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Executive Board  
Third Regular Session

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## REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### Agenda item 9



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## QUICK ACTION PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1998)—LIBERIA 5974.00

### Support to community-based rural development initiatives in Liberia

Total cost to WFP	1,450,752 dollars	
Number of beneficiaries	26,000	
Duration	Twelve months	(1 April 1998 to 31 March 1999)

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars.

### ABSTRACT

The civil war in Liberia, which lasted for about seven years, caused approximately 150,000 deaths and an unknown number of wounded. The basic social and economic infrastructure has collapsed, and the once prosperous farming and mining sectors have been abandoned. During the pre-war days, the Government of Liberia had sought and obtained assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors to develop swamps for rice cultivation in the agricultural basins of rural Liberia. The majority of the participating farmers were women. With the advent of a new government and improvements in the overall security environment, refugees and internally displaced persons have started to return home. WFP is collaborating with NGOs to resume the rehabilitation of abandoned swamps. Food for work will provide employment and an effective safety net for the project's participants. The proposed project aims at opening up 650 hectares of swampland and clearing 100 kilometres of access roads linking villages to the swamp area. It will directly benefit a farming population of 26,000 in 65 villages. Women will represent 75 percent of the target population. Project targeting will be based on the outcome of the ongoing vulnerability and risk mapping exercise undertaken by the humanitarian assistance community in Liberia. Close coordination with FAO, UNHCR and NGOs will be maintained throughout the implementation of this project.

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## 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:

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

