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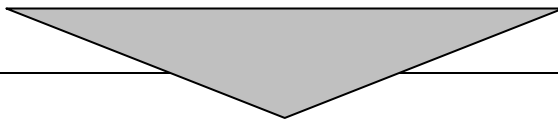
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SCHOOL FEEDING INITIATIVE

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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 point 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).



INTRODUCTION

1. Last year, United States Ambassador to FAO George McGovern called for a global effort to ensure that every child in the world be provided with a meal at school. The United States Government committed US\$300 million (in food, transportation and overhead costs) as a first contribution to the initiative, and called on other nations to contribute as well.
2. The objective of this initiative is to encourage governments throughout the world to put in place national school feeding programmes that will provide nutritious food to all children who need it.
3. The initiative promotes “Education for All”, a universal commitment of the world community (Jomtien Declaration of 1990 and the Dakar Framework of April 2000). It also supports WFP’s long-standing efforts in school feeding. WFP has been active in school feeding for 38 years. As of 1999, there were WFP school feeding activities in 52 countries, reaching a little more than 11 million children.

STATUS OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DONATION

4. In September 2000, the United States Government asked WFP and 20 United States non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to submit proposals to be considered for United States funding under the “Global Food for Education Initiative”.
5. WFP submitted a set of proposals involving 47 countries.
6. On 28 December 2000, the donor announced its decision to fund the approved programmes at a level of US\$292 million (with about US\$8 million held in reserve). The US\$292 million will cover the cost of about 630,000 metric tons of commodities (expected to include wheat, corn, non-fat dry milk, vegetable oil and oil-seed products) and transportation and administrative costs.
7. Approximately 44 percent of the US\$292 million has been designated for NGOs, about 48 percent for WFP and about 7 percent for the carrying out of a government-to-government programme with the Dominican Republic.
8. Official notification of the United States Government’s donations to WFP was received on 17 January 2001. The donations are country and commodity specific and are intended for school feeding activities in 23 countries, as described below.
9. The increased resources will support existing WFP school feeding activities already approved by the Executive Board in the following 21 countries: Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Tajikistan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. As all these programmes are under-resourced, this new contribution will help to meet the total needs.



10. The resources will also support the expansion of five countries' school feeding efforts at levels that the Executive Director has the right to approve under authorities delegated by the Executive Board. These will be for: Kenya, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea and Tajikistan. The first is part of the drought emergency operation; the other four have food values of under US\$3 million.
11. In the case of Bhutan, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nepal, the proposed expansion of school feeding activities exceeds the Executive Director's delegated authority; therefore, Board approval must be obtained. These cases will be submitted to the May 2001 Executive Board meeting, in addition to an expansion of school feeding activities to be included in the Country Programme for Pakistan.

STATUS OF WFP ACTIONS

12. WFP will implement activities within the framework of Executive Board-approved policies and procedures. The approach will be to concentrate school feeding initiative resources in accordance with the Committee on Food Aid's decision to devote at least 90 percent of WFP's development assistance to low-income, food-deficit countries and at least 50 percent of its development assistance to the least-developed countries. The principles of the Enabling Development policy approved by the Executive Board in May 1999 will be respected.
13. The bulk of the activities for which the United States funding is provided are activities previously approved by the Executive Board for implementation but not fully resourced after their approval. The remainder are expansions of approved development or emergency programmes. None are new activities. Therefore, while this new contribution to WFP is considerable, its impact on WFP operations (planning, logistics, staffing, management, etc.) is expected to be manageable. However, as in all expansions of food aid operations, modest re-alignments of or increases in staffing, storage facilities, etc. may be required. The costs of these will be covered per the full-cost recovery policies set out in the Guide to WFP's Resources and Long-term Financing Policies (WFP/EB.3/99/INF/18). WFP will follow normal resourcing policies and procedures, including the application of indirect and direct support cost policies.
14. To assist with the anticipated extra contributions, in September 2000, a School Feeding Support Unit, comprising two professional staff, was established within the Strategy and Policy Division. The unit's key responsibilities are: to conduct a baseline study and develop a standard monitoring system for school feeding activities; to provide supporting materials for advocacy purposes and for use by field offices, governments and other partners; to seek resources for and coordinate technical assistance to school feeding efforts; and to develop and maintain a repository of statistics and resource materials related to school feeding.
15. WFP's Transport and Logistics Division has analysed the logistical requirements for the new contribution and will implement the actions necessary for delivering the amounts planned in the selected countries. Because the bulk of the commodities are within already-planned levels, it is expected that special measures (e.g. the provision of short-term, on-site assistance and the installation or expansion of storage facilities) will be needed only in those situations where there is little recent experience in handling comparable amounts of commodities.



16. In 2001, WFP will conduct a comprehensive baseline study of national school feeding programmes, beginning with those in countries receiving resources from this recent donation.

STATUS OF INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS

17. WFP has extensive experience in working with a number of United Nations and non-governmental operational partners. Specifically within the context of the school feeding initiative, the Programme has taken preliminary steps to expand this collaboration, while still respecting the central role of the national governments of the recipient countries. WFP recently invited UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO to collaborate on relevant aspects of education, health and sanitation in conjunction with the Programme's school feeding activities, and has held preliminary discussions with FAO. All have responded positively.
18. Now that the United States Government has clarified which activities in which countries will receive resources, the specific means of collaboration with each of the organizations are in the process of being defined:
- WFP will actively seek opportunities for collaboration and synergy with the World Bank, which has recently committed itself to doubling its lending for basic education in poor countries, to an estimated additional US\$1 billion per year. The new WFP Bretton Woods liaison officer is on site in Washington, DC, pursuing these matters with the World Bank.
 - UNESCO will continue to be an important collaborator, particularly in the areas of technical support, gathering and providing data, and monitoring Education for All objectives. WFP has specifically proposed expanding data exchanges with UNESCO and strengthening the current technical support agreement to boost support to school feeding activities. (Under this agreement, UNESCO provides support to WFP on a reimbursable basis.)
 - WHO and WFP are working collaboratively to implement deworming activities in conjunction with school feeding, jointly designing a pilot regional workshop (for representatives from several African countries' Ministries of Education and Health) based on successful interventions in a limited number of countries. The proposal is being coordinated with the Canadian Government for core funding under Canada's grant facility. Counterpart training funds may also be tapped to cover appropriate expenses.
 - UNICEF is already an important partner, particularly for pre-school feeding efforts, health and sanitation measures and educational inputs. WFP and UNICEF have agreed to share data, pursue joint advocacy efforts and ascertain UNICEF's capacity to assist with educational inputs, sanitation facilities, and health and nutrition activities (e.g. in-school lessons and treatments).
 - With FAO, several contacts have been made and will be pursued. WFP has had preliminary contact with FAO's Nutrition Programmes Service, the School Milk Programme (Commodities and Trade Division), the Investment Centre and the Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division.
 - WFP will expand collaboration and continue to work with international and local NGOs and foundations that support the education sector in ways complementary to WFP and school feeding. In conjunction with WFP's annual NGO consultations, the



Executive Director met with representatives of five of the United States NGOs that submitted proposals for funding under the Global Food for Education Initiative. It was agreed that, upon formal announcement of the United States Government's decision, WFP and the involved NGOs would explore whether further collaboration were desirable under the initiative.

STATUS OF OTHER DONATIONS

19. WFP has consistently sought donations for school feeding from a number of different donors. The generous United States initiative contribution provides resources for about half of the countries for which WFP sought resources for school feeding last year, therefore the Programme will continue actively to seek resources from all donors.
20. There is legislation pending in the United States Congress to establish and fund longer-term global school feeding activities.
21. In recent months, several countries have requested additional information to assist them in deciding whether or not to donate, and one or two have proposed contributing at least a small amount of commodities and funds in the near future.
22. Some donors have expressed interest in specific corollary activities to school feeding, such as deworming and micronutrient projects or providing food and educational assistance to HIV/AIDS orphans as a special focus of school feeding.

