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**Executive Board  
Second Regular Session**

**Rome, 22 - 24 May 1996**

# **BUDGET INCREASES TO APPROVED PROJECTS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL**

Agenda item 5 b)

## **SUDAN 531 (Exp.2)**

(WIS No. SUD 0053102)

### **Assistance to primary and secondary boarding schools**

	<b>Previous budget (dollars)</b>	<b>Increase (dollars)</b>	<b>Revised budget (dollars)</b>
Food cost	23 073 986	2 503 133	25 577 119
Total WFP cost	31 118 790	4 392 362 <sup>1</sup>	35 511 152

All monetary values are expressed in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated.

<sup>1</sup> Includes 14.5 percent (634,244 dollars) for indirect support costs.

# **E**

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## NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. This document contains recommendations for review and approval by the Executive Board.
2. Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session, 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.
3. 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.
4. The WFP staff dealing with this document are:  
  
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Desk Officer: T. Grannell                              tel.: 5228-2298
5. Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).

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## **NATURE OF THE INCREASE**

1. A 12-month extension in time is proposed, with an additional commitment of 7,431 tons of wheat, 1,145 of pulses, 486 of edible oil and 230 of sugar.

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## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REVISION**

2. WFP assistance to education in the Sudan began in 1969 and has varied considerably in volume and targeting over the years. In its early days, beneficiaries totalled as many as 500,000 students a year. In 1983 the number was reduced to about 78,000 a year, due to logistical constraints. In the current phase, about 110,000 primary school students and 52,000 secondary school students receive assistance.
3. The Government deposits 80 percent of the local value of WFP commodities allocated to secondary schools in a savings fund. This strategy guarantees a reliable supply of nutritionally appropriate commodities to the schools, at the same time committing the Government to provide regular cash resources for the development of educational infrastructure in the poorest and most remote areas. To date, eight million dollars have been utilized for the construction or enlargement of 3,046 schools; 3,163 latrines or other water-related projects; 407 kitchens; and 1,000 other projects. All these activities have been completed. In the light of extremely limited cash resources from local community, government or other donor sources, the generated funds are perceived as the principal strategy to effect significant change in gender disparity.
4. The issue of long-term assistance in the education sector and the eventual WFP phase-out strategy will need to be examined by an appraisal mission. Pending the outcome of such a mission, and since the current phase is due to terminate in June 1996, WFP proposes to extend the project by one year and to provide additional food to cover project activities during the school year July 1996/June 1997.

## **Observations and recommendations of the pre-appraisal mission**

5. The Government's request to continue and to expand the project was pre-appraised by a WFP mission in October 1994. The mission confirmed the basic soundness of the project in its design and operation but nevertheless identified some unacceptable characteristics.
6. Although the Government maintains a policy of tuition-free education at primary and secondary levels, students are burdened with fees and other cash requirements that inhibit many impoverished students from enrolling or cause them to interrupt their education or to drop out. Government support for education is budgeted not only through the national Government but also through the states. Analysis of the full



extent of government assistance to education will be among the principal tasks of the appraisal mission.

7. The Government requested an increase in the size of the project, but in view of WFP's limited resources the mission recommended the following criteria for the selection of schools and beneficiaries to be assisted:
  - a) The project should focus mainly on primary schools (grades 1 through 8).
  - b) WFP assistance should gradually be concentrated on primary schools located in six states: Western Kordofan, Northern Kordofan, Western Darfur, Northern Darfur, Red Sea, White Nile—all of which are chronically food-deficit.
  - c) Selection should also be limited to rural schools with a substantial proportion of children of subsistence farmers and nomad children whose families possess minimal camel/cattle resources and to schools in peri-urban areas with displaced families.
  - d) Priority should be given to girl boarders and to co-educational schools in which at least 40 percent of those enrolled are girls, in order to encourage schools and communities to pursue gender parity in primary education.
  - e) Concerning the utilization of the savings fund, specific projects (construction/rehabilitation of classrooms, water-related projects, learning materials, etc.) should be designed to ensure that facilities for girls are equal to those provided for boys.
8. Although the Government has requested continued assistance to all currently assisted secondary schools, WFP proposes under this budget revision to retain only girls' secondary schools, in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines for WFP Assistance to Education*.
9. The number of direct beneficiaries in schools meeting the above-mentioned criteria would be as follows:

Category	Total	Boys	Girls
Primary school boarders	72 230	46 741	25 489
Secondary school boarders	23 226	-	23 226
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>95 456</b>	<b>46 741</b>	<b>48 715</b>

10. This budget revision represents a reduction of more than 40 percent of WFP assistance compared to the current project operation, since assistance to primary schools in 10 of 16 states and to all boys' secondary schools is discontinued.
11. The six states in which WFP assistance will be primarily concentrated are prone to severe drought sometimes enduring over several growing seasons. The WFP/FAO food availability and crop assessment mission of November/December 1995 calculated



that crop failure in some areas of Northern Darfur, Northern and Western Kordofan is as much as 90 percent. Coping mechanisms following an excellent earlier harvest can resolve the shortages this year but should the pattern continue for a second year, serious food deficits will be inevitable. The situation in Red Sea state indicates a similar scenario. The project will, therefore, assist in alleviating chronic hunger in these food-deficit states.

## COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

12. Commodity requirements and rations are as follows:

Additional commitment	Tons
Wheat grain	7 431
Pulses	1 145
Edible oil	486
Sugar	230

Rations (daily)	Wheat	Pulses	Edible oil	Sugar
	<i>(in grams)</i>			
72 230 primary school boarders (240 days)	300	50	20	10
23 226 secondary school girl boarders (240 days)	400	50	25	10

13. The wheat for secondary schools (2,027 tons) is monetized at Port Sudan at the c.i.f. price, realizing also a saving in the ITSH subsidy. The sales proceeds, together with additional government funds, will be used to buy a daily ration of bread (450-500 grams per person) for the secondary school students.

## RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

14. This 12-month extension in time plus the additional commodity commitment, is recommended for approval by the Executive Board.

