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BASIC ACTIVITY WITHIN A COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JULY–31 DECEMBER 1998)— ZAMBIA 5937.00

Supplementary feeding programme

ABSTRACT

In September 1997 the Executive Board approved the Country Programme for Zambia, 1998–2002. A total of 28.6 million dollars was thereby endorsed for the implementation of basic activities and 3.3 million dollars for the implementation of supplementary activities, in light of urgent food needs in the country. This abstract refers to Basic Activity 3: “Supplementary feeding programme” approved in June 1998 following technical appraisal at the country level and subsequent budget approval in October 1998 at headquarters.

The activity targets poor districts and promotes nutrition activities as an integral part of the health package delivered under the Health Reform Programme. It also supports existing home-based care programmes by providing essential food commodities to boost the nutritional status of the most vulnerable and to increase compliance with regular health check-up requirements.

Food rations of high-energy protein supplements (HEPS) and other commodities are distributed to malnourished children under five; to expectant and nursing mothers; to tuberculosis and chronically ill patients and to orphans, with a view to improving their nutritional status. The initiative seeks to strengthen the capacity of the major hospitals in producing fortified HEPS in order to better control micro-nutrient deficiencies. It also aims at reinforcing district nutritional education and reproductive health activities through sensitization of households and expectant and nursing mothers. The activity is implemented in close coordination with UNFPA.

By the end of the activity, 210,000 children under five, 18,000 hospitalized severely malnourished children, and 60,000 expectant and nursing mothers will have benefited from nutritional assistance. Training and equipment on HEPS production in major hospitals will be provided; pilot HEPS production lines will be set up in three districts in the Luapula Province. A total of 14,672 households with chronically ill breadwinners, 21,328 tuberculosis patients and 10,582 orphans will receive food assistance for a period of five years.

The approved budget includes food costs for an amount of 11.6 million dollars and total costs of 17.1 million dollars, comprising direct support costs of 990,000 dollars. Some 30,000 metric tons of food commodities, including HEPS, maize meal, dried skim milk, pulses, vegetable oil and sugar, will be distributed to targeted vulnerable beneficiaries.

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 of 1996, 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 for this document are:

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).

