Tuinenburg tel.: 066513-2252

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. Classified as a least developed country, Cameroon has a population of some 14.1 million inhabitants. Poverty afflicts some 64 percent of the rural population, but there are major disparities between regions. WFP activities will focus on the country's northern areas given their high level of food insecurity, and will bear on rural development. Activities aimed at increasing food security will involve helping improve village grain stocks and implementing hydro-agricultural development works, which are new components for WFP operations in Cameroon. These will begin as pilot activities, before the formulation of the Country Programme, so as to determine their level of technical feasibility and in order to test absorptive capacity.
2. The quick action project will contribute to improving the "village granary" system, which at present involves only a small percentage of producers, since poor farmers are forced to sell off their production immediately after harvest. Assistance will consist in adding locally purchased cereals to the cereals deposited in the community granaries by the poorest farmers. The gradual build-up of revolving stocks will eventually enable the granaries to become financially self-supporting. Seven hundred metric tons of locally purchased cereals will be made available to 25,000 group members and their families.
3. The assistance will also cover community rural road and hydro-agricultural improvements aimed at increasing and safeguarding farm production. Food-for-work activities will serve to encourage the construction of small dams, dry stone or masonry sills and larger-scale bridging works. Two hundred metric tons of food will be distributed in connection with these activities. A total of 19,200 man/workdays will be required to build 20 sills and bridging works and to construct sills, stone dykes and small barrages on 10 to 15 sites.
4. With a total budget of US\$499,461 WFP will distribute more than 900 metric tons of food to 20,000 male smallholders and 5,000 female smallholders and encourage rural road improvements on the one hand and soil and water conservation on the other. The two activities will indirectly affect populations of respectively 175,000 (including 105,000 women) and 82,000 individuals (including 49,000 women).

