

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR NIUE

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Niue for the period 1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$1.0 million

Illustrative IPF for the programme period (1983-1986): \$597 000

INTRODUCTION

1. Situated in the southeast Pacific subregion, Niue is a small developing island country. It consists of a single coral atoll with a total land area of 258 square kilometres and a population of a little over 3,000. Like other small island countries, its economy is based on a narrow range of primary products with limited exports and a sizeable trade deficit.

* In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev. 1, annex 1), the second country programme for Niue is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator. The previous country programme for Niue and the accompanying note by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/NIU/R.1 and DP/GC/NIU/R.1/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

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2. In considering the development needs of Niue, it should be borne in mind that it is a self-governing state in free association with New Zealand. Its population has decreased by approximately 3 per cent per annum in recent years with a concomitant decrease in its skilled labour pool.
3. Over-all responsibility for co-ordinating external assistance to Niue rests with the office of the Secretary to Government. Within the Government, the Secretary to Government took the lead in formulating the country programme with the assistance of the Planning Division. The programme was formulated in consultation with the Resident Representative and the UNDP field office based in Apia, Samoa. In addition to UNDP, United Nations agencies were involved in the consultative process, primarily through their field project personnel and representatives within the region.
4. UNDP resources taken into account for programming purposes for 1983-1986 total \$597,000. This consists of 80 per cent of the illustrative Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for 1982-1986, reduced by the authorized budget level for 1982 of \$200,000 and further reduced by an amount of \$3,000 representing the over-spending of the second cycle IPF.
5. During the first country programme, for Niue (1980-1982), emphasis was placed on two areas: (a) support to the agricultural and fisheries sector; and (b) inputs in policy-making and public administration. In keeping with both government policy and the long-term goal of UNDP in promoting self-reliance, at the end of 1981 it was possible to replace two UNDP-funded senior level expatriates with Niuean officials in the two development areas mentioned above - one in the post of Director of the Agricultural Research Station and the other as Assistant Secretary for Planning.
6. During the second country programme, the intent is to build on the work done during the period of the first programme but with a different emphasis. For example, in the period of 1980-1982, considerable funding was concentrated on applied agricultural research with emerging support for increasing agricultural production for export. As the next section of this document will indicate, in the new programme more emphasis will be placed on agricultural production for export, yet funding will continue for agricultural support services.
7. In the new programme inputs will also continue in the field of public management (primarily through an increased use of United Nations volunteers); however, the focus on skills development and training will be shifted to short-term in-service training abroad in a variety of areas of interest to both the public and private sectors.
8. During the country programme period, there will be a general review of the programme as a part of the annual review of the Development Plan. This will enable the Government to maintain full delivery of UNDP assistance and to modify its emphasis and substance where necessary to suit changing requirements.

UNDP TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ENVISAGED IN SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

A. Objectives and general approach

9. In 1979, the Niue National Development Plan 1980-1985 was adopted. This Plan provided the general guidance for the first country programme, just as it will for this new programme. While some progress has been made, all of the changes cited in the first country programme as necessary for meeting the overall aims of the National Development Plan remain to be achieved. These include: (a) increasing total population by decreasing the loss in population due to emigration and creating incentives for emigrants to return to Niue; (b) increase in local production; (c) decrease in gap between import and exports; (d) increase in the number of Niueans holding leading positions in Government; and (e) increase in employment opportunities.

B. The Programme

10. The above objectives are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are interdependent. Within the context of the objectives stated above, and in line with the over-all thrust of the Development Plan, there are four major development areas within which UNDP funding will be concentrated during the period 1983-1986.

1. Agricultural production and processing for export

11. The most significant option available to Niue to improve its over-all economic position is through increasing its agricultural production for export. This is needed to reduce its unfavourable trade balance, increase employment opportunities and encourage a greater retention of its population. Despite the limitations of a shallow topsoil and certain difficulties with access to land, ample land is available for increasing agricultural production. In addition to further development of cash crops suitable for export, such as passion-fruit, limes, pawpaws, coconuts and honey, there is sufficient room for expanding livestock production needed for import substitution and for subsistence farming in rootcrops.

12. The most viable mechanism for increasing agricultural production and processing for export is through the Niue Development Board (NDB). This is a Government owned commercial cash crop production and processing organization. Within this programme, the vehicle to be used for aiding this sector will be a continuation and expansion of activities under the project, Assistance to the Development Board (NIU/79/003). This will include funding for a senior adviser in production and marketing, consultants in beekeeping and honey production and training in food technology. It is envisaged that approximately \$140,000 of UNDP funds will be used for this purpose.

2. Essential services for increasing agricultural production

13. In keeping with the emphasis on increased production, a variety of technical services is provided through the Agriculture Department. During the new programming period, special focus will be placed on consultancies in citrus virus diseases and in-country training in nursery production and grafting. Approximately \$70,000 of UNDP funding will be provided in this area.

3. In-service training abroad

14. Human resources development and the transfer of skills is a common element to all UNDP assisted projects in Niue, including the areas described above. While the use of experts and consultants will continue, nonetheless, this programme will also have a new orientation in skills development and training important to both the public and private sectors.

15 The intention is to fund a qualified and experienced person in a particular field to visit Niue for a relatively short period of time to make a first-hand assessment of the country's needs and problems. Such a person will return to his country of origin accompanied by a Niuean who could benefit from practical in-service training for a period of up to six months in the adviser's commercial plant, government office, accounting firm and so on. This will be an omnibus short-term training project spanning various areas, especially in the commercial sector, including produce marketing firms, tourism and travel agencies, and banks. However, the project will also provide opportunities for work experience in counterpart government agencies abroad. In some cases it may be possible to arrange for the attachment of a Niuean to a counterpart organization overseas without the need for having an adviser visit Niue in advance. This component of the programme will also accommodate the more traditional forms of long and short-term training both in-country and overseas. Approximately \$160,000 of UNDP resources will be provided in this area.

4. United Nations volunteers

16. In the second country programme, there will be an increased use of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to fill positions in a variety of fields ranging from vocational training to land surveying. The UNV programme has proved to be an economical means of providing vocational skills while encouraging in-service training. These efforts will be made through the project, United Nations Volunteers for Government Services (NIU/81/001). Approximatey \$40,000 will be earmarked for this component.

5. Use of regional projects

17. During the second country programme the Government of Niue intends to continue the practice of using assistance under the UNDP-funded regional projects to supplement the national IPF, especially in training and consultancies. Of particular interest to Niue are Development of

Small-Scale Enterprises and Entrepreneurship in the Pacific (RAS/79/016); Regional Telecommunication Training (RAS/81/025), Regional Training in Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (RAS/79/025); Vocational Oriented Education (RAS/81/012) and Low-Cost Building and Prefabrication (RAS/81/062).

6. Relationship with other external assistance

18. New Zealand is the largest source of bilateral development assistance to Niue, followed by Australia. Both countries have substantial capital investment programmes in areas such as transport, telecommunications, harbour development, energy and water supply. In the case of New Zealand, substantial personnel assistance and budgetary support is also provided.

19. Given the emphasis in this programme on technical assistance and training, the intent is to use UNDP assistance to complement bilateral assistance, a substantial amount of which is used for basic infrastructure development and needed equipment.

20. Niue participates in such regional organizations as the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, the South Pacific Commission and the Forum Fisheries Agency. It will continue to look to those organizations for technical and training assistance and will also continue to use similar type assistance provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation. In addition Niue intends to continue to take advantage of consultancy services in management and administration provided by the United Nations Development Advisory Team.

Annex
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Resources

(a) <u>IPF and other resources</u>	\$
(i) Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986	1 000 000
(ii) Less unprogrammed balance <u>a/</u>	(200 000)
(iii) Less authorized budget level for 1982	(200 000)
(iv) Previous IPF cycle balance	3 000

Total resources available for programming: 597 000

B. Use of resources

(a) <u>Programmed</u>	
(i) Ongoing projects	180 000
(ii) New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme	180 000
(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out at a later stage	230 000

Subtotal: 590 000

(b) Reserve 7 000

Total programmed plus reserve: 597 000

C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector

<u>Sector b/</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u> \$	<u>New projects</u> \$	<u>Sectoral Earmarking</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
02 General development issues, policy and planning	122 000	140 000	-	262 000
04 Agriculture, forestry & fisheries	11 000	-	70 000	81 000
09 Human settlements	12 000	20 000	-	32 000
10 Health	12 000	-	-	12 000
11 Education	14 000	20 000	-	34 000
12 Employment	9 000	-	160 000	169 000
 TOTAL	 180 000	 180 000	 230 000	 590 000

a/Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming

b/According to ACC Classification.

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