

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2003-2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

Africa is WFP's largest region of activity. In 2003 WFP provided 45 per cent of its total food deliveries, or 2.7 million metric tons of food aid to Africa, of which 815 thousand metric tons were purchased in Sub-Saharan Africa for a total value of more than US\$ 160 million. WFP is currently present in 40 African countries and spent 46 per cent of its operational expenditures in Sub-Saharan African, amounting to about US\$ 1.5 million.

WFP sees cooperation with NEPAD as central to its goal of assisting the poor in Africa. As a follow-up to the outcome of NEPAD-WFP discussions, including NEPAD formal requests, WFP and NEPAD decided to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed on 19 November 2003 in Rome, Italy (by the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee and the Executive Director of the WFP).

In addition to the development of the Comprehensive Africa's Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) designed to address the chronic problems of food insecurity in Africa, NEPAD requested WFP in April 2003 to assist in drafting a document on Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme under the CAADP flagship programmes. This document has been prepared by WFP in the form of a concept paper to guide NEPAD in developing clear strategies to deal with emergencies and food crises that the African continent is experiencing.

Areas of support for NEPAD

The purpose of the MOU is to identify, facilitate and encourage practical cooperation in areas of mutual interest. NEPAD and WFP undertake to co-operate in the following domains:

1. Food security and livelihood protection;
2. Basic education, including school feeding relating activities and their link with hunger eradication, education, health, nutrition, gender, HIV/AIDS;
3. Vulnerability analyses, emergency needs assessment, as well as Contingency planning with the view to improve emergency preparedness and response at the national and regional level;
4. Capacity building through training, workshops, development and promotion of common standards, approaches and guidelines;
5. Joint advocacy and public awareness efforts for mobilizing resources and to ensure that food aid programmes and activities are adequately reflected in the poverty reduction strategies and policies of African countries, including in NEPAD priority areas related to food security and livelihood protection.

NEPAD and WFP agreed to start developing an Implementation Plan, including a tentative timeframe, for giving practical effect to their MOU. It is clearly understood that African Governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and African and international civil society organisations will be key partners in the implementation process.

Therefore, in order to ensure that selected programmes within the key priority areas, (including the Programme for Emergency Response and Preparedness), address the priority needs of the African stakeholders, it is essential that consultations with RECs, NEPAD, national governments, WFP regional bureaus and NEPAD “lead countries” take place. For that purpose, an effective networking is being put in place between WFP’s regional bureaus, the RECs, NEPAD and other partners. This has already started with the WFP’s regional bureaus for southern Africa and West and Central Africa.

In addition to thematic discussions (January and February 2004) organised by NEPAD and WFP, the above consultations will take place on the occasion of NEPAD and/or other major international conferences.

The agreed objectives of these consultations would be:

1. To review strategies and priorities, past and existing activities/experiences under the priority areas determined in the MOU, planned initiatives launched by various partners in the same above-mentioned fields, including RECs, international and bilateral partners, NGOs and/or African governments;
2. To take stock of lessons learnt, success stories; to identify gaps, weaknesses and further cooperation and/or partnership opportunities;
3. To come out with a better understanding and definition of the priorities by region and/or countries prior to move ahead;
4. To develop strategic concept papers to guide in the formulation of more detailed and documented specific Plans of Action/Programmes at the specific country and/or regional level, in collaboration with the identified key stakeholders.

With regard to the in-depth planning, WFP and NEPAD will have for each of the specific issues to select pilot priority

countries/regions based on criteria to be defined.

Implementation will be moving step by step and will cover different parts of the continent at different times and will not duplicate ongoing activities/initiatives. Leadership and ownership for the implementation will remain with respective countries or regional Institution, supported by NEPAD as the coordinating and facilitating body, in collaboration with WFP and other development-implementing partners.

Priorities for early action

1. Study on food reserve systems: As a follow-up to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme, NEPAD requested WFP to assist in a study on Food reserve Systems. The study will, in essence, emerge as a tool for defining appropriate regional and national food reserve systems within the broader context of food security. The study will review in 8 pre-selected African countries (Mali; Burkina Faso and Niger for west Africa; Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania for East and Southern Africa; Sudan and Ethiopia for the Horn) past and present experiences, take stock of best practices and lessons learnt and come out with recommendations for the future, such as the required improvements for existing systems, the most feasible (economic, financial, and operational aspects), institutional arrangements and funding options. The study would focus not only on physical pre-positioned food stocks but also on systems, such as cash reserve and building on the better use of existing local/national /regional institutional capacities and mechanisms. It would also provide information on how such food reserves have permitted to address emergency needs and to improve /promote regional and national food commodity trade, boost national

agricultural production and facilitate food access. The study commenced in February 2004, including 2 consultations organised in January and April 2004 by NEPAD and attended by WFP, FAO, the World Bank and EU and IFPRI. The technical aspects of the study were completed in May 2004 (country case studies). The corporate report (including conclusions and recommendations on further alternative options) was finalized in early June 2004 and the document officially given to NEPAD in mid-June 2004. NEPAD, in close collaboration with WFP, introduced the *corporate report* to the Summit of the African Union in July 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. NEPAD will convene a technical consultation in early October, which will involve potential partners (strategic allies), RECs and individual countries under review. The NEPAD Steering Committee will endorse the *recommendations on the way forward* during its meeting in October 2004, followed by a series of regional consultations between March-June 2005.

2. ***School feeding:*** NEPAD, WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force (MHTF) agreed to launch a pilot Home Grown School Feeding Programme. This initiative is designed to stimulate local production through the purchase of locally produced food. Local small-holder farmers will be given the opportunity and the initial assistance to provide schools with the necessary food products. WFP and NEPAD envisage also cooperating with other UN agencies to ensure the success of the programme. NEPAD and WFP pre-selected 9 potential pilot countries, namely, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Kenya and Ethiopia. The draft NEPAD-WFP and MHTF joint concept paper prepared in 2003 was finalised and sent out to help governments doing better their planning. This first planning phase will involve most of the partners that demonstrate their interest in the

initiative. In November 2003, a well-designed document was issued by the Government of Uganda (although not listed under the pilot countries) and in early April 2004, a very interesting proposal was submitted by Ghana, followed by Mali in June 2004.

Financial outlay of WFP in supporting NEPAD priorities

WFP has been and will pursue providing financial support to the NEPAD Secretariat to help NEPAD in designing a thematic concept paper (*Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme*) and in carrying out the study for exploring further options for food security reserve systems in Africa. This type of institutional support will be pursued during 2004-2005, including in the area of capacity building.

The WFP's contribution to NEPAD for the period 2003-2004 (up to end of July 2004) is as follows:

1. **US\$ 45,000 in 2003-2004 (up to end of May 2004)** to fund participation of NEPAD counterpart to bilateral consultations and to assist in designing the CAADP's Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme;
2. **US\$ 165,000 for the period January-July 2004** to fund the NEPAD study on exploring further options for food reserve systems in Africa (regional and country case studies, including the corporate report and recommendations).

Contribution of WFP in strengthening the response to NEPAD

WFP's support always derives from NEPAD formal request. As key stakeholders, African RECs, individual African countries, civil society organisations and local private sector are at the centre of this cooperation.

These consultations, as suggested by WFP and organized by NEPAD, involve the above partners, in particular SADC, IGAD, CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA, including other UN sister agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO), the World Bank, European Union, IFPRI, the Millennium Hunger Task Force.

NEPAD and WFP are planning to move ahead in developing a programme of action for implementing a third MOU priority on *emergency preparedness*. A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-July 2004.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

1. There is a need for better coordination within the UN system, by strengthening and improving the established NEPAD Theme Cluster, and for a high political UN support, by re-organizing the regional consultation of the UN agencies working in Africa under the co-chairmanship of the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, the Under-Secretary-General/Special Adviser on Africa, and the Executive Secretary of the ECA.
2. The regional consultation could be improved by organizing sub-regional thematic meetings, in collaboration with RECs and regional bureaus of UN agencies.
3. There is a need for revisiting/rationalizing the very demanding reporting requirements in the context of UN's development work in Africa, MDGs and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration.
4. It would also help if NEPAD is kept as a regular item of the agenda of the CEB meeting. The UN and NEPAD should start addressing, at the highest political level, the devastating and longer-term impact of AIDS on food security, including on political and social stability of the countries concerned.