



United Nations  
Development Programme

Distr.  
GENERAL

DP/1982/47  
5 April 1982  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Twenty-ninth session  
June 1982, Geneva  
Agenda item 6 (i) (iii)

SUPPORT

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE (UNSO)  
AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

Other assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa

Report of the Administrator

Summary

1. This report was prepared in accordance with the decision by the Governing Council at its twenty-first session (January-February 1976) that the report on drought-stricken areas of Africa and adjacent areas should be a part of the Administrator's annual report.
2. The report provides information concerning the drought in various areas of Africa during the most recent crop season. It confirms the continuing gravity of the situation of several countries and much of the population of the continent, their helplessness being further exacerbated by the weakness of their over-all economic situation. It also contains information about emergency food aid requested and the efforts of the international community and the African Governments concerned to mitigate the consequences of unpredictable weather conditions.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This report was prepared in accordance with the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-first session (January-February 1976) 1/ that the report on the drought-stricken African countries and adjacent areas should be included as part of the Administrator's annual report.

2. The report provides information on the development of the situation during the most recent crop season in the Sahel countries, the countries of East and West Africa and other African countries. It also contains information on emergency food aid requested and on the efforts of the international community and of the African Governments concerned to mitigate the effects of drought.

### I. THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SAHEL

3. In 1981 the countries of the Sahel, with few exceptions, experienced nearly normal rainfall and weather conditions with the result that grain harvests were generally satisfactory. The exceptions are Cape Verde and Chad, which had a serious drought, while Niger and Mauritania were affected to a lesser extent.

#### A. Cape Verde

4. The drought which ravaged the Cape Verde Islands in 1981 was one of the most severe of the last decade. Apart from a few places situated on high ground in Santiago and on Fogo Island, there was not enough rain for the maize to come up. At the end of 1981 the maize crop was estimated at 3,000 tons, or 7 per cent of annual consumption, while the leguminous crop was estimated at 500 tons, or 6 per cent of annual consumption. Rain-fed crops (bananas, manioc, sweet potatoes) and fodder were also hit.

5. A mission from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization/World Food Programme (FAO/WFP) which visited Cape Verde in December 1981 estimated that the food needs, the quantities of available food and the food deficits met were as follows (in tons):

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1/ Official documents of the Economic and Social Council, sixty-first session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5779), para. 36 (h).

Food	Needs	Working reserves 1982	Production (1981-1982 crop season)	Available reserves and confirmed food aid as of 1 January 1982	Shortfall
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5) = (1+2) - (3+4)
Maize	45 000	9 300	3 000	35 000	16 300
Wheat	12 000	2 500	-	6 000	8 500
Rice	8 000	1 700	-	4 165	5 535
Beans	8 000	2 600	500	3 500	6 600
Powdered milk	2 500	350	-	610	2 240
Vegetable oil	2 000	300	-	200	2 100

6. The mission recommended 5,500 tons of maize in emergency food aid to meet the immediate needs of St. Nicolas, St. Antao and Fogo Islands. It recommended that 18,500 tons should be provided in the course of 1982. Sixteen thousand tons of grain and other supplementary food products would be needed by the end of 1982 to replenish the reserves, which by then will have been virtually exhausted. Furthermore, substantial aid in cattle feed will also be required between March and October 1982.

7. Several donors had confirmed the grain deliveries by the time this report was drafted: the United States (15,000 tons of maize); Japan (1,250 tons of rice); the European Economic Community (EEC) (2,415 tons of rice), while the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs pledged \$2.7 million for grain purchases. In addition, the EEC has promised to provide 2,000 tons of beet pulp for cattle feed.

8. The Government has continued its soil and water conservation programmes, programmes for restoring the vegetative cover, redeveloping water resource and for integrated rural development: reafforestation, creation of grazing land, kitchen-garden crops and export crops (coffee).

9. UNDP, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the United Nations agencies concentrated on soil and water conservation, the development of water resources and the expansion of agricultural production. Furthermore, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) continued its technical assistance in the field of training. WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided food aid to vulnerable groups of the population: mothers, children and school groups.

10. Integrated rural development projects are also being financed by bilateral aid: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United States of America (Agency for International Development: USAID). EEC is contributing to the development of water resources. In co-operation with FAO, the Netherlands is financing the construction of a 9,500-ton grain silo.

#### B. Chad

11. The drought was particularly severe in Chad during the year 1980-1981. The mission of the Office for Special Relief Operations (OSRO) which was there in September 1981 was able to compare the situation with what it had been in 1973-1974. Rainfall was very low, even non-existent in some places, and poorly distributed.

12. In the Sudano region, cultivated area was reduced by 8 to 10 per cent, with a drop of 15 to 20 per cent in production compared with 1979-1980. However, it was in the Sahelian region that the situation reached disastrous proportions, with losses in production estimated between 75 and 100 per cent in Chari-Baguirmi, in the lake region and in the north of the country (Kanem, Batha, Ouaddai). Cotton production also declined by nearly half and will yield only 650,000 metric tons of cottonseed.

13. The drying up of water outlets and the scarcity of grazing land has led to the gradual migration of livestock towards the south of the country and neighbouring countries. The concentration of the herds contributed to the outbreaks and spread of epizootic diseases and caused further degradation of the environment.

14. In order to meet this crisis situation, which was made worse by civil unrest, the Government of Chad launched an appeal to the international community for 60,000 tons of grain in emergency food aid between January and October 1982. Furthermore, in order to save the livestock, emergency assistance in the form of a vaccination treatment and campaign was requested.

15. The bilateral and multilateral food aid already granted or pledged, (including FAO/WFP emergency aid), amounted to 37,550 tons of grain at the end of January 1982. It should be remembered, however, that only 6,900 tons out of the 12,000 tons of food previously recommended by the March 1981 interagency mission had been delivered to Chad that year, despite the fact that the two interagency missions in September and October-November 1981 had stressed the importance of that assistance.

16. The main purpose of those two missions had been to study with the Government measures for national reconstruction. They worked out a medium-term programme for the rehabilitation of agriculture, cattle-raising and forestry.

17. On the initiative of the French Government, a meeting of donors took place in Paris from 11 to 13 November 1981. At that meeting, a number of donors, in particular France, the United States, EEC, the African Development Bank (ADB) and UNDP made commitments to assist Chad in several areas. In addition, a mission of

experts financed by UNDP visited Chad in January-February 1982 to assist the Government in preparing a document on its reconstruction and development needs to be submitted to the international conference on assistance to Chad which the United Nations General Assembly had requested the United Nations Secretary-General to organize in 1982 in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). That conference is expected to be held at Nairobi from 15 to 16 April 1982.

### C. Niger

18. Rainfall, during the 1981-1982 crop season was less than normal, leading to only fair harvests, particularly in western Niger in the Maradi region.

19. An FAO/WFP multi-donor visiting mission in December 1981 estimated the grain shortfall at some 70,000 tons and recommended that 30,000 tons be provided as emergency food aid. As of 30 December 1981, 3,000 tons of corn and 300 tons of powdered milk have been provided by WFP to assist 60,000 persons affected by the drought for a period of 125 days.

20. The priority given by the Government to agricultural production for the past several years had borne fruit, since food aid, which had been steadily declining up to 1980, amounted to only 8,699 tons that year. The fact that the country has had to rely on it now, after only one bad rainy season, is further proof, if any were needed of the difficulties which the countries of the Sahel are encountering in meeting their food needs, of the serious degradation and impoverishment of the land after successive years of drought and, finally, of the fragility of the economies of those countries. In addition to grain shortages resulting from fluctuations in weather, there are deficits caused by poor marketing mechanisms, poor communications and lack of storage facilities.

21. International assistance to Niger is concentrated on rural development and improvement of infrastructure (a total of \$84 million and \$41 million respectively in 1980). The Federal Republic of Germany, EEC, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Development Association (IDA) contribute to integrated rural development, USAID to the development of stock raising and pasture land and Belgium to the hydro-agricultural development of Say. It should also be noted that WFP gave \$5.9 million for a project for storage facilities and price stabilization. UNDP, for its part, is financing projects designed to strengthen agrometeorological services, soil cartography and collection of agricultural statistics. In addition, UNDP is providing assistance to projects for the mechanization of agriculture, reafforestation and construction, maintenance and improvement of secondary roads.

### D. Mauritania

22. Despite less than normal rainfall, perhaps partially offset by the long spate of the Senegal River, Mauritanian grain production rose from 41,000 tons in 1980 to 66,300 tons in 1981. However, it is still too little to meet the needs of the population. A joint mission of the Government and donors estimated the shortfall

which is basically structural, to be about 50,000 tons. It should be noted that grain imports amounted to 135,000 tons in 1980. The mission recommended that WFP continue to co-ordinate all food aid.

23. WFP has launched a project for the stabilization of grain prices to be executed through the Mauritanian Grain Office. For its part, the Government is trying to develop the rural sector in the medium and long term in order to ensure food self-sufficiency for the country, revitalize the rural environment and encourage people to return to their land. Bilateral and multilateral, including assistance from the United Nations system has supported that Government effort. USAID is financing integrated development projects in the Guidimaka region, the European Development Fund (EDF), pilot development projects for rain-fed crops and UNSO, projects for grain storage facilities. The Netherlands is assisting in the utilization of animal resources and UNDP, UNSO and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are helping to establish and operate two brigades construction responsible for the maintenance of secondary roads and dams.

#### E. Other countries of the Sahel

24. The other countries of the Sahel (Gambia, Upper Volta, Mali, Senegal) had relatively good weather conditions during the crop year, their harvests were good, and in some cases there was a definite increase in grain output (nearly 25 per cent in Upper Volta). However, grain imports are still necessary and even substantial, either because of the shortfall in the production of some grains (rice in Gambia and Senegal), structural defects, or shortages due to the drought in some areas (northern region of Mali).

25. The problems and priorities for action in the countries of the Sahel are still in the rural sector, as was pointed out by the participants at the Fifth Summit Conference of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) which met at Praia in January 1982.

## II. THE COUNTRIES OF EAST AFRICA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

26. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/90 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/48 concerning assistance to the drought-stricken regions of Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and the Sudan, a multi-agency mission visited those countries from 20 September to 25 October 1981.

27. The essential task of this mission was to evaluate the medium- and long-term needs of the Governments for their drought-stricken populations; in Kenya, the short-term needs also had to be determined. The conclusions and recommendations of the mission were submitted, in separate reports for each country, by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session under the following document numbers: Djibouti (A/36/276); Kenya (A/36/712); Uganda (A/36/274); Somalia (A/36/275); and the Sudan (A/36/277).

28. We shall not here review the content of those reports and shall give only very brief updated information on the drought situation and on emergency food aid in the five countries concerned.

#### A. Djibouti

29. There has been no change to speak of in the particularly distressing situation in Djibouti. The Government has carried out one of the recommendations in the report mentioned above and has taken a census of the refugees and persons displaced as a result of the drought. The figures are 300,000 displaced persons and 300,000 refugees in camps. Both categories are continuing to receive emergency food aid, either from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Catholic Relief Services or the League of Red Cross Societies. For its part, the World Food Programme (WFP) is continuing its food aid as part of the development projects.

#### B. Kenya

30. Weather conditions returned to normal in the course of the last 1981-1982 crop year and substantial harvests of maize and wheat were brought in at the end of the year. The National Grain Purchasing Agency (NCPB) purchased about 620 tons of maize (as against 387,000 in 1980-1981), and about 220,000 tons of wheat (or about 90 per cent of the national production, as against 192,000 the preceding year). Even though grain imports have still been necessary to meet the growing needs of the population, it will at least have been possible to replenish part of the reserves. The decision to raise the price of maize and wheat planted in 1982 by 37 per cent and 22 per cent respectively will no doubt give strong impetus to the activity of the farmers.

31. The distributions of food to the nomadic populations who had suffered so severely from the drought in the north of the country were continued but cut back.

#### C. Somalia

32. Somalia also had abundant rainfall which flooded the Juba and Scebeli river basins. The grain harvests were good and livestock conditions have decidedly improved. However reduced grain imports might still be necessary to meet the needs.

33. Emergency WFP food assistance is continuing to go to the refugees, whose number in 1981 had risen to 700,000 according to a census taken by the Government and UNHCR. Food aid and other provisions were also distributed to flood victims.

#### D. The Sudan

34. According to the information available at this writing, rainfall was normal during the last crop season and the harvests, which are not yet complete, should reach a satisfactory level.

### E. Uganda

35. Rainfall and general crop season conditions were relatively normal. The harvests were on the whole good. The situation in Karamoja and the West Nile district, however, remains difficult and the number of persons assisted is once again expected to reach 150,000 by mid-1982. Grain supplies should be sufficient until the next harvest, but items like salt, sugar and beans are still needed.

### F. Ethiopia

36. In 1981 as in previous years, this country was in the grips of a persistent drought over a large part of its territory. The provinces of Eritrea, Tegre, Welo, Sidamo, Bale, Gamo-Gofa and Hararghe were seriously stricken, as were the provinces of Ilubabor and Walaga. The rains were scant and late in coming. The situation was further aggravated by the appearance of insects and other crop pests. Grain and leguminous output was therefore very low. Elsewhere, the harvests were relatively good, although heavy rains in the first weeks of January 1982 did them some harm. This was the case in the regions of Gojam, Gondar and Shoa, among others.

37. The National Relief and Rehabilitation Commission estimated that more than 4.5 million people suffered from famine in 1981. According to the information available to the FAO/WFP, at least 2.3 million people, mostly small farmers with no money will continue to rely on international food aid in 1982. To these figures must be added 300,000 war victims in receipt of assistance from the National Commission in 11 camps in the region of Hararghe.

38. The food aid received (119,000 tons of grain) fell short of requirements, which were estimated at approximately 400,000 tons in mid-1981. However, WFP shipments of various food supplies were continued and a new FAO/WFP food aid project for the delivery of 10,000 tons of wheat was approved in October 1981.

39. Aware that over-population, over-grazing and deforestation have compounded the effects of the drought in certain regions, the Government obtained the support of UNDP and FAO in launching a programme of soil conservation, afforestation, rain-fed crop development and population resettlement in sparsely populated and potentially productive areas. For instance, a new programme for the resettlement of more than 65,000 displaced families over a period of four years at a cost of \$31.5 million was approved by the WFP. A plan to constitute buffer food stocks is also to be launched and implemented at a cost of \$3.7 million. A UNCDF grant of \$1.9 million has been approved for the purchase of farm vehicles, equipment and farm machinery to support a project sponsored by the WFP, UNDP, UNSO and FAO for afforestation and the development of pasture and farm land, which is progressing satisfactorily in Hararghe, Wollo, Shoa and Eritrea. For its part, EEC contributed to a project for small-plot irrigation.



### G. Angola

40. At the request of the Government, the Secretary-General of the United Nations requested the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to arrange for a multi-agency mission to review the situation in the country. The mission visited Angola at the end of August 1981. A second mission visited in November 1981. The drought which the provinces of Benguela, Huila and Moçamedes had suffered in 1979-1980 worsened during the 1980-1981 crop season and spread to the provinces of Cunene, Kuanda, Kubango and Bié. Rainfall was 30 per cent below normal in those areas.

41. The situation in these provinces and throughout the country was made still more precarious by the quasi-permanent state of war maintained by the Republic of South Africa in the provinces bordering on Namibia. About 661,000 persons fleeing from the combined effects of war and drought are displaced. In these provinces where stock-raising is a major economic activity, the livestock, of course, were also stricken.

42. The Government has estimated the grain shortfall during the 1980-1981 season at 26,600 tons. Emergency food aid of 9,468 tons of maize was provided by FAO/WFP for 263,000 drought victims for a period of 90 days. A six-month emergency aid programme was worked out by the mission at a cost of \$20 million, \$8 million of which had already been contributed by various bilateral and multilateral donors. Relief in kind (food, medicines, clothing) was supplied over and above the monetary contributions. There is no doubt that the aid programmes have been jeopardized by the precarious military situation in the southern part of the country. Prospects for the 1981-1982 crop season were not yet known at this writing.

### H. United Republic of Tanzania

43. On the whole, rainfall was insufficient and unevenly distributed in the 19 regions of the United Republic of Tanzania, those of Mwanza and Dodoma being the most severely stricken. Harvests therefore tended to be poor, particularly the maize crop, where there was a shortfall of about 150,000 tons.

44. WFP has provided 10,000 tons of maize in emergency food aid to the drought-stricken population. Pledges from a number of donors such as Japan (50,000 tons of rice), Australia (300,000 tons of wheat), the EEC countries (115,000 tons of maize) should make it possible to meet daily consumption requirements.

45. The Government has attempted to establish a short- and long-term programme to increase food production. The New Economic Survival Plan (NESP) takes into account the deep-seated and intrinsic reasons for the drop in production. For example, in addition to training farmers and increasing the number of agricultural experts and irrigation projects, the Government plans to improve marketing (purchasing and payment of the harvest). In the belief that ultimately, subsistence farming cannot meet the needs of an increasingly urban population, the Government has decided to create cash crop farms at the village, national and private levels.

### I. Mozambique

46. Irregular rainfall throughout the country seriously hurt the 1981-1982 harvest. The most affected areas were the coastal provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Inhambane, where more than a million Mozambicans require food aid. The Government has decreed a state of emergency and made a strong appeal for international assistance. The needs of the urban population alone amount to 620,000 tons of grain. The 1981 marketed output amounted to 101,204 tons of grain (wheat, maize, rice), while the food aid in grain from various donors so far comes to roughly 160,000 tons. This figure does not include WFP emergency food aid of 3,276 tons of maize and 328 tons of beans for 50,000 adults and 78,000 children in rural areas of Nampula province.

47. The Government is attempting to relieve the food shortage in the country as a whole by constituting buffer food stocks and by improving storage and distribution facilities. A WFP mission is to develop this project, for which 10,000 tons of wheat contributed by Australia are already available. The Government plans to take steps to reduce crop losses by improving crop storage facilities and techniques at the village level and by improving storage conditions at the level of the provinces and districts. Finally, it will stimulate agricultural production by resettling farmers in communities where they can be trained in the latest techniques in farming. The use of fertilizers and pesticides and draught animals can be widely disseminated.

### J. Madagascar

48. The 1980/1981 season was one of irregular rainfall, unevenly distributed among the different regions of the island. While precipitation was close to and, in fact, above normal in the western region and towards the centre of the southern (Ramchira) region, it scarcely amounted to 50 per cent of the average in the northern uplands (Lake Alaotra) and the western part of the southern region.

49. The country's food and economic situation is showing the effects. The rice harvest is about 150,000 tons below normal. Taking into account the structural deficit in rice production which the country has been experiencing for several years past, total import requirements for the period July 1981-June 1982 are estimated at between 300,000 and 450,000 tons. Rice imports are expected to reach 230,000 tons, increasing the deficit in Madagascar's balance of trade still further.

50. The country has received emergency food aid from multilateral and bilateral donors: WFP, EEC, Japan and the United States. From these sources, the Government has been offered almost 17,000 tons of rice, 10,950 tons of flour, 310 tons of dried skim milk and 400 tons of vegetable oil. Some of these food supplies can be sold to cover the costs of transport and distribution and of agricultural development projects. In addition, substantial funds have been allocated for the reclamation of Lake Alaotra, to which UNDP, FAO and France (Fund for Assistance and Co-operation (FAC)) are contributing. For the longer term, the Government is continuing its efforts relating to increased agricultural output (rice and market-garden crops) with assistance from UNDP, EDF and the World Bank, among other

sources; drinking-water supply in the Ambovombe area (southern region) with a grant from the Government of Japan and EEC assistance; and study and construction of small works and agricultural water systems in association with local communities in the Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa and Tsivony region, again with EEC (EDF) assistance. UNDP and FAO will make a major contribution so as to enable the Government to launch a project for increased production of seeds (rice, groundnuts, maize) with a view to obtaining funds from the World Bank, EEC and bilateral donors for large-scale operations.

51. At the time of writing, prospects for the 1981/1982 crop season seemed definitely brighter, since rainfall had been normal throughout the country and even heavy in some places during the sowing season and the second rice harvest.

#### K. Comoros

52. The Government has appealed to the international community to make up serious shortfalls in staple food products, particularly rice, following a persistent drought which resulted in greatly reduced harvests. The Government reports a serious shortage of drinking water.

53. At the time of writing, no information was available on food aid or on any emergency action that might have been taken. It should be noted that 49 per cent of the resources made available to the Government by UNDP are allocated to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors with a view to helping the country to achieve self-sufficiency in food. Inputs from other sources of assistance, multilateral (World Bank and EEC) or bilateral, are also providing support for this effort.

### III. THE SITUATION IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

#### A. Benin

54. Rainfall has been irregular and light throughout the country, with adverse effects on the grain and tuber harvests. At the beginning of 1982, the country's stocks were nearly exhausted and the Government was estimating the number of people who would need food aid to bridge the gap from February to July 1982 at almost 2 million. However, the extent of the food deficit had not been quantified and the Government had not yet made any request to WFP. In December 1981 it had decided to prohibit exports of grain, legumes and tubers.

#### B. Togo

55. The failure of the rains in northern Togo in October, November and December 1981 had a serious impact on grain harvests. The same drought affected the south of the country during the second planting season. Pasture lands also suffered from the low rainfall. The Government undertook a publicity campaign to encourage the population to improve agricultural production. To that end, a

national solidarity fund financed by voluntary contributions was set up, to assist the food marketing board and to combat food shortages. The agrarian reform and rural development programmes are being actively pursued with the co-operation and support of UNDP, FAO and other sources of bilateral and multilateral assistance.

### C. Central African Republic

56. The northern part of the country, particularly Vakaga prefecture, has been suffering from drought since 1978. In addition, pests (locusts, caterpillars) have damaged crops already affected by the lack of rain. In the north-west the country's main crop, manioc, has been hit by disease. The chronic food shortage and food deficiencies suffered by the entire population were thus aggravated in 1981. Stagnation and low productivity in traditional agriculture, lack of guidance and the exodus from rural areas are the underlying causes of the food deficit in the Central African Republic. Food aid (240 tons of grain) from EEC and from France has already been provided to the disaster-stricken populations. WFP is also assisting in connexion with various rural development projects. The Government has designed community development, literacy and agricultural, pastoral and fish-farming extension programme for communities in Vakaga prefecture, to be implemented with inputs from external assistance sources.

### D. Countries of North Africa

57. To varying degrees and with consequences of greater or lesser gravity, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia all suffered from drought in 1981. The late rains in Algeria and Tunisia primarily affected fodder production and pastureland, with the result that small herdsmen in particular suffered considerable losses.

58. Morocco was the most seriously affected, with rainfall considerably lower than normal. The lateness and irregularity of the rains during the 1981/1982 crop season may prolong this situation. Production of grains, fruit, fodder and livestock was seriously affected. Grain production for 1980/1981 was only 2.2 million tons, or 50 per cent of the normal nation-wide output, while requirements for both human and animal consumption are 6.5 million tons a year. The drop in fodder crop production affected sheep, goats and cattle (increased mortality, weight loss). Lastly, the drought caused an increase in migration to urban centres.

59. Emergency food aid amounting to 40,160 tons of wheat was granted by WFP, and FAO/OSRO allocated 252,000 for the purchase of durum wheat. EEC and the Federal Republic of Germany contributed 13,500 tons of wheat, while barley to the value of \$1 million was provided by Canada, and 5.5 million tons of wheat by the United States. The Government intends to cover the grain deficit by importing 3.5 million metric tons of grain for human consumption and 400,000 tons of fodder. It is also launching an ambitious programme for the creation of 20,000 jobs.

## CONCLUSION

60. Several countries and much of the population of the African continent continue to be affected by drought. However, for the last two crop seasons, 1980/1981 and 1981/1982, the drought was not as widespread or devastating as in the 1970s. It was restricted to certain areas, in some of which it was severe and in others of limited duration, but it none the less forced nearly a third of the countries of Africa to appeal to the international community for emergency food aid. In all cases, it had the effect of aggravating the structural inadequacies of the continent's food and grain production, and in a number of countries its impact came on top of that of civil unrest, warfare and flows of refugees and displaced populations.

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