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POLICY ISSUES

Agenda item 5

*For information**



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FOLLOW-UP TO WFP NUTRITION POLICY



* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information

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.

Director, PS*: Mr M. Aranda da Silva tel.: 066513-2988

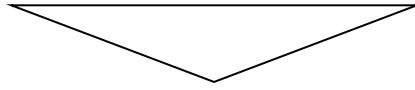
Chief, PSN**: Mr M. Bloem tel.: 066513-2565

Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms I. Carpitella, Senior Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

* Policy, Planning and Strategy Division

** Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Policy

DRAFT DECISION*



The Board takes note of “Follow-Up to WFP Nutrition Policy” (WFP/EB.A/2012/5-D).

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

INTRODUCTION

1. In February 2012 the Board approved “WFP Nutrition Policy” (WFP/EB.1/2012/5-A), which set out WFP’s work with partners in the United Nations, civil society, academia and the private sector to assist governments in defining and implementing nutrition policies and strategies. WFP, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) subscribe to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) roadmap of actions to address undernutrition. Each agency will exploit its comparative advantage in advocacy, technical assistance and enhancement of national capacities.
2. WFP will work through SUN, the REACH partnership for ending child hunger, the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and the cluster system to coordinate its work with partners, prevent gaps and avoid duplication. WFP will focus on:
 - treatment of moderate acute malnutrition;
 - prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (wasting);
 - prevention of chronic malnutrition (stunting);
 - micronutrient deficiencies; and
 - nutrition-sensitive programming.
3. The clarifications requested by the Board in approving the new policy are given below.

Timeline for Updating the Policy

4. The Secretariat will update the Board on WFP’s nutrition policy at its Annual Session in alternate years, starting in 2013. The updates, to be submitted for information, will include: i) lessons learned from WFP programmes and its assistance for governments in implementing nutrition strategies; ii) developments in the SCN and SUN; iii) examples of engagement with partners such as UNICEF, WHO and FAO in addressing undernutrition; iv) examples of WFP’s assistance for governments in enhancing capacity in nutrition; and v) highlights of WFP’s work in its areas of comparative advantage in emergency and development settings. In order to take into account the recommendations from the planned Nutrition Policy Evaluation, expected to be presented at the Annual Session of the Executive Board in 2015, an update of the current Nutrition Policy will be presented to the Executive Board in June 2015.

Budget Estimate and Information about Resourcing Options

5. The nutrition policy commits WFP to realigning its priorities and budgets with a view to contributing to government-led nutrition responses. The evaluation document “From Food Aid to Food Assistance: Working in Partnership” (WFP/EB.1/2012/6-A) highlighted the need to enhance nutrition-related capacities among WFP staff and recommended action on training for staff, management incentives and leadership skills. This will require targeted allocations of existing resources, and additional resources to implement the policy and increase WFP’s capacities.
6. The WFP Management Plan (2012–2014) allocates resources with a view to increased attention to nutrition issues without increased Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) costs.

7. To implement the nutrition policy, WFP will have to make one-off extra-budgetary investments to:
 - enhance frameworks for partnerships and national capacity development in nutrition;
 - enhance staff skills in nutrition at various levels through targeted tools, improved design guidance, training, communication and advocacy;
 - improve nutrition situation analysis to assess the availability, accessibility and utilization of nutrient-rich foods among young children and women by incorporating these issues in assessments;
 - make delivery mechanisms faster and more reliable, for example through forward purchasing and continued emphasis on local and regional procurement; and
 - improve monitoring and evaluation capacities and carry out research and cost-effectiveness studies.
8. To implement these improvements over a five-year period, WFP estimates the need for an additional US\$15 million in extra-budgetary support. At the time of writing, WFP has received pledges that will support the roll out of the new Nutrition Policy amounting to US\$9 million from Canada, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America and from partnerships with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the Micronutrient Initiative, and Royal DSM N.V. WFP will continue to engage with private-sector and government partners to fill the funding gap and will inform the Board in its annual updates on the nutrition policy about progress in raising the required funds.
9. WFP will continue to align its programmes with the nutrition policy by deploying the right food at the right time, particularly during the first 1,000 days and for children aged 3 to 5. Nutrition-related projects will be accompanied by nutritionists to ensure technical soundness. Using more appropriate special foods does not automatically imply higher costs: the use of such products could enable WFP to achieve the desired outcomes more quickly, and there is evidence that the risk of sharing with other household members may be reduced. The current Management Plan prioritizes funding for well designed and implemented nutrition interventions, particularly in emergencies and recovery operations, but WFP's annual operational costs for these interventions are difficult to estimate because they depend on factors such as the number and seriousness of emergencies, government needs, donor contributions and partnerships. All new programmes will be subject to approval by the Board.

Timeline for Developing a Partnership Framework for Policy Implementation

10. The Secretariat will consult United Nations agencies as recommended in the evaluation "From Food Aid to Food Assistance: Working in Partnership" (WFP/EB.1/2012/6-A) with a view to developing a partnership framework. This will be presented to the Board for approval at its 2013 Annual Session. United Nations support for governments in developing and implementing nutrition policies to address the many causes of undernutrition will be coordinated and harmonized through SUN, REACH, SCN and the cluster system to promote effectiveness, efficiency, complementarity and holistic approaches. At the country level, United Nations agencies will jointly support government nutrition policies through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, REACH and the cluster system.
11. The partnership framework will draw on the nutrition policies of WFP, WHO, UNICEF and FAO and will specify WFP's priorities and activities on the basis of the SUN roadmap,

which is recognized by governments, the United Nations, academia and civil society. It will identify areas in which WFP's contributions are linked with those of other United Nations agencies and will embody WFP's commitment to working in partnership with them with a view to eliminating duplication and addressing gaps.

12. Governments will lead the implementation of national nutrition programmes. Partnerships with United Nations agencies to support them will involve WFP in advocacy, enhancement of capacities and the design and implementation of interventions to provide access to healthy diets. WFP and its partners will support governments in situation analyses and the design of multi-disciplinary responses that may include modalities based on food, cash and vouchers and complementary interventions, which will be gender-sensitive and linked to social protection mechanisms. WFP will work with WHO, UNICEF, FAO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and through SUN and REACH, to help governments to integrate nutrition interventions with security, health and social protection programmes and to develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems.
13. In the longer term, WFP proposes to develop with UNICEF, WHO and FAO a Division of Labour in nutrition on the lines of the UNAIDS Division of Labour.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
SCN	Standing Committee on Nutrition
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization