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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND PROJECTS PROJECT RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Assistance to the Government of Fiji in the implementation of a Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme

Estimated UNDP contribution: \$1,000,000
Duration: Two years
Source of financing: Programme Reserve

I. Background

1. Torrential rains, landslides and exceptionally severe flooding caused by cyclone Wally, which concentrated thirty-three inches of rain on the main island of Viti Levu, during 3-5 April, caused extensive destruction of homes, schools, stores, churches, water supplies, roads and plantations, in addition to flood-related deaths and the displacement of 12,000 men, women and children along a 90-mile coast line. Root crops, rice fields, coconut trees and vegetables were destroyed along with thousands of livestock. Some villages were swept entirely away. The important Queens Highway, linking the capital and principal seaport of Suva with Nadi, site of the international airport and located in the heart of the major sugar producing area, was completely washed away at several points. Some bridges were washed out and others severed from the highway or rendered unserviceable. Construction and paving of sections of this highway had been financed by World Bank loans totaling \$16 million in foreign exchange costs.
2. This latest disaster struck, while a report was being prepared by the Prime Minister's Relief and Rehabilitation Committee on the deaths and destruction resulting from the smaller cyclone Tia in the coconut growing areas on Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island and other nearby islands. Moreover, the country is still undergoing rehabilitation work connected with last year's disastrous hurricane Meli.
3. The Government immediately organized emergency services to set up a relief communications network for the distribution of food, clothes and tents, with the active

participation of the Royal Fiji Military forces, the Fiji Red Cross, service clubs, civic organizations, churches and the private sector. Immunization centres were opened to meet the threat of contaminated water supplies resulting from ruptured water pipes and pumps submerged or inoperative. Emergency relief requirements were identified and local and international assistance mobilized. UNDP has allocated \$20,000 and UNDR0 \$10,000 for emergency supplies. New Zealand and Australia furnished airlift services for supplies, equipment and personnel including medical evacuees and two Royal New Zealand Air Force helicopters provided continuous day-light flight service for a full week. Contributions and pledges of assistance in cash and kind have also been supplied by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as by the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation (SPEC) and other sources. Food aid was diverted from a previous WFP emergency project in Fiji to meet the immediate needs of the current victims; and WHO co-ordinated the provision of emergency medical supplies.

II. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme

4. The cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction for infrastructure is expected to require several million dollars with a provisional estimate of road damage alone in excess of \$1 million. With the collaboration of UNDP and UNDR0 the Government is in the process of determining the details of a comprehensive programme of rehabilitation and will be assisted in this task by missions, as appropriate, from the UN system.
5. On the basis of the known damage and destruction caused by flooding, the Government will need substantial assistance in road and bridge reconstruction, housing, schools and water supply. The extent of damage to agricultural activities will require assistance with the provision of livestock, agricultural implements, seeds and fertilizers as well as canoes and other fishing equipment to restore the income earning capacity of the victims. In addition to rehabilitation and reconstruction of agricultural productivity, assistance is also required in the health and social services areas to facilitate the recovery of the affected population.
6. The programme would be designed to complement the on-going projects, which are presently underway or to be initiated by the Government of Fiji together with financing from other international financial institutions and bilateral donors. The considerable material destruction wrought by this cyclone has resulted in economic disaster in Fiji. Under present economic circumstances the Government can not absorb the bulk of expenditures required for reconstruction and rehabilitation without additional external technical and financial assistance.

III. Recommendations of the Administrator

7. In view of the magnitude of the disaster in Fiji as a result of the extensive **flooding**, which has affected the country, and in terms of DP/432, Criteria for UNDP Response to Natural Disasters, the Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve his proposal to provide assistance to Fiji from the Programme Reserve for a total contribution of \$1,000,000 to be set forth in a detailed project document. As at 30 April 1980, an amount of \$7.9 million was still available under the Programme Reserve.