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PROGRAMME PLANNING: THE THIRD PROGRAMMING CYCLE
1982 - 1986

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Report on implementation of country programmes, 1982, Arab States

Report of the Administrator

Summary

Although none of the 19 present cycle country programmes is more than a year or two old, and several are still to be approved, this report covers the two main areas of Governing Council concern (decision 81/15, E/1981/61/Rev.1).

Regarding present operational procedures - country programme formulation (processes, content, phasing, and aligning with national priorities); country programme and individual project review; concluding completed projects and introducing new ones - no substantial difficulties have been encountered. Within the region, continuing emphasis is being given to project design and project document formulation, which will tend to result in improved efficiency throughout the project cycle, and, when aggregated for all projects, also throughout the country programme cycle.

The country programmes are being implemented according to schedule, except in five or six countries, the reasons varying according to circumstance. A number of successful projects are concluding, and important new projects are being formulated to take their place. In this region, in some of the countries, Government funding or part-funding of their programmes is becoming extremely significant. However, in perhaps six of the countries, enormous difficulties are being experienced in reducing project activity to the level of the reduced UNDP ceilings; and substantial departures from the originally approved programmes are expected, and will be reported upon.

INTRODUCTION

1. This report is prepared at the request of the Governing Council (E/1981/61/Rev.1). At its twenty-seventh session in June 1980, the Council considered the Administrator's report, Examination of Experience with Country Programming (DP/454), based upon studies of various national experiences. Special attention was given to the following: dovetailing of country programmes with national development plans, in terms both of priorities and of phasing; the programming process itself; and the respective roles of the various parties.

2. At its twenty-eight session, in June 1981, the Council endorsed certain new country programme formulation procedures. These included the continuous programming modality; more emphasis upon the country programming process as a reference for other United Nations system programming; a revised country programme format, and a revised time-frame for its submission for approval. Governing Council decision 81/15 requested the Administrator to submit annual reports from each Regional Bureau on the status of country programme implementation. These are to highlight any developments, to enable the Council to form an overall picture of progress and trends in the programmes it has approved. This is the first such report concerning the Arab States.

3. This report has been prepared after consultation with the field offices. The subjects covered in this first "baseline" report are as follows: (I) the country programme cycles; (II) the major sectors of concentration; (III) implementation trends in the country programmes; (IV) country programme reviews and continuous programming; and (V) a brief summary of developments in each country. The report notes changes from what was envisaged in the approved country programmes when this applies.

I. THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME CYCLES

4. A constant question is the extent to which country programmes reflect national priorities, especially those described in national development plans. The purpose of the following table is to illustrate the particular phasing of each country programme relative to the phasing of long-term national development plans in those countries where they are in effect, plus the relationships on substance.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Country programme approval</u>	<u>Country programme period</u>	<u>Development plan period</u>
Algeria	1983	1983-1986	1980-1984
Bahrain	1982	1982-1986	(Budget)
Democratic Yemen	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Djibouti	1982	1982-1986	(Budget)
Egypt	1981	1982-1986	1980-1984
Iraq	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Jordan	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Kuwait	1983	1983-1986	(Budget)
Lebanon	(1984)	(1984-1986)	(Budget)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Morocco	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Oman	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985

<u>Country</u>	<u>Country programme approval</u>	<u>Country programme period</u>	<u>Development plan period</u>
Qatar	(1984)	(1984-1986)	(Budget)
Saudi Arabia	1983	1982-1986	1980-1985
Sudan	1983	1983-1986	1977-1983
Syrian Arab Republic	(1983)	(1983-1986)	1981-1985
Tunisia	1982	1982-1986	1982-1986
United Arab Emirates	1982	1982-1986	1981-1985
Yemen	1983	1983-1986	1982-1986

(Some of the country programme and development plan years do not coincide with calendar years. Development plans or programmes will be formulated in due course in Djibouti, replacing the 1983-1989 Orientation Law, and, in Lebanon, replacing the 1978 Reconstruction Programme, now being revised. The other three countries without a fixed-term development plan instead observe a capital budget updated on a rolling basis).

5. Conclusions from the table above as follows. Almost all of the present-cycle country programmes came into effect very recently - 12 in 1982, and a further five in 1983. The remaining two will start in 1984. As they are scheduled at present, all or almost all of the country programmes will be concluded during 1986. One country programme (Djibouti) is in the first cycle, three in the second, 14 in the third and one in the fourth cycle.

6. It can also be observed that, in those countries with fixed-term national development plans, most such plans (11 out of 14) came into effect in 1980 or 1981; most (12) have a duration of four years; and most (11) will be completed in 1985 or 1986. In other words, most country programmes are running fairly concurrently with most national plans, at present, although if the trend for country programmes to be aligned to IPF cycles continues so strongly, this will no longer apply later in the decade. Just at present, most country programmes take effect about one year after most development plans take effect. As the original intention was for the two to coincide, and for the country programming process to be a logical extension of the national planning process, these points should be taken into account:

(a) When the draft country programme documents have been submitted to UNDP headquarters, for finalization and submission to the Governing Council for approval, Resident Representatives have invariably confirmed that the programmes are the outcome of standard national planning procedures. Priorities in the documents, where possible, reflect articulated national priorities, and this is usually stated early in the documents:

(b) The majority of national plans and capital budgets seem to be focussed more on physical infrastructure projects and capital investment projects. There seems to be less detailed description of what is intended for administrative infrastructure development and manpower development - which are the major focus of most of the country programmes. In fact, many of the administrative infrastructure problems which UNDP assists Governments to resolve become apparent only during the

implementation phases of national development plans. Thus, most new projects in country programmes reflect considerable sensitivity to pressing national needs;

(c) The majority of UNDP resources in the majority of the country programmes are earmarked not for new projects but for ongoing projects. In several countries, resources for new projects (even as planned prior to the reduced ceilings) were quite insignificant. These country programmes simply reflect existing realities. In such cases, the formulation process for the country programmes was basically one of fine tuning and limited adjustment. In any case, in most countries there are pipelines of sound, well-conceived project proposals, almost all of which very well reflect existing long-term national priorities, which are waiting for UNDP funding.

7. UNDP's assessment, therefore, is that, perhaps regardless of the respective phasings of national plans and country programmes, whether parallel or otherwise, new UNDP-assisted activities in the region are almost without exception attuned to national needs. Scarce UNDP resources are being matched to Government priorities in a low-key but efficient way, which minimized the demands of negotiation upon central planning organizations and UNDP field offices. Also, it should be observed that, as each individual project is in formulation, standardized procedures are followed which should ensure that its relevance and impact are continually assessed.

II. MAJOR SECTORS OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME CONCENTRATION

8. This concerns trends in the relative emphases being given to different sectors in different countries. For the most part, the focus of UNDP-assisted projects in the region is upon the development of technical and managerial systems, both within Government ministries (such as planning units), within training and research institutions, and within parastatals, co-operatives, and private sector enterprises. Usually only a small part of each country programme is focussed upon feasibility studies, direct research, or other kinds of direct support activity where the development of systems is not the principle aim. Such assistance is very much required, and can often develop into very sizeable investment-oriented activities attracting other non UNDP support. Unfortunately, however, it seems apparent that the rather long time-frames, and sizeable forward commitments, of typical country programmes tend to mitigate against short-term, immediate responses to such support needs.

9. For purposes of illustrating in this report the present focus of the programme, as a baseline for reporting deviation trends in future reports, the following table is presented. Drawing mainly upon information in approved or draft country programme documents, it shows, for each country, the three priority sectors where the majority of UNDP resources are being concentrated.

<u>Country</u>	<u>First priority</u>	<u>percent</u>	<u>Second priority</u>	<u>percent</u>	<u>Third priority</u>	<u>percent</u>
Algeria	Agriculture	47	Planning	21	Trans/Comms	
Bahrain	Education	30	Agriculture	24	Social Conditions	
Democratic Yemen	Agriculture	42	Trans/Comms	15	Planning/Industry	
Djibouti	Planning	49	Trans/Comms	25	Employment	
Egypt	Agriculture	24	Industry	25	Trans/Comms	

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<u>Country</u>	<u>First priority</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Second priority</u>	<u>percent</u>	<u>Third priority</u>	<u>per</u>
Iraq	Agriculture	31	Planning	26	Industry	1
Jordan	Employment	46	Education	22	Planning	1
Kuwait	Transportation/Comms	35	Planning	27	Agriculture/Inds	1
Lebanon	Health	26	Agriculture	25	Trans/Comms	2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Industry	38	Planning	37	Employment	1
Morocco	Agriculture	31	National resources	26	Education	1
Oman	Agriculture	27	Transportation/Comms	21	Industry	1
Qatar	n.a.		n.a.		n.a.	
Saudi Arabia	Transportation/Comms	70	Planning	13	Agriculture	
Sudan	Planning	41	Agriculture	34	Trans/Comms	
Syrian Arab Republic	Agriculture	52	Education	27	Industry	
Tunisia	Agriculture	37	Industry	15	Health	1
United Arab Emirates	Planning	39	National resources	9	Agriculture	
Yemen	Agriculture	23	Planning	22	Trans/Comms	1

(The classification of sectors employed is that of ACC. Percentages for the country programmes not yet approved are extracted from the draft documents).

10. Reports received from the Resident Representatives confirm that, at present, no country programme has deviated very significantly from the priorities reflected in the above table. Only in the two cases of Democratic Yemen and Yemen (affected, respectively, by heavy flooding and by an earthquake) has there been some short-term adjustment, emphasizing support to physical reconstruction projects, such as transport networks and river control. Future annual reports may perhaps describe more significant changes, partly to reflect changing national circumstances now being witnessed in various countries in the region, and partly (see below) to reflect severe readjustments now required in the face of reduced UNDP resources. However, at present the following observations remain valid:

- (a) Planning projects receive special emphasis in most countries, particularly, in nine;
- (b) Agriculture projects are heavily emphasized in all but three of the countries, and most especially in the Syrian Arab Republic, and Democratic Yemen;
- (c) Transport and communications projects are important, especially in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and Djibouti;
- (d) Industry projects are stressed, especially in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Egypt, and Tunisia;
- (e) Manpower projects receive special emphasis in Jordan and Djibouti;
- (f) Natural resources projects are stressed at present in Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

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11. Considered together with other available information on assistance from sources other than UNDP, it seems correct to suggest that UNDP assistance, as of this time, remains very central to the different countries' development strategies for their priority sectors. It has been observed that the particular modalities of assistance seem to vary in different countries, and possibly in different sectors. In some instances, projects are more encompassing, more large-scale, and of longer duration, than in others. Also, in some instances, long-term experts with fairly broad, general terms of reference still seem to be the pattern. In other cases, shorter-term experts or consultants with more precise "pin-pointed" terms of reference, perhaps in conjunction with national professionals, are being employed. So far, no very clear correlation between particular modalities and a particular level of development has been observed. However, in all countries UNDP is increasingly encouraging very careful analyses and breakdown of individual project tasks. Once this is done, it is possible to focus the expertise more sharply, and thus to keep the roles of long-term experts to a cost-effective necessary minimum.

12. Not necessarily evident from the description above of priority sectors, there is strong interest in many of the countries in certain kinds of projects. These include those related to energy; to water resources; to information technology; to specialized technical and managerial training; to housing; and to the environment. Also, many projects have elements designed to improve the availability of basic needs; or to involve women more centrally in development. In many of the countries there is interest in the encouragement of producers' co-operatives, which seem to blend successfully with traditional rural patterns in the Arab countries. Systematic analysis has not been carried out into exactly how significant these projects are, or the impact they are expected to have, but it would certainly be feasible for future reports.

III. COUNTRY PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION TRENDS

13. This section is basically concerned with expenditure profiles, because that is the firmest information presently available. In future reports, more description will be provided of various factors either facilitating or impeding implementation. Reduced planned UNDP resources as from the beginning of 1983 are expected to affect implementation of certain country programmes much more greatly than will particular factors on the side of the Governments. In 1982, reported implementation figures for the different countries (combining UNDP resources and cost sharing resources) were generally very impressive. In five countries (Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Syrian Arab Republic) delivery was over 90 per cent of that planned. In all but five countries, it was over 80 per cent.

14. The two main factors that are determining the degree to which different country programmes are being affected by reduced expenditure ceilings are: the extent of cost sharing in a particular country; and the particular level of forward commitments. In 10 countries, cost sharing is either rather limited or non-existent. These countries include: Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia; accordingly, most of these countries are to some degree affected. Countries reporting that forward commitments to 1986 are already at a very high level (in several cases; about 100 per cent of those the country programmes originally envisaged) include: Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, and Sudan. Cuts to approved, ongoing projects in these five countries are having to be made in 1983 and 1984, and sometimes beyond.

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15. In the particular case of the Sudan programme, for which in view of special national circumstances over-expenditure was permitted in the first and second cycles, actual elimination of a number of ongoing projects is in prospect. As nearly 80 per cent of the programme may have to be eliminated, Sudan is certainly the most seriously affected in the region; perhaps even the most affected globally. In the case of Lebanon, although programme delivery in the second cycle was not up to that planned, the present needs of reconstruction are enormous. Envisaging an important role for UNDP, the Government has requested UNDP to make an appeal for third party cost sharing, for the implementation of a priority group of projects already decided upon.

16. In the remaining nine countries, cost sharing accounts either for all UNDP expenditure (Kuwait and Qatar) or almost all (Algeria, Bahrain, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen). Of these countries, only one - Yemen, a least developed country receiving fairly substantial third party cost sharing - is in major difficulty in adjusting to the reduced expenditure ceilings. Yemen is at present simultaneously affected by UNDP's reduced ceilings and by the possibility of considerable reductions in anticipated cost sharing contributions.

17. In summary, country programme implementation from 1983 to 1985, and perhaps beyond, will be most severely reduced in Sudan and Yemen; fairly reduced in a further nine countries; and substantially unaffected in the remaining eight countries. As to actual changes in country programme content of those 11 countries now in process of revising their targets, it is too early to report any trends with certainty. Discussions and adjustments may take up the rest of 1983. It seems fair to state that, in general, those countries with the most pressing requirements for the kind of assistance provided by UNDP are also those now most severely affected by the reduced expenditure ceilings.

IV. COUNTRY PROGRAMME REVIEWS AND CONTINUOUS PROGRAMMING

18. The picture described above is one of different country programmes assuming very different tempos in the next several years. Some programmes will be implemented as intended, while others obviously will not. Thus, it is expected that in the former countries there will be more opportunity for the appraisal of future assistance needs, while, in the latter, more affected countries, there will of course be less. Instead, country programme reviews will tend to be rather pre-occupied with resources and project expenditures, and the elimination of particular bottlenecks (other than financial) affecting various projects.

19. In 1982, there were several programme-wide reviews in the region, but these were more concerned with the finalization of the new country programmes now approved, rather than with country programmes already in implementation - all of which had only just commenced. In Sudan, there was an interesting experience; a UNDP consultant and a Government planning official evaluated all 27 projects expected to continue beyond 1982 into the present country programme cycle; the report, which recommended a number of changes, including some project extensions and some early cut-offs, was almost fully adopted by the Government and UNDP. Reports from the

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field offices indicate that a number of evaluation missions were fielded, to review specific projects, and that almost all projects were the subject of at least one tripartite review, and sometimes of several.

20. United Nations system agency headquarters staff and agency appointed consultants were very frequently participants in such reviews, and no reports have been received that the agencies were not being given every opportunity to examine their field activities. Several UNDP-funded thematic studies focussed upon certain types of projects in the region. A number of Resident Representatives have reported positively upon efforts to link the UNDP-assisted projects with efforts involving bilateral and multilateral capital-investment organizations. However, such efforts, often long in fruition, provide no answer to the immediate financial problems in certain country programmes. Early in 1983, in Riyadh, two meetings organized on a regional basis (the regional meeting of Resident Representatives, and the intergovernmental meeting on the regional programme) discussed common issues, including programming and review procedures and programme content. In summary, in 1982 the spirit behind country programme review was reconfirmed by a large number of separate review actions which, taken together, have provided the respective Governments and UNDP with fairly definite, up-to-date profiles of progress and constraints in the various programmes.

21. Prior to the reductions in the UNDP expenditure ceilings, a clear majority of the countries had already planned country programme reviews of the forward-looking kind in 1983. Most of the countries not too affected by the reductions have now reconfirmed that such reviews will still, in fact, take place. Some of these reviews, at least, will probably be rather low-key and uneventful, reflecting a common feeling that, if the projects are shown to be basically on target and the Government priorities unchanged, only incremental changes are required to maintain programme efficiency and relevance.

22. However, in those other countries where the country programmes are seriously affected by the reductions, reviews of projects and reviews of programmes have already begun. Some of these reviews are clearly proving very difficult for the different parties - often there is no part of the programme, no project, that the Government or the other parties wishes to see put aside. Reports on these lines have been received from Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Democratic Yemen, Yemen, Iraq, and Oman. In such circumstances the UNDP field offices often find themselves in rather ambiguous situations.

V. COUNTRY SUMMARIES: MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

23. This section, which is based mainly upon UNDP field office reports, summarizes principle country programme actions in process, primarily within the period 1982-1983. Where relevant, review actions are mentioned. In-depth details of projects of particular significance have not been reported upon - partly because projects of wide impact are already described in the annual report of the Administrator, and partly because it remains to be decided exactly what constitutes a significant project for purposes of this report. Such a decision, when forthcoming, will point the way towards the more detailed annual reporting by UNDP field offices that seems to be required.

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Algeria

24. No deviation from the 1983-1986 country programme priorities and projects is reported. A country programme review is scheduled for 1983, third quarter. Although agency delivery in 1982 (82 per cent) was fairly reasonable, commitments from 1983 forward are still less than is preferred. New project proposals are now being finalized for early approvals. Significant projects for the fishing industry, for the Institute of Planning, and for the Kasbah restoration, are concluding; and new projects for the improvement of maritime safety, preservation of the national heritage, and industrial and professional training, are in process of commencing.

Bahrain

25. The 1982-1986 country programme continues on its planned course, the emphasis still heavily upon personnel training. Agency delivery was not very high (61 per cent) in 1982. A country programme review is planned in 1983, first quarter. Assistance in animal production, in establishing the University College, and in vocational training is concluding. New assistance is commencing in the fields of aluminium rolling, dental hygiene, and food analysis development.

Democratic Yemen

26. The 1982-1986 country programme is substantially affected by reduced UNDP ceilings. Reviews are taking place to freeze new projects and reduce ongoing activity. Agency delivery in 1982 (88 per cent) is considered quite good. The major river-floods in 1982 and earlier have resulted in greater emphasis upon transport reconstruction and river control. A country programme review is scheduled for 1983, fourth quarter. Significant assistance concluding included national planning, civil aviation, and health manpower. Resources permitting, projects will commence in the fields of telecommunications, fish marketing, roads reconstruction, computer management, agricultural census, and a transport study.

Djibouti

27. The 1982-1986 country programme, Djibouti's first, continues, with agency implementation building up from 64 per cent of that planned in 1982. A review is scheduled in 1983, third quarter. A subject of much interest and preparatory activity is the Donors' Round-Table Conference, late in 1983, which UNDP is helping the Government to implement. Significant ongoing projects in the programme cover labour administration and telecommunications training. Among concluded assistance is civil aviation, and a roads maintenance study, costing \$100,000, now resulting in a World Bank/IDA credit of \$6.4 million. Assistance in tourism statistics and social security will commence shortly.

Egypt

28. Although the priorities of the 1982-1986 country programme continue intact, a major review is taking place early in 1983 to accommodate the reduced UNDP ceilings. It is anticipated that, of those planned, about 60 ongoing and pipeline projects will be retained, and about 20 will be cancelled. Of particular interest are

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assistance to the Suez Zone Design Studies, to energy planning, to the industrial and agricultural sectors, and to the short-term return of national experts (TOKTEN). Agency delivery in 1982 was 97 per cent of that planned. Assistance is concluding to management information systems, and is commencing to the Bahariya Oasis Development, to remote sensing, and to alternative energy prototypes.

Iraq

29. The 1982-1986 country programme will be reviewed in 1983, fourth quarter, to reassert priorities of the different new projects. Ongoing projects are absorbing all available UNDP funding in 1982-1984, and there are certain cutbacks. Assistance is concluding to manpower planning, forestry research, agricultural mechanization, industrial crops, and rural education. Projects are planned, but at present frozen, for the glass industry, food testing, pasture development, agricultural research, technical training, and higher level administration.

Jordan

30. No deviation from the 1982-1986 country programme's main emphasis is reported. However, many new projects are postponed, and a review is planned in 1983, third quarter, to decide which projects are to receive priority. Various projects are concluding, for example the Hotel and Tourism Management Training School; no major new activity is scheduled to commence in the immediate future.

Kuwait

31. The 1983-1986 country programme is now in effect and, in view of full funding of the programme by the Government, it will not be affected by the reduced UNDP ceilings. Agency delivery in 1982 was a rather low 74 per cent of that planned. The Government is implementing a continuous review to ensure the greater effectiveness of the programme. Among assistance concluding is that to protected vegetable production and to telecommunications training, and assistance is commencing to the Shuaiba Area Authority and to economic planning.

Lebanon

32. In view of the circumstances, Lebanon has had no country programme since 1977, although some project implementation has continued to a reasonable extent under approval authority delegated to the Administrator in Governing Council decision 82/4. Delivery in 1982 was 82 per cent (\$3.2 million) of that planned, but includes the costs of personnel evacuations and other emergency measures. Some \$5.5 million is carried over from the second IPF cycle. The 1984-1986 country programme is being finalized this year, and a review of the ongoing programme is part of the process. The Technical Support Group project, which provides certain high-level technical advisers as needs suggest, is a project of special interest. New projects cover the fields of technical education, waste management planning, and the rehabilitation of coastal fisheries.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

33. The 1982-1986 country programme, almost totally cost-shared by the Government,

is reported to be on course. Although delivery of agency inputs was good in 1982 (90 per cent), there is some delay in finalizing new projects due to take effect in 1983-1984. A review of the programme will take effect in 1983, third quarter. New projects are assisting in geology, statistics, and agricultural planning.

Morocco

34. The main themes of the 1982-1986 country programme remain intact. In view of the reduced UNDP ceilings, there is heavy emphasis at present on individual project reviews, in preparation for a full country programme review in the third quarter of 1983. A Government/United Nations system committee, the Commission for Joint Consultation, has been formed for this purpose. In 1982 agency delivery of inputs to the projects, at 88 per cent, is considered reasonably good. Projects concluding covered telecommunications maintenance at Casablanca and the Arabization Institute at Rabat. New assistance is commencing to a foundry laboratory, two water projects, and the Mejjat-Haouz Basin.

Oman

35. The 1982-1986 country programme is almost fully funded by the Government. Nevertheless, UNDP's reduced ceilings are reported to be causing adjustment problems, in view of very high advance project commitments - in fact, all projects envisaged in the country programme are already approved and under implementation. At the same time, the Government would like to see a much higher agency implementation rate, which in 1982 was only 43 per cent. Discussions to raise implementation to the maximum level feasible are now in process. New activities involve: Specifications and measurements, radio frequency management, and meteorology.

Qatar

36. The 1984-1986 country programme is now in process of negotiation. It will be fully funded by the Government of Qatar. The ongoing programme is still in process of building up, and agency delivery in 1982 was reported as 82 per cent. Assistance to meteorology is concluding; new assistance covers: documentation, information management, material management, and advisory services to agriculture.

Saudi Arabia

37. The 1982-1986 country programme, the largest in the region and almost fully-funded by the Government, is in course of development and expansion on anticipated lines. Various new projects are now being developed, and agency delivery in 1982 (105 per cent) was good beyond expectations. Present projects of special significance involve training for community development, and telecommunications institutes. New assistance covers: the mapping capability of MOMRA; the telegraph department; the Ministry of Information; and the Office for Technical Transfer.

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Sudan

38. The 1982-1986 country programme, itself the result of extensive action to review the programme and terminate selected projects, is yet again being reviewed, in light of a decrease from \$9.15 million (actual delivery) in 1982 to \$1.57 million (planning target) in 1986. Most existing projects are having to be terminated in the period 1983-1985, and no new activity seems possible before 1987. Significant projects concluding include those involved in management development, rural water supply, roads maintenance, vocational training, and low-cost construction. Those seriously affected cover national and regional planning, vocational training, agricultural training, industrial strategy, and development of the Jonglei Area, in the south of the Sudan.

Syrian Arab Republic

39. Difficult reductions are in process, to align the 1983-1986 draft country programme with the reduced UNDP ceilings. Agency performance in 1982 was good (90 per cent), and various project reviews have preceded the formulation of the country programme. Assistance now concluding covered civil aviation, management development, GECOSTEEL, the leather industry, and fertilizer research. Proposed new activity covers education, agricultural extension, cotton improvement, and citrus production.

Tunisia

40. A review of the 1982-1986 country programme will take place late in 1983. The country programme is reportedly still upon course, and the intention is to speed up implementation - in 1982 it was 81 per cent of that planned. Some 1984 commitments are being reduced in light of reduced UNDP ceilings. Significant projects involve the National Computer Centre, and Systems for Small-scale Farmers. Assistance is concluding to viticulture, forestry, the arid zones, agricultural planning, and Carthage Park. That due to commence will cover national accounts, employment policy, a tool-and-die centre, and development project preparation and follow-up.

United Arab Emirates

41. The 1982-1986 country programme, which is almost fully funded by the Government, is reported to be proceeding without deviation. However, implementation (agencies reported only 66 per cent for 1982) is below that considered acceptable. New assistance covers: vocational training, teacher training, the National Computer Centre, and physical planning. Projects of special significance included the Women's Handicraft Institute, and Water and Soil Investigations for Agricultural Development.

Yemen

42. Very substantial cost sharing from other Governments for the 1983-1986 country programme was anticipated and planned. In view of present economic conditions, at least some of this may now be in question. Its cancellation will lead to postponement or possible cancellation of 33 new projects still pending. If so, this will be covered in future reporting to the Governing Council. At present, new projects are

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frozen and ongoing projects are being reviewed. A further country programme review is scheduled for 1983, fourth quarter. Assistance concluding covered: water and sewage, health manpower, public administration training, and agricultural research.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

43. This is the first annual report on country programme implementation in the Arab States region. As such, and as none of the present 19 country programmes is more than a year or two old, much of the information is provided with the intention that it should serve as a baseline in future reports. This report has focussed upon two areas of particular interest to the Governing Council:

(a) Procedures - no substantial difficulties have been encountered. Within the region, continuing emphasis is being given to project formulation, which will tend to result in improved efficiency throughout the project cycle and thus throughout the programme cycle;

(b) Programme content - not very many substantial deviations from the substance of programmes so recently approved have been noted at this point. A number of successful projects are concluding, and, at a particular pace dictated by particular circumstance, new projects are commencing as intended.

The single biggest concern is for the half-dozen programmes which are being reduced and adjusted to accommodate the smaller UNDP ceilings. This is proving, in some cases to be a difficult process, for the reasons described. It seems apparent that, in the next report of this kind, in 1984, a widely disparate picture will be presented. Some country programme implementation will show good and undeviating progress; in other countries there will be almost a complete absence of progress - in some cases, where the assistance seems most required, and most difficult to replace from other sources.

