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Programme
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**Executive Board
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REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 8

For information



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BASIC ACTIVITY WITHIN A COUNTRY PROGRAMME, APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–30 JUNE 1999)— EGYPT 5789.00

Settlement on Newly Developed Lands in Waadi Saaida

Number of beneficiaries	20,000
Duration	Three years
Quantity of food assistance	9,401 tons

Cost (United States dollars)

Total cost to WFP	3,890,362
Total food cost	2,679,830

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.

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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).



1. Egypt is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country. Imports account for over 50 percent of its food requirements. The Government's strategy aims at increasing food production, both through vertical and horizontal agricultural development, with the latter involving reclamation of "new land" in the desert areas.
2. In accordance with the Country Programme framework, this project supports the expansion of agricultural lands in order to enhance national food security, increase employment opportunities and reduce poverty. Following decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This activity addresses objective 3 (make it possible for poor families to gain and preserve assets).
3. A total of 4,000 poor and food-insecure households (about 20,000 persons) from Waadi Saaida, one of the poorest areas in the country, will be settled on newly reclaimed land in six new villages. The settlers will be engaged in irrigated farming and animal husbandry activities. In accordance with the new land settlement policy, 84 percent of the beneficiaries will be landless tenant farmers and agricultural labourers, and 16 percent will be unemployed technical school or university graduates. Women, mainly widowed heads of households, will constitute 15 percent of the settlers. One third of the land allocated to each male-headed household will be in the wife's name. A Government-funded Project Savings Fund will be used to promote the establishment of cooperatives, support gender-related activities, and enhance participatory planning and implementation. An agricultural research centre, a training institute and two NGOs will provide technical support in extension, training and community development.
4. Settlers need food assistance during the first four years until their new lands reach optimum levels of productivity to sustain them. However, this project provides assistance only for three years, as the current Country Programme will end in 2001. Since settlement will continue until 2000, an additional three years will be required to cover all the settlers for four years. Obtaining resource requirements for the remaining three years will be contingent upon the approval of a new Country Programme which would include this activity.

