

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



# UNDP

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## COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

### Consideration and approval of country programmes

#### THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

#### UNDP assistance requested by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for the period 1983-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$15 million

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The third country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic has been prepared by the State Planning Commission, which is the Government's official co-ordinating authority for all development assistance. The programming exercise was undertaken in close collaboration with the UNDP in Damascus, and followed both an assessment of all major activities implemented under the second country programme and the findings of programming missions which were fielded to determine the technical assistance required for the various sectors.

\*In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, annex I), the third country programme for the Syrian Arab Republic is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator. The previous country programmes for the Syrian Arab Republic and the accompanying notes by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/SYR/R.1 and DP/GC/SYR/R.2 and DP/GC/SYR/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/SYR/R.2 RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

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2. Governing the period 1983-1986, the third country programme coincides with the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (1981-1985) of the Syrian Arab Republic and, to the extent possible, reflects the development needs, requirements and priorities set out in the conceptual framework of this Plan. The limited UNDP resources available to the Syrian Arab Republic have obliged the Government to concentrate these resources on highly selected areas in which the United Nations system has demonstrated its capability to deliver the type of assistance required, and in which UNDP has a comparable advantage over bilateral and other multilateral aid resources.

3. Within the context of national self-reliance - the underlying theme of the Fifth Five-Year Plan - the Government has determined its principal goals to be self-sufficiency in basic food production; the equitable distribution of income; employment expansion; greater participation of women in development; and advancement of national literacy. The third country programme has been structured to assist the Government, to the extent possible, in these development efforts, given the resources available.

4. The programme combines the use of IPF resources with financing available from other multilateral and bilateral sources and, from this point of view, represents a further step forward in a co-ordinated and integrated approach to technical co-operation, as compared with the two previous country programmes.

5. The resources for the third country programme period 1983-1986 amount to \$11,129,000: the illustrative IPF of \$15 million less the 20 per cent reserve (\$3 million), plus a carry-over of \$1,519,000 from the second cycle, less 1982 expenditures of \$2,390,000.

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

6. The development objectives of the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan are to increase the gross national product by an average of 8.5 per cent per annum; to increase the gross domestic product from the present 5.8 per cent to 7.6 per cent per annum; to curb the present balance-of-payments deficit, to increase work productivity by 5 per cent per year; and to encourage investment by 8.9 per cent per year and current expenditures by 6.4 per cent per year.

7. The third country programme has been prepared with the stated aim of integrating UNDP technical assistance, in specific areas, within the development context of the Syrian Arab Republic. The proposals that constitute the third cycle programme cannot, perforce, attempt to cover the totality of development activities, but rather focuses on those sectors of critical importance in which it is considered that UNDP assistance would have the most impact. The sectors of concentration are: agriculture; education; industry; communications and health.

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A. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (Sectoral allocation: \$5,495,000)

8. The Fifth Five-Year Development Plan accords this sector first priority, with 16.9 per cent of the total budgetary allocation. This percentage figure does not include agribusiness, fertilizers and equipment. Total agricultural spending will be three times as high as in the Fourth Five-Year Plan. In 1980, 39 per cent of the total national work force was engaged in agriculture; and the Plan envisages that by 1985, the Syrian Arab Republic will be self-sufficient in its food requirements. The Plan methodology concentrates on an increase in cultivable area and a maximization of agricultural benefits in the rainfed areas.

9. UNDP provides ongoing assistance to this sector under the project Integrated Agricultural Development (Phase II) (SYR/79/011), which began in 1980. Certain findings of this project have formed the basis of a new UNDP-assisted project, Technical Assistance to Agricultural Investment in the Southern Region (SYR/83/003). With an allocation of \$1.7 million, this activity will form the nucleus of a larger Government programme entitled Agricultural Development in the Southern Region, whose principal objective will be to increase the amount of available cultivable land and, through a two-phased programme of investment. The first phase will cost \$74.1 million, \$34.1 million to be provided by the Government, \$22 million by the World Bank and \$18 million by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Other new projects will provide training in Agricultural Extension Services (\$1.3 million); Improvement in Cotton Production (\$500,000); Milk and Meat Production (\$300,000); and Citrus Production (\$200,000). It is also envisaged that this sector will receive assistance under the United Nations Volunteers multisector project (SYR/78/007), in the fields of Fisheries Development, Livestock Development and Soils Studies, \$1.1 million has been earmarked for agricultural activities to be formulated in the course of the third cycle.

10. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through its technical Co-operation Programme, is providing assistance in agricultural extension services, cotton production, fisheries and remote sensing.

11. The World Food Programme (WFP) assists this sector in irrigation, development of the Euphrates Basin resettlement programme, development of the milk industry, reforestation and the establishment of a green belt programme, at an average annual commitment of \$14 million.

12. On the regional level, the Syrian Arab Republic participates in the UNDP/FAO project Improvement of Olive Production (RAB/79/027); Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Programme (MEDRAP) (RAB/79/033); and projects in agricultural marketing, crop genetic resources, animal production and regional centres for food and nutrition for the Near East and for integrated rural development, as well as a regional unit for the study of wheat and barley production improvement which has an allocation of \$5 million.

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**B. Industry (Sectoral allocation: \$713,000)**

13. This sector employed 12 per cent of the working force in 1980. Its share in the GNP was 9.1 per cent which, by 1985, is expected to increase to 12.8 per cent. Public expenditure will continue to play a leading role, with an annual rate of growth anticipated to average 15.3 per cent by the end of the Plan period. To achieve this objective, emphasis will continue to be placed on increased productivity and greater managerial responsibility.

14. UNDP provides ongoing assistance under its project Vocational Training (SYR/78/001). It will concentrate its assistance in management and productivity training in medium and large-scale public enterprises; the setting up of standards for industrial testing and research; and the provision of expertise in the field of maintenance, new technologies, production techniques and diagnostic studies. An allocation of \$500,000 has been earmarked for this purpose.

15. The Regular and Special Industrial Services Programmes of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will continue to be an important area of technical assistance for the industrial sector, particularly for the national chemical and building enterprises.

16. On the regional level, the Syrian Arab Republic participates in the UNDP/UNIDO/FAO project Development of the Fertilizer Industry; the Arab Standardization and Metrological Organization (ASMO); and in projects for the iron and steel industries, cement and building materials industries and the packaging industry.

**C. Education (Sectoral allocation: \$2,894,000)**

17. In the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan, the construction of an additional 28,000 primary, preparatory and secondary classrooms, to accommodate an average of 35 students per class, is one of the principal objectives of this sector. An equally important objective is to improve educational opportunities, beyond the secondary level, through the construction of 55 technical and trade schools and three intermediate technical institutes, plus extensive, additional construction for each of the country's four universities.

18. Concurrent with the above objectives, the Government is undertaking a comprehensive restructuring of its technical institutes, in part funded from a \$15.9 million loan from the World Bank. UNDP will assist the Government through the Second Education Technical Assistance Project (SYR/81/001), which will provide the requisite expertise needed to improve and expand the country's technical, vocational, agricultural and health institutes, with an allocation of \$2,894,000.

19. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assists in educational development through projects in the education of the handicapped and the mentally retarded, the eradication of illiteracy, improvement of public information as well as through fellowships for educators in specialized fields.

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20. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provides assistance equipment, transportation and consultants to the rural one-room teacher training programme.

21. Regionally, the Government participates in the UNDP/UNESCO project Regional Centre for the Training of Educational Personnel (RAB/79/025); and has recently offered to host the Centre in Damascus.

D. Health (Sectoral allocation: \$562,000)

22. The Government's objectives for health development include: (a) reduction in the bed ratio, per inhabitant, from 754, in 1980, to 568, by 1985; (b) re-organization of the existing 24 health centres and creation of an additional 76 centres; and (c) establishment of 24 polyclinics. The requisite technical and paramedical personnel required to staff these centres will be trained both within the country and abroad.

23. Training in such fields as anaesthesiology, tuberculosis control and laboratory medicine is being provided under the ongoing project, United Nations Volunteers Assistance to the Health Sector (SYR/79/007), with a UNDP total allocation of \$138,341 and a Government cash counterpart contribution of \$300,000. Assistance in respiratory technology and heart monitoring is being provided to the Cardio-vascular Surgical Centre under the ongoing project, United Nations Volunteers Multisector Project (SYR/78/007). Intensive efforts to improve and expand training in the health technology institutes are being made under the newly-operational project SYR/81/001 described in paragraph 18 above. An allocation of \$500,000 is earmarked for a new United Nations Volunteers health-sector project (see also paragraph 30).

24. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regular Programme offers assistance in the areas of expert consultancies and fellowships; provision of two United Nations Volunteers nurses for the Cardiovascular Centre mentioned above; the safe utilization of pesticides; and the establishment of a new Central Public Health Laboratory. On a continuing basis, the WHO Regular Programme provides, inter alia, assistance in such areas as schistosomiasis and malaria control; medical training; pharmaceutical quality control.

25. UNICEF provides assistance to this sector through its primary health care programme and in the immunization and health education programme.

26. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities/WHO, through their project Maternal, Child and Family Health (SYR/80/Pl2) provide assistance in the training of Health Centre Maternal and Child Health personnel.

27. Regionally, the Syrian Arab Republic participates in the WHO Expanded Programme for Immunization; in the UNDP/WHO project Zoonoses Control in the Mediterranean Area (RAB/81/007); and has expressed interest in the activities surrounding the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

E. Transport and communications (Sectoral allocation: \$519,000)

28. The increasing emphasis placed by the Government on this sector is reflected in its efforts to improve the various forms of transport and communications. The national road network is being upgraded rapidly; rail transport is being extended; the national telephone system is being upgraded and expanded to the rural areas; the new Damascus International Airport was recently opened; and civil aviation will receive a close evaluation during this period.

29. UNDP assistance will provide expertise and equipment to the Department of Civil Aviation, to train personnel in the latest development of air safety and travel; and the Civil Aviation School, in Damascus, will be upgraded in consequence. In addition, assistance in road maintenance and traffic control analysis and transport economics will be provided.

F. Multisectoral assistance (Sectoral allocation: \$681,000)

30. Satisfied with the quality and cost effectiveness of the services provided by the United Nations Volunteers Programme during the second country programme, the Government has earmarked \$500,000 for further multisectoral assistance.

ANNEX  
**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**A. Resources**

<u>IPF and other resources</u>	<u>\$</u>
(i) Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986	15 000
(ii) Less unprogrammed balance <sup>a/</sup>	(3 000)
(iii) Less expenditures for 1982	(2 390)
(iv) Previous IPF cycle balance	<u>1 519</u>
Total resources available for programming:	<u>11 129</u>

**B. Use of resources**

<u>Programmed</u>	
(i) Ongoing projects	3 732
(ii) New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme	6 034
(iii) Earmarked for specific objectives and activities to be worked out at a later stage	<u>1 098</u>
Subtotal	10 864
<u>Reserve</u>	265
Total programmed plus reserve:	<u>11 129</u>

**C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector**

	<u>Sector</u> <sup>b/</sup>	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>Sectoral earmarkings</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
05	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	363 000	4 034 000	1 098 000	5 495 000
15	Education	2 894 000	-	-	2 894 000
25	Health	62 000	500 000	-	562 000
35	Industry	213 000	500 000	-	713 000
75	Transport and communications	19 000	500 000	-	519 000
	Multisector	181 000	500 000	-	681 000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 732 000</b>	<b>6 034 000</b>	<b>1 098 000</b>	<b>10 864 000</b>

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

<sup>b/</sup> According to ACC classification .

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ANNEX (cont'd.)

BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL SUMMARY FIGURES

(a) <u>Ongoing projects 1983-1986:</u>	\$	\$
SYR/76/009, Civil Aviation	18 754	
SYR/78/001, Vocational Training	213 300	
SYR/78/007, UNV, Multisector	181 166	
SYR/79/007, UNV, Health Sector	62 066	
SYR/79/011, Integrated Agricultural Development (Phase II)	70 000	
SYR/81/001, Second Education Technical Assistance Project	2 894 000	
SYR/83/001, Agricultural Investment, Preparatory Assistance	112 380	
SYR/83/002, Agricultural Extension, Preparatory Assistance	<u>180 000</u>	
		3 731 666
(b) <u>New projects 1983-1986</u>		
SYR/83/003, Agricultural Investment, Southern Region	1 714 000	
SYR/83/004, Agricultural Extension Services	1 320 000	
- Cotton Improvement	500 000	
- Milk and Meat, Shami Cattle	300 000	
- Civil Aviation	500 000	
- Industrial Sector	500 000	
- UNV Assistance	1 000 000	
- Citrus Fruit Production	<u>200 000</u>	
		6 034 000
(c) <u>Earmarked for agricultural sector:</u>		<u>1 098 070</u>
Subtotal (b) plus (c)		7 132 070
(d) <u>Reserve</u>		<u>265,264</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL (programmed plus reserve)</u>		<u>11 129 000</u>

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