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## OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND FOLLOW-UP TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATIONReport of the AdministratorSummary

This report is being submitted in compliance with the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session (January-February 1976) that the report on assistance to drought-stricken areas of Africa and adjacent areas should form part of the annual report of the Administrator.

The report takes into account the decisions of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions (June 1977, June 1979 and June 1980), in which it requested the Administrator to continue to report to it on the implementation of the rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. In this connexion, the Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, submitted in compliance with its decision 79/20 and General Assembly resolution 34/16. This report also takes into account views expressed by the Council at its twenty-seventh session (June 1980).

This report is divided into five parts. It provides information on climatic conditions in the countries concerned, on the emergency aid required, on the development of international aid and the medium and long-term programmes undertaken by Governments and on the assistance provided by agencies of the United Nations system. The report is submitted to the Council for its information.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This report is being submitted in compliance with the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session (January-February 1976) that the report on assistance to drought-stricken areas of Africa and adjacent areas should form part of the annual report of the Administrator.

2. The report takes into account the decisions of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions (June 1977, June 1979 and June 1980), in which it requested the Administrator to continue to report to it on the implementation of the rehabilitation and development programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region. In this connexion, the Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, submitted in compliance with its decision 79/20 and General Assembly resolution 34/16. This report also takes into account views expressed by the Council at its twenty-seventh session (June 1980).

3. This report is divided into five parts. It provides information on climatic conditions in the countries concerned, on the emergency aid required, on the development of international aid and the medium and long-term programmes undertaken by Governments and on assistance provided by agencies of the United Nations system. The report consists of the following five chapters:

- I. The situation in the Sahelian countries;
- II. The situation in east Africa and southern Africa;
- III. The situation in other African countries;
- IV. Measures to combat crop pests; and
- V. Special programme of assistance to African countries stricken by drought and/or threatened by desertification.

### I. THE SITUATION IN THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES

4. Once again this year rainfall in almost the entire Sahelian area was unevenly distributed in both time and space. The most severely affected countries are Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal.

5. In Mali, the Kayes and Nioro regions in the west were the most seriously affected by drought, while in other regions production will be no more than average (millet, sorghum, maize) or below normal. In Upper Volta, preliminary official estimates show a decline in grain production of some 10 to 15 per cent compared with 1979 and varying results in different regions. Niger is the only Sahelian country which had a normal season and a good grain crop.

6. In Chad, the political situation seriously disrupted the agricultural season and little information is available.

7. Since its establishment in 1973, the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) has periodically alerted the international community to the major grain deficits which have occurred in its member States, namely Cape Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and the Upper Volta. In 1980-81, these countries will still need a total of 200,000 tons of grain (commercial imports plus aid). A more detailed analysis of the situation, country by country, will provide a clear picture of the requirements and of the scope of the efforts to be made.

#### A. Cape Verde

8. Cape Verde is one of the Sahelian countries which was most severely affected by drought this year. Rainfall was very scant and this situation had disastrous effects on harvests.

9. A mission of several donors (multidonor) visited the country from 10 to 20 December 1980 to assess emergency food aid requirements and to make recommendations on immediate measures to combat the effects of drought. This mission consisted of representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

10. According to government estimates which were confirmed by the mission, 1980 production amounted to approximately 7,000 tons of maize and 1,800 tons of beans. Requirements for the year have been estimated at 45,000 tons of maize, 8,000 tons of beans, 12,000 tons of wheat, 2,000 tons of rice, 2,500 tons of powdered milk and 2,000 tons of oil.

11. On 1 January 1981, available reserves consisted of 8,000 tons of maize, 6,500 tons of beans, 2,000 tons of wheat, 3,800 tons of rice, 700 tons of powdered milk, and 200 tons of oil.

12. In the course of 1980, the Government purchased 10,000 tons of maize from Argentina.

13. In order to offset the structural grain deficit, USAID has agreed to provide an average of 22,000 tons of maize a year for a period of five years starting in 1981.

14. The implementation of various medium- and long-term recovery programmes set up by the Government is continuing with the backing of international co-operation. However, agro-meteorological conditions in Cape Verde are such that the country will probably continue to depend on outside sources to make up for its chronic food deficit. The success of the steps taken by the Government to combat drought will depend largely on water management.

15. It is for this reason that assistance from the United Nations and related bodies has concentrated on projects for ground-water prospecting, soil and water

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conservation, plant protection and strengthening the national hydrological services. These projects are financed by UNDP, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO and the United Nations. It should also be noted that WFP financed two projects for assistance to the most vulnerable groups. The International Labour Office (ILO) is continuing to use Norwegian funds-in-trust to implement a project for soil conservation, development of irrigation and reforestation.

#### B. The Gambia

16. The rainy season in 1980 was still unsatisfactory for the Gambia. The rains which should have begun in June did not start until the beginning of August and stopped before the end of October. Following the poor season in 1979-1980 marked by long periods of drought and an invasion of insects, the Government had estimated that there would be a decline in grain production of about 33 per cent or 21,598 tons. In January 1980 the President of the Gambia, in his capacity as Acting President of CILSS, requested FAO to send a FAO/WFP mission to assess the results of the 1979-1980 season in the Sahelian countries. This mission, which visited the Gambia in February 1980, recommended that (a) food aid amounting to 2,050 tons should be provided; and (b) additional aid of 10,000 tons should be provided to meet the needs of the interim period. The Government made a more detailed evaluation which revealed a global deficit of 32,250 tons of grain. In order to obtain this grain, the Government made an appeal to the international community.

17. Food prospects for 1980-1981 are uncertain. The delay in the start of the rainy season caused damage in the first sowing. The most recent reports indicate that the maize and millet harvests will be affected. The August rains enabled the peasants to replant but the destruction of the first shoots of millet and maize created a difficult situation during the harvest season.

18. The Government has received 6,000 tons of rice from Thailand and will purchase a further 6,000 tons in 1981.

19. The Government is involved in a number of medium- and long-term drought control programmes which are being implemented with bilateral and international assistance.

20. The first phase of the rural development project financed by USAID, the United Kingdom and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), aimed at increasing the production of food-stuffs, will come to an end in 1982. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will finance an alluvial irrigation project for rice-growing under which 2,000 hectares of marsh land will be developed. The United States, through USAID, is continuing to play a major role in helping the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in food and to improve the standard of living of Gambian peasants through the financing and implementation of a number of projects.

21. The activities of agencies of the United Nations system continue to be concentrated on the provision of drinking water to rural communities, the supply of water for livestock and the evaluation and rational development of ground-water resources to support development activities. UNDP is continuing to support the well digging project and to date 103 traditional wells providing drinking water for rural communities have been dug. Additional funds from the Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries have been used to purchase the necessary equipment and spare parts. UNSO, for its part, is continuing to develop water points for livestock and to construct feeder roads and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) will also undertake activities to increase irrigation capacity.

### C. The Upper Volta

22. The rainy season began late and when the rains began they were very unevenly distributed in time and space, particularly in the Sahel, Centre Nord, Nord and Est departements. In July and August, abundant rainfall caused damage to new crops and there were even floods in the Sahel departement. In September and October, there was hardly any rain, and this adversely affected the final phase of the ripening of the crops. In addition, there was an invasion of locusts in August in the north-eastern part of the Sahel departement.

23. At the time of writing, there was no detailed estimate of production in 1980. However, the Ministry of Rural Development has made a preliminary assessment which indicates that total production will be about 1,019,700 tons of millet, sorghum, maize and rice which represents a decline of 15 per cent compared with production in 1979.

24. In general, grazing land appears to be sufficient and there are no immediate problems for livestock. It is feared, however, that towards the end of the first quarter of 1981 there will be serious problems of supply unless the implementation of the various programmes envisaged in the context of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade is begun. The Ministry of Rural Development has also made a comparison between grain requirements and supplies for consumption which has revealed a deficit of 93,700 tons.

25. The new Government which took office on 25 November 1980 has requested the Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) of FAO to send a multidonor evaluation mission in order to obtain an independent and objective opinion of the country's food and agricultural situation. Meanwhile, the firm commitments of donors are as follows: 3,900 tons of wheat (EEC and European Development Fund (EDF)); 4,000 tons of sorghum (France); and 12,000 tons of sorghum (United States). These supplies have not yet been delivered.

26. The Government is continuing to implement medium- and long-term recovery plans with the assistance of the international community. It may be recalled that the plans relate to: (a) programmes for water supply to rural areas and constructing small dams in the Sahelian region in the north of the country, carried out with

assistance from the Fund for Aid and Co-operation (FAC), EDF, the Netherlands, UNICEF, UNSO, UNCDF, the West African Development Bank (WADB) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); (b) rebuilding livestock herds, with the participation of EDF, USAID and the West African Economic Community (CEAO); (c) rural development projects assisted by USAID, EDF and various non-governmental organizations; (d) a reforestation project carried out with assistance from UNDP, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland; (e) road construction, financed by CIDA, USAID and UNSO; (f) collection of agrometeorological data, financed by UNDP; and (g) organization of research into seed varieties suitable for semi-arid regions, carried out under projects assisted by UNDP and FAC.

D. Mali

27. Particularly unfavourable climatic conditions this year once again adversely affected grain production in Mali. The agricultural season was disrupted by the late arrival of the rainy season which did not really begin until the end of July. The unevenness of rainfall in time and space seriously delayed ploughing operations and forced the peasants to replant on dry soil. With the exception of the second region (Bamako), which had a normal hydrometric level, it is considered that rainfall was not satisfactory in the territory as a whole. Some areas are parched. Springs and ponds have dried up. The prolonged intervals without rainfall destroyed some young crops in certain areas which had been planted following early rainfall. At the same time, the large amounts of rainfall at the end of July and the beginning of August in the rice paddies made it impossible to carry out ploughing and sowing operations and caused surface losses in low-lying areas. The premature cessation of rainfall in September and the inadequacy of flood water adversely affected food crops. A number of millet, sorghum, maize and rice areas were dried out.

28. On 4 December, the local authorities appealed to the international community for assistance in coping with the situation. A multidonor mission led by FAO stayed in Mali from 4 to 15 December to assess the grain deficit and identify emergency assistance requirements.

29. In July 1980, the Ministry of Rural Development drew the attention of bilateral and multilateral agencies at Bamako to the poor quality of livestock. Livestock losses have been fairly high. By way of example, the following estimates have been made for cattle:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Percentage estimates of losses</u>
Magui Lake	30-40
Intermediate area	30-40
Extreme north area	60-70

The Government is placing great hopes in international solidarity for the provision of generous and abundant emergency assistance.

30. Meanwhile, the Government is trying to strengthen and consolidate activities already undertaken in the context of its programme to combat drought and achieve full self-sufficiency in food.

31. The development of grain production is a major item in this programme. In this connexion work has been started at three levels:

(a) Irrigated crops. In 1974 Mali realized that it could not rely solely on rainfall for its crops. It launched a vast irrigation programme which resulted in a 35 per cent increase in the irrigated area. Today three rice-growing complexes of the Niger Office and the Segou and Mopti rice schemes account for nearly 50 per cent of output. The major rehabilitation project of the Niger Office supported by the World Bank has already begun. The project will cost \$100 million and will be financed by several funding agencies. The Bank has already granted \$4.5 million for a trial period. Smaller irrigated growing areas are being financed by EDP (Sukasso rice, \$5.5 million); North Korea (Samanko, \$2 million); USAID (rice and sorghum operation, sixth region, \$2.2 million) and FAC (Baguineda, \$550,000);

(b) Construction of dams for water management. The Selingué dam on the Sankarani (a tributary of the Niger) is under construction and will be completed in 1981. It will lead to better water management in the upper course of the Niger and the irrigation of 60,000 hectares. Studies on the construction of the dam were financed by UNDP. The construction of the Manantali dam on the Senegal River, studies on which were also financed by UNDP, is due to start in 1981; and

(c) Rural development schemes. Over 90 per cent of Mali's grain production comes from areas covered by these schemes, the most important of which are: (i) the southern Mali project which spans the cotton area but also extends its services to food crop producers; (ii) the groundnut and food crop scheme (OACV) which concentrates on groundnuts but is also concerned with the production of millet, sorghum and maize; (iii) the Kaarta millet scheme; and (iv) the Mopti millet scheme.

32. In the livestock producing sector, efforts have been directed mainly toward the rebuilding of the livestock population, the improvement of water supply and rangeland management. Three major projects are under way with foreign financing: Mali Livestock I and II (USAID), Kayes Nord and Kara Est (Saudi Arabia and UNDP).

33. It has not yet been possible to implement the Government's decision to set up a security reserve of several years' supply of grain. The continuing drought is not conducive to building up such a stock although there are already 90 hangars and 50 silos with a storage capacity of 131,000 tons.

34. Agencies of the United Nations system are continuing their activities. It may be recalled that UNDP is supporting five major projects to which the Government attaches particular importance:

(a) Groundwater development, now in its third stage, aimed at drilling 2,000 water holes to meet drinking water requirements for human and animal consumption in one fifth of all villages in Mali;

(b) The establishment of seed farms aimed at developing irrigation for two farms to produce rice seeds;

(c) Assistance to the Mali Livestock and Meat Agency with the objective of helping rebuild the livestock population and modernize methods to increase production while protecting the natural environment;

(d) Strengthening agrometeorological and hydrological services with a view to a rational utilization of rain water and surface water; and

(e) Technical assistance for the livestock development project in the western Sahel.

35. UNCDF is continuing to contribute to the implementation of several projects which are smaller in scale but equally important for the Government in its battle against drought. UNSO is continuing its efforts to improve communications with isolated areas by building feeder roads. FAO, besides being the executing agency for UNDP projects, has undertaken certain activities outside the indicative planning figure (IPF). Finally, WFP is involved in a number of medium-scale projects which, when carried out, will make a decisive contribution to drought control.

#### E. Mauritania

36. In December 1979 an FAO/WFP mission estimated that 75,000 tons of emergency food aid would be required for 1980, following the drought which had damaged grain production. The mission also recommended that, in view of the structural deficit in production, donor countries should make bilateral arrangements with the Mauritanian Government for the provision on an annual basis of 30,000 to 40,000 tons of grain. By 25 August 1980, of the 75,000 tons of grain which the country urgently required, 66,700 tons had been firmly pledged and 35,400 tons of that amount had already been delivered.

37. The maximum production of grain in Mauritania, even when rainfall is good, is about 90,000 tons, while annual requirements for consumption are about 180,000 tons. Part of the structural deficit is usually covered by commercial imports of some 50,000 tons and the remainder is provided through food aid from the international community. The 1980 rainy season began late, as was the case in most of the Sahelian countries and rainfall was uneven. It is therefore clear that this state of affairs affected grain production which, this year too, was unsatisfactory.

38. The Government has taken a number of emergency measures to deal with the situation. Total grain imports have been estimated at 152,000 tons, of which 129,000 tons have arrived in the country. In addition, in order to offset the structural deficit, the Mauritanian and United States Governments are negotiating a five-year project under which USAID will provide 20,000 tons of grain a year.



39. It is essential that the food aid which had been firmly pledged by donors should be delivered quickly. The 1980-81 production deficit will have to be made up rapidly.

40. The United Nations and its agencies are continuing to contribute to the drought control efforts of the Mauritanian Government. UNDP is continuing to provide assistance to agronomics research, to the Seed Production Centre, and to the National Agricultural Training and Extension College at Kaedi. The two projects financed by UNSO involving a programme for the construction and maintenance of 36 bore-holes, at a cost of \$1 million, and the construction and management of storage infrastructures, at a cost of \$4.5 million, are making good headway. The construction of feeder roads financed by UNSO will improve communications with agricultural areas.

41. The Government is taking steps to implement the medium and long-term recovery measures recommended by FAO and WFP which include: (a) increasing the food security reserves and stabilizing the prices and supply of grain; (b) the provision by donors of an annual supply of wheat, the amount of which would be gradually reduced over a period of approximately five years in order to enable the Mauritanian Grain Agency to make a gradual increase in the purchase prices of grain to producers; (c) expanding the marketing network for livestock and animal feeds; (d) concluding bilateral agreements with the Government for the supply of 30,000 to 40,000 tons of grain a year until 1985-1986, so that emergency aid operations can be confined solely to making good the deficit caused by exceptionally unfavourable climatic conditions.

#### F. The Niger

42. Although it belongs to the group of countries of the Sahelian areas which are regularly stricken by drought, the Niger enjoyed a good level of rainfall this year just as last year, and was therefore able to produce not only a good harvest but also a grain surplus amounting to 120,000 tons (millet and sorghum). The weather was also favourable for livestock. Consequently, the country has not been faced by emergency food aid problems.

43. This fortunate state of affairs is the result of the implementation of rural development programmes based on the priorities laid down in the three-year plan (1976-1978) and the five-year plan (1979-1983). It is also the most tangible sign that, although the drought is continuing, it can be fought successfully and that the Sahelian countries, far from being doomed beyond recall, can find a way out.

#### G. Senegal

44. This year once again Senegal was hit by drought. The late arrival of the rains and the uneven distribution of rainfall affected crops and livestock alike. It has been estimated that the grain harvest, due to be completed at the end of 1980, will be as unsatisfactory as that of 1979.

45. According to available information, nearly one million people have been affected by drought in the districts of Kaffrine, Dagana, Podor, Matam, Louga, Linguère, Kebemer, Bakel, Bambey, Tivaouane, Gossas, Fatick, Gandiaye, Bignona and Oussouye. In the Senegal river valley the area under cultivation has decreased by 90 per cent.

46. The food deficit is estimated at 118,000 tons of grain in addition to 335,000 tons of commercial imports. Moreover, export crops are expected to fall by 40 per cent, and it should be borne in mind that almost half the export earnings are used to finance oil imports.

47. A FAO/WFP evaluation mission recommended that the Government should request potential donors to provide the following food aid: (a) 45,600 tons of grain to be distributed free of charge; (b) 40,000 tons of grain to be sold locally, the income from which will be used to provide transport for part of the food aid; (c) 5,650 tons of powdered milk and 7,500 tons of butter; (d) financial aid for the transport of 28,000 tons of millet remaining from the 1978-1979 agricultural season; and (e) about \$7 million worth of animal fodder.

48. By the middle of the year the donors had offered a total of 37,154 tons of various types of grain. These donors included Argentina (2,854 tons), Canada (5,000), the EEC (11,000), the Federal Republic of Germany (2,000), France (5,000), the Netherlands (3,500) and WFP (7,800).

49. In view of the fact that in 1980 Senegal also received 5,000 tons of rice from Japan and 6,200 tons of rice, maize flour and powdered milk from the EEC, all originally intended to meet the requirements for 1979, present food aid requirements amount to about 70,000 tons of grain. To meet these needs, the Government will have to import over 50,000 tons. Furthermore, the commitments undertaken by other donors will have to be carried out as quickly as possible.

50. The Government is continuing its efforts with regard to water management and improving the yield of irrigated crops.

51. The United Nations system is continuing to support the recovery programmes undertaken by the Government. UNDP is providing assistance for strengthening the agrometeorological and hydrological services, dune stabilization on the Grande Côte and the development of the Casemance forests. These programmes are strengthened by the active participation of UNSO which is involved in opening up the country by building feeder roads. Finally, as has been seen above, WFP is continuing to play a leading role in food aid.

#### H. Chad

52. The state of war prevailing in the country has ruled out all attempts to make a serious assessment of the drought phenomenon and its effects on agricultural production. The network established by the National Office for Rural Development, which normally provides information on the drought, has been completely dismantled

because of the war. However, according to FAO, satellite observations suggests that the rainy season was normal. It is estimated that grain production in 1980-1981 will depend above all on the extent to which the peasants are able to carry out the normal agricultural activities. FAO estimates that, on the basis of present conditions, the minimum quantity of food aid needed for 1980 to 1981 will be no less than the amount required last year, that is 60,000 tons of grain.

53. The United Nations has had to close down its mission in Chad and withdraw all its experts. Consequently it has not been possible to acquire recent information on government programmes. However, as it is now planned to reopen the UNDP Office at N'Djamena, all the information which the Office can collect will be made available to the Governing Council in an oral report.

## II. THE SITUATION IN EAST AFRICA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

### A. Ethiopia

54. According to the most recent information, rainfall has been lower than normal in several regions of the country. Nine of the 14 administrative regions have been affected by drought, but the situation is particularly serious in Eritrea, Tigray, Wollo, Haraghe, Bale, Sidamo and Gomu-Gofa. In all it is estimated that 5.1 million people, including 1.8 million war victims, are in danger.

55. Since the food situation in the country has been critical ever since 1973, the year of Ethiopia's most serious drought, and the country's resources are insufficient to meet requirements, the Government has had to appeal for foreign aid. An inter-agency and donor mission led by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) visited the affected areas in June 1980 to assess the food deficit and confirmed the seriousness of the situation. The mission recommended that donors provide emergency food aid to meet requirements up to the end of 1980 for 151,000 tons of grain, 27,000 tons of miscellaneous food-stuffs, 4,300 tons of oil and 650 tons of tea. As far as grain is concerned, the emergency requirements of 151,000 tons would increase the volume of imports for 1980 to 400,000 tons.

56. The response to the Government's appeal to cover emergency requirements yielded the following results: grain, 55,375 tons including 10,000 tons from FAO and WFP; miscellaneous food-stuffs, 19,521 tons, and oil, 1,730 tons. Despite these commitments, unmet grain requirements for the rest of 1980 amounted to 172,000 tons. If, as must be feared, production in 1980 is poor, it is clear that Ethiopia will experience another serious grain deficit in 1981.

57. The Government has taken steps to assist drought victims. The national relief and rehabilitation committee organized a large-scale relief operation to provide 100,000 tons of food from local sources in 1980. This quantity is in addition to the emergency aid requested from the international community.

58. The organizations of the United Nations system are working actively alongside the Ethiopian Government in its campaign against drought and for the resettlement of displaced persons. UNDP is financing a \$2 million project being implemented by FAO with the aim of assisting the Ethiopian Government to prepare an outline plan for land use and for the implementation of a programme for the conservation and use of soil and water resources. UNDP is also financing the establishment and consolidation of an agricultural research institute at a cost of \$4,720,000. FAO is the executing agency for a number of UNDP-financed projects for training national experts in land use planning, soil and water conservation and the development of irrigated farming. WFP assistance is directed at soil and water conservation and reforestation. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is giving assistance to a project for water supply to rural areas at a cost of nearly \$2 million. UNCDF is involved in building roads in rural areas.

#### B. Somalia

59. The drought, along with the growing number of refugees (around 900,000) and transport difficulties, makes the situation particularly disturbing since the second agricultural season was disrupted by inadequate rainfall in October 1980. The lack of rain also affected rangelands. The situation was especially bad in the north-west province of Zeila. It is estimated that the total production of maize and sorghum in 1981 will be no higher than the none too impressive 1979 figure. On this basis the deficit for 1981 (not including the needs of refugees) has been estimated at 250,000 tons of grain and 67,000 tons of other food-stuffs. Considering that not all the needs for 1980 were met and that the needs of the continually growing number of refugees are increasing, the total food deficit for 1981 could be in the order of 40,000 tons.

60. In March 1980, at the request of the Government, a FAO/WFP mission went to assess the emergency aid needs resulting from the 1979 drought and the influx of refugees. On the basis of the recommendations made by that mission, the Director-General of FAO appealed to the main donors to increase their food aid contribution to offset the food deficit estimated at 94,000 tons. The Director-General had also appealed for additional budgetary support for the urgent purchase of food-stuffs and for the establishment of an interim stock of 50,000 tons of grain to meet the country's needs at the beginning of 1980. On the whole the response from donors has been favourable. However, there have been no firm commitments for 1981.

61. The medium and long-term recovery programmes are concerned with the development of the extensive rangelands in the north at a cost of \$22 million being financed by Kuwait and with the launching of a similar \$46 million project in the centre of the country financed by the International Development Association (IDA), IFAD, WFP, USAID and the Federal Republic of Germany.

62. The Government is planning to increase the country's irrigation capacity by regulating the flow of the Juba River.

C. Kenya

63. In 1980 the weather was drier than normal. The country as a whole was affected by drought, which resulted in a decline in agricultural production. The production of maize, the basic foodstuff, decreased considerably; rice and vegetable production also fell. In 1980 the Government had to import 364,000 tons of maize to make up the deficit. In 1981, the Office of grain and agricultural produce will have to import 350,000 tons of maize in order to meet commercial demands for 162,000 tons and maintain stocks at 188,000 tons, the minimum required for four months' consumption. This will cost \$73.5 million, making emergency international aid more necessary for maize than for any other type of grain. The country will also have to import \$41.3 million worth of wheat.

64. In 1980, the Government made efforts to expand the growing of maize by introducing a new credit system, raising prices and establishing purchasing centres; unfortunately these efforts were thwarted by the bad weather.

65. Also in 1980, the Government announced a 42 per cent increase in the producer price of milk.

66. In order to implement its new programme, WFP opened an office at Nairobi in August 1980. This programme, for the supply of 48,750 tons of food at a cost of \$14 million, is aimed primarily at the drought-stricken areas and is intended to make a long-term contribution to overcoming the present spell of drought. FAO and the World Bank are taking an interest in a project to support smallholders who will be moved into 10 settlements, mainly in the drought-stricken areas. Finally, two projects approved in 1980 provide for the supply of 19,800 tons of grain by WFP.

67. It should also be noted that the Government's programme of co-operation with UNDP for 1982-1986, which will be submitted shortly to the Governing Council, envisages major measures to develop the agricultural sector.

D. Uganda

68. Insecurity and drought severely disrupted the agricultural season which ended in October 1980. The most widely consumed grain, maize, is the worst affected, especially in the north and east of the country. The recent food-shortage which the country experienced and the famine which raged in Karamoja province are mainly the result of the war and its after-effects which upset the economic structures in general and particularly those of the rural areas which had already deteriorated owing to the lack of such agricultural inputs as agricultural equipment, fertilizers, insecticides, and basic farming tools. Furthermore, the food situation was aggravated by the drought which had struck certain areas and, more specifically, by the fact that there was no second rainfall in August-December 1979.

69. The province of Karamoja, which has always suffered from a food deficit, was the seriously affected by the drought. Security problems severely hindered

relief operations in areas hit by famine. Agricultural production in 1980-1981 is expected to be lower than normal in the north and east of the country because of the security problems and the lack of agricultural tools. The food deficit in 1981 is expected to be at least 270,000 tons (the equivalent in grain), of which 120,000 tons will be necessary for relief operations to feed 800,000 people in various institutions throughout the country, while the other 150,000 tons will be used to offset the production deficit.

70. At the time of writing, donors' commitments for 1981 were not yet known. The Government has decided to do everything possible, with its own resources, to import 100,000 tons of maize and 40,000 tons of legumes. The Government attaches great importance to the provision by donors of the seed, tools, supplies and insecticides on which it is counting for the 1981 season.

71. In view of the scale of the famine and the paucity of the Government's financial resources, it is important that help for Karamoja should be increased, and that pledges of assistance for 1981 should be made known so as to enable the Government to finalize its import programme.

72. An inter-agency mission visited the country in October to assess the extent of the drought and above all to make an estimate of needs. UNDP ensured co-ordination of supplies in the Karamoja province in respect of transport and the local distribution of food. The mission also recommended the establishment of a government transport unit to transport food aid in disaster areas. It is expected that the Government will propose to UNDP, in the framework of the next programming cycle, a number of projects to re-establish and extend the water-supply system in rural areas, to improve the health services and to rationalize the transport sector.

#### E. Mozambique

73. The situation created by the drought of 1978-1979 and aggravated by other difficulties has not improved. The distribution of rainfall this year was uneven. Production fell by nearly 50 per cent in five of the 10 provinces which make up the country. Thus, alongside the chronic food shortage of the urban areas, the rural areas suffered a loss of 290,000 tons of grain which only aid from abroad can make good. The grain deficit has been determined at 625,000 tons of wheat, maize, sorghum and rice, 335,000 tons of which represent the normal imports for the urban areas (145,000 tons of wheat, 130,000 tons of maize and 60,000 tons of rice). The other 290,000 tons represent the additional shortfall for the 1979-1980 season due to poor climatic conditions.

74. At the request of the Government, a FAO/WFP/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) mission visited the country to assess the emergency needs and the agricultural potential. This mission made recommendations for emergency measures and for the medium term.

75. With regard to emergency measures, the mission recommends:

(a) The provision of 173,000 tons of grain as emergency food aid made necessary by the poor rainy season which affected 1979-1980 production. This grain should be delivered at the rate of 22,000 tons a month;

(b) The provision of an additional 67,000 tons of grain for the less affected areas on the coast and in the north, at the rate of 8,000 tons a month;

(c) The provision of 50,000 tons of grain for livestock; and

(d) Of the 35,000 tons of seed required for the next sowing season, the provision of 800 tons of maize seed and 900 tons of sorghum seed to be distributed free of charge to the most severely affected population groups in the five provinces.

76. As to medium-term measures, the mission has recommended among others:

(a) Improving storage facilities at the village level through the introduction of basic techniques to reduce losses during harvesting;

(b) Keeping stocks in good condition in district and provincial warehouses by improving protection against insects and rodents; and

(c) Improving agricultural potential by measures to increase the water-retaining capacity of soils.

77. By 1 July 1980, the Government had received about 71,000 tons of grain (wheat, maize) which unfortunately fall far short of meeting needs.

78. UNDP assistance for the two projects to create reserve stocks and to control the water supply so as to develop irrigated crops is continuing.

#### F. Malawi

79. Drought began to appear in Malawi in the course of 1979. In January-February 1980, the country suffered long periods of drought, especially in the southern area, which disrupted the harvests. However, the northern and central regions were not seriously affected by this phenomenon. Nevertheless, the food deficit has been estimated at 100,000 to 200,000 tons of maize, which was the worst affected crop.

80. The Government imported 15,000 tons of maize from South Africa. However, it has made known its preference for purchases in the United States where it can benefit from more favourable credit terms. A request was made to the United States for 80,000 tons.

81. The Government of Malawi believes that a good storage programme will help in the search for solutions to the problem. In this respect, it has decided to build a complex of storage silos at Lilongwe in the central region with a capacity of 180,000 tons, which has been judged sufficient to cope with difficulties in poor crop years.

82. For the preparatory phase of this project, the Government received UNDP/FAO assistance in the form of the dispatch of a mission which prepared a report on grain storage, its expansion and its financial implications.

#### G. The United Republic of Tanzania

83. The onset of drought at the beginning of the year, which was described by the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa in presenting last year's report, was fortunately short-lived. Although the rainfall pattern was somewhat disrupted and delayed, production as a whole in 1980 was not affected. It is reported that the state of grain stocks was favourable and that the Government did not have to resort to emergency food aid from abroad.

84. In spite of this favourable situation, the Government is pursuing its programme of creating strategic grain reserves by building warehouses and establishing an information and early-warning system on crops and the food situation.

#### H. Botswana

85. It will be recalled that Botswana had a poor harvest in 1979 as a result of the drought which struck the country. The drought continued to affect the food situation in several areas during 1980. The rainy season in 1980 was no better and the rains, when they did come, were only average. The four regions of Ngamiland in the north-west, Rakops/Bobete in the centre, Bobirwa in the extreme east and Chobe in the north were the most severely affected. In addition, livestock in the first three regions mentioned were afflicted by foot-and-mouth disease and could not be marketed. The harvest was mediocre in Kweneg west, an area which had suffered badly in 1979. In the rest of the country, production of maize and sorghum was very average. FAO estimates that a good harvest for Botswana must yield about 20,000 tons. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates that production in 1980 was about 10,000 tons. As for the 1980-1981 season, the rainy season augurs well and it is hoped that the harvest will be better.

86. In 1980, the Government had to continue distributing 3,000 tons of maize to cover the interim period until the harvest in May-June because of poor production in 1979.

87. WFP contributed 3,000 tons of grain. Emergency food aid was discontinued throughout the country in June, except for the four regions mentioned above. In these regions the Government continued to distribute maize rations, but more because of foot-and-mouth disease than because of the drought. At present there is no emergency situation in Botswana. The Government has imported 1,500 tons of hybrid maize and sorghum seed for the 1980 season. The seed situation is good. Supplies of vaccine to combat foot-and-mouth disease have been sufficient.

88. For the medium- and long-term, the Government has established an interministerial commission and a food and nutrition committee to co-ordinate relief measures in the event of drought. Each of the country's ten administrative



regions has established its own drought committee to co-ordinate action in this respect. In addition the Government is actively proceeding with the implementation of several projects to combat drought and its effects.

89. The Government's experience during 1980 and earlier drought years has shown that, notwithstanding emergency aid, drought can be fought only by attacking the problem of poverty. In this context, the Government has undertaken to develop programmes whose aim it is to build up "man's resistance to drought". The programme for the development of arable land, at a total cost of 16 million dollars over five years, aims to reduce to a minimum the risks run by the peasantry in case of drought. It will place the emphasis on water supply, the introduction of cultivating machines and fencing.

90. In addition, in order to reduce the risks for the peasantry, the Government plans to construct an abattoir in the north of the country and a meat-packing plant in Ngamiland. The abattoir at Francistown will cost \$23.4 million and will have a capacity of 800 head of livestock a day. The packing plant at Maun will cost \$5.4 million and will have a capacity of 60 to 80 head of livestock a day. It is hoped that the existence of these facilities will increase turnover, provide a greater slaughtering capacity in case of drought and foot-and-mouth disease, and thereby increase the income of rural areas.

91. The Government is also trying to increase the security of food supplies by establishing a strategic grain reserve. USAID has financed the additional facilities for this project.

92. In 1979, the Government and WFP agreed to set up a reserve of 6,000 tons of grain so as to enable the Government to cope with disasters in the short-term. This grain will be stored in 16 different locations in the country and administered by the Marketing Office.

93. United Nations organizations are continuing to help the Government in its battle against drought. UNDP is financing a number of projects aimed at increasing the Government's organizational capacity. WFP has provided food aid for a total of \$1.8 million. FAO is providing technical assistance to the College of Agriculture.

#### I. Lesotho

94. Lesotho's national committee for disaster relief has reported that the country suffered from drought because of a poor rainy season. According to the same source, the output of the main crops (maize, sorghum and legumes) fell by nearly 50 per cent compared with the usual yields in the two principal producing regions of Leribe and Butha-Buthé. The situation in the other districts was even more serious.

95. The agricultural population was seriously affected by this situation. Although at the time of writing there was no detailed information about the food deficit, it has been estimated that almost two-thirds of the population were threatened, that is, about 750,000 people, including 11,000 refugees, 7,000 of them children.

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96. In the context of their activities in the country, WFP supplied food aid and Catholic Relief Services provided support to projects to feed the affected groups of the population. It is estimated that about 400,000 people, including nearly 300,000 school-children, benefited from this assistance. However, at the time of writing, it appears that WFP and USAID assistance should be sufficient to offset the grain deficit. At the same time, because of the mountainous nature of a large part of the country, transport problems have proved to be a serious handicap.

#### J. Zimbabwe

97. Drought affected Zimbabwe's grain production in 1980. Nevertheless, the effects are not as serious as those of the drought in 1978 which substantially reduced production in 1979.

98. This second year of partial drought and the disturbances caused by the war of liberation during the sowing season towards the end of 1979 resulted in a decline in maize production of nearly 30 per cent. In normal production years Zimbabwe produces more than 1.2 million tons of maize, with an exportable surplus of 600,000 tons. During the second quarter of 1980, the agricultural marketing office imported maize from South Africa because of the expected poor maize harvest and the high level of demand which reduced stocks at the end of the war.

99. Supplies of powdered skimmed milk were reduced by the decline in the number of dairy cattle caused by the war, and supplies of legumes by the poor harvest.

100. It is estimated that some 1.2 million people were displaced during the war of liberation. In May 1980 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) drew up a resettlement programme for nearly half this number who required emergency aid. The cost of the programme was estimated at \$110 million and the help of the international community was sought in obtaining such large sums. This programme also included a request for 114,000 tons of food aid to feed the people concerned until the 1981 harvests.

101. In September 1980, WFP approved assistance consisting of 15,000 tons of maize which began to arrive in November. The EEC promised 3,500 tons of powdered milk, of which only 250 tons had arrived by mid-November.

102. Considerable funds are still required to feed displaced persons who are now returning to their villages and to aid the peoples of the north-west whose crops were ruined by the drought which ravaged the Zambezi valley. The monthly cost of the food programme has been estimated at about \$5 million. A second request for 15,000 tons of maize has been made to WFP.

### III. THE SITUATION IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

103. With the exception of Togo and Ghana, where the situation did not worsen in comparison with that of 1979, drought became more acute in the countries mentioned in this chapter. The situation improved greatly in Ghana where, in spite of the uneven distribution of rainfall, production was not affected. For this reason, Ghana does not appear in this group of countries.

A. Guinea

104. In 1980, Guinea experienced a period of severe drought attributable to the low rainfall recorded in several regions. The drought was probably responsible for the caterpillar infestation which caused great damage to grain crops. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, substantial losses of swamp crops (mainly rice) were reported in the latter half of August; the late arrival of the rains and their short duration (two to three weeks) made it impossible to plant fresh crops. Towards the end of September and during the first week of October, a substantial reduction in rainfall was recorded with caterpillars appearing once again. The caterpillars carried out frontal attacks on field after field systematically devastating them and even crossing tarred roads in the process. It is estimated that in addition to the normal grain deficit of approximately 70,000 tons, a further 80,000 tons would be lost in 1980 because of the damage caused by caterpillars.

105. In addition, the water table dropped this year.

106. The effects of the drought on livestock have varied in severity. According to the central livestock office, caterpillars caused diarrhoea and death among a number of animals at Koundara, Labé, Gaoual and Koubia.

107. Faced with this situation, the Government has submitted two requests for food assistance to WFP. The first request made in June 1980 was for 35,000 tons of rice to offset the food deficit caused by caterpillar attacks and floods in 1979 which seriously affected the harvests. The second request was submitted in September 1980 following the drought and the caterpillar invasion. In that request, the Government asked for 160,000 tons of rice, 24,000 tons of maize and 22,000 tons of vegetable oil.

108. In its efforts to find medium- and long-term solutions to these problems, particularly the problem of drought which threatens it every year, Guinea has formulated a national programme and is also participating in certain subregional projects which would protect countries in the West African subregion from the adverse effects of drought.

109. Thus, at the national level, the Government is engaged in an intensive campaign to:

- (a) Control bush fires in all the regions;
- (b) Reforest the country with resistant and quick-growing species of trees (eucalyptus and teak);
- (c) Encourage the cultivation of quick-growing varieties of rice;
- (d) Search for ground-water supplies and wells in Moyenne-Guinée; and
- (e) Protect forests and dredge watercourses.

110. At the subregional level, the Government intends to pursue the development of food crop growing in semi-arid areas such as Haute Guinée and the drought control programme being carried out within the framework of the Niger Basin Authority.

111. The contribution of United Nations agencies to such efforts is continuing and is being consolidated. For example, the water development plan for Moyenne Guinée being financed by UNDP and WMO is well underway. FAO has donated 200 tons of selected rice to the rice seed multiplication project. In addition, FAO and the Government have prepared a two-phase programme for caterpillar control at a cost of \$403,000.

#### B. Guinea-Bissau

112. On 1 December 1980, representatives of the Revolutionary Council informed the UNDP Resident Representative about the catastrophic over-all economic situation, particularly in agriculture. Scanty rainfall in the latest crop season caused serious losses in all the regions. During visits organized for the diplomatic corps, a high percentage of grain destruction, particularly of rice which is the staple food, was noted. The grain deficit is estimated at approximately 70,000 tons. The Government has purchased 11,500 tons of rice and offers of assistance amounted to 15,800 tons as of 15 December.

113. In view of the limited resources available for acquiring foreign exchange, there is little likelihood that the Government will be able to buy enough to meet all needs. The Government is placing great hopes in the assistance of the international community.

114. The Government has made a study of all assistance programmes with a view to identifying funds to assign to agriculture. It is also working on a review of the food assistance reception distribution system in order to make it more effective. It has requested assistance from OSRO, UNDRD and UNICEF to purchase seeds and other inputs. It also intends to review certain UNDP projects in order to release funds which would be allocated to emergency relief, particularly the purchase of seeds.

115. In the medium- and long-term, the Government is continuing its efforts in the construction of silos to house and reserve stock of grain and in water management for the development of irrigated crops. In this regard, UNDP is financing a study on the development of the Corrubal river basin.

#### C. Togo

116. Just as in 1979, the country did not experience any real drought in 1980. Instead, rainfall was unevenly distributed and there were some disruptions in precipitation that delayed the sowing season and made it necessary to plant out the seedlings. Nevertheless, the vagaries of the weather did not affect the crops even though the harvest is not expected to be as good as it was in 1979. The authorities expect a deficit of grain (maize and rice) and of tubers (cassava). Although the Government plans to import 12,000 additional tons of rice, it has made no request for emergency food aid.

117. The livestock population has suffered from the adverse weather conditions, however, and the Government plans to request emergency assistance, particularly in the form of veterinary supplies.

118. The desertification control measures initiated after the drought which affected the country in 1977 are continuing. UNDP is involved in reforestation campaigns in Northern Togo and village water supply programmes (water development strategy, development of the Anie and Mono valleys). FAO is modernizing wells by installing pumps and training villagers and is currently preparing a programme to prevent crop losses by peasants covering the entire territory which will include a section on pest control.

#### D. Madagascar

119. During the period under review, a drought wave hit most of the southern, western and south-western parts of the country, affecting production in five fivondronana (subprefectures) with a combined population of approximately 295,000.

120. The Government requested emergency assistance from WFP in the form of 4,000 tons of rice to feed 112,000 persons. In that request, the Government drew attention to the 76,715 ton decline in paddy production and to the mortality of livestock at an average rate of 7 per cent in the early months of the drought.

121. The Government has taken emergency measures in the development of irrigation, water supply and the provision of seeds and raw materials for livestock raising.

122. In addition, the implementation of programmes formulated by the Government is continuing with foreign assistance. The Bas-Mangoky irrigation project to develop 5,500 hectares of cotton and harness the rivers north of Toliary is now in its final phase. Work is well under way on the development of the Marovoay plains through the improvement of irrigation canals and the protection of paddy fields covering 2,150 hectares. EDF is financing a major drought-related project which will shortly be launched in the southern part of the country. The project includes: (a) equipment and well-digging; (b) water supply to major rural centres and (c) the formation of maintenance teams for the networks established. Approximately nine million European Units of Account have been set aside for this purpose.

123. United Nations assistance is also continuing to be provided under ongoing projects; in addition, an FAO programming mission visited the country in May-June 1980. Among the 24 projects identified by the mission, 7 concern activities relating to drought and food problems. Those projects will be taken into consideration in the UNDP-Madagascar co-operation programme for the 1982-1986 programming cycle.

#### IV. MEASURES TO COMBAT CROP PESTS

124. The type of threat that the appearance of migratory locusts posed during 1978 and 1979 for certain countries, particularly in east Africa, did not recur in the period under review. The scourge of grain-eating birds also seems to have been

contained. Apart from damage caused by caterpillars, in Guinea in particular, efforts to combat crop pests are being consolidated through the contributions of UNDP, FAO and several other sources of assistance, both bilateral and multilateral.

125. It may be recalled that UNDP is contributing to efforts to combat crop pests through its assistance to intergovernmental organizations set up for the purpose such as the International African Migratory Locust Organization (OICMA) and the Joint African Anti-Locust and Anti-Aviarian Organization (OCLALAV). UNDP's programmed assistance up to 1982 in the anti-locust campaign exceeds \$2 million. This assistance is not only for research but also for the provision of monitoring and combat facilities. UNDP has decided to finance a \$1.4 million project to combat grain-eating birds. The main objective of the project is to conduct biological, ecological and methodological research.

126. FAO too is providing assistance through such regional and subregional organizations as OCLALAV, OICMA and the Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO/EA). In 1980, 12 projects focusing mainly on drought-stricken countries became operational. The projects are being financed by UNDP, ABEDA, Belgium and the FAO Technical Co-operation Programme in a total amount of \$7.35 million.

V. SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES  
STRICKEN BY DROUGHT AND/OR THREATENED BY DESERTIFICATION

127. In decision 80/36 adopted at its twenty-seventh session, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to set up a special programme for providing assistance to African countries stricken by drought and/or threatened by desertification and to include information on the subject in his annual report. As the programme is being prepared in the context of the formulation of UNDP's regional programme for Africa for the years 1982-1986 and is currently the subject of interagency consultations, the Administrator plans to provide the information requested either verbally when introducing this report or in the form of an addendum to this document. Furthermore, in December 1979 UNSO was requested by the General Assembly to assist in a joint undertaking with UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The activities undertaken by UNSO in this regard are described in a separate report of the UNDP Administrator.

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