

Executive Board Third Regular Session

Rome, 19 - 22 October 1999

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8

For information



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY-30 JUNE 1999)— CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC 5837.00

Improvement of the Nutritional Status of the Most Vulnerable Communities

Number of beneficiaries	262,200
Duration of project	Four years
Food tonnage	9,082 tons
Cost (United States dollars)	
Total cost to WFP	7,233,032
Total cost to Government	1,241,744
Total food cost	8,474,776

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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(s) 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 Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



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1. The Central African Republic is classified by the United Nations as a least developed country (LDC) and by FAO as a low-income, food-deficit country (LIFDC). According to the UNDP Human Development Index, it ranks 151st out of 174 countries. The country is characterized by extremely poor economic, health and education indicators. The average per capita income is US\$267; the infant (0-5 years) mortality rate is 157.5 per 1,000; and the school attendance rate is 45 percent.

- 2. The project fits into the Government's plan for poverty alleviation. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This project addresses objectives 1 and 2 (enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training).
- 3. The education of youth and adults, together with health and nutrition, especially for women, young mothers, infants and newborn babies, are priority areas for WFP. The goal is to improve the living conditions of most vulnerable groups. A special sub-project will be devoted to employment generation. Forty-two percent of primary schoolchildren, 18 percent of kindergarten pupils, 34 percent of infants suffering from malnutrition, 2.5 percent of expectant or nursing mothers, and 1.8 percent of workers will benefit (directly or indirectly) from functional literacy training activities.
- 4. WFP will undertake the various activities under the project in collaboration with WHO, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, as well as with the French Mission for Cooperation, the French Agency for Cooperation, the World Bank and the European Union. The plan of operations will specify the individual responsibilities of each partner.

