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SUPPORT

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Administrator

Summary

In this report, the Administrator reviews progress achieved in implementing the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in light of Governing Council decision 83/11.

1. Since the thirtieth session of the Governing Council, the Administrator has continued to give special and personal attention to the implementation of Council decisions 79/18, 81/13, 82/13 and 83/11 concerning the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people. As heretofore, the special programme concentrates on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with only one project located elsewhere.

2. During the past year, the programme has shown steady progress. A number of projects were either completed or nearly completed while others are reaching advanced stages. Implementation of several other projects will be initiated in 1984. The projects assist the Palestinian people in a wide variety of sectors, including education, health, agriculture, housing, industry, and child and youth activities. Annex I provides a description of these projects as they have progressed since the commencement of project formulation and implementation in late 1980.

3. Following the initial funding allocation of \$3.5 million in 1979, the Governing Council, by its decision 82/13 in June 1982, authorized the Administrator to draw up to a further amount of \$4 million from Special Programme Resources for further activities through 1986. At the same time, the Council appealed to Governments and intergovernmental organizations to provide at least an additional \$8 million during the third programming cycle to supplement the resources available from Special Programme Resources. At its thirtieth session in June 1983, the Council strongly reiterated this appeal for special contributions in support of the projects being planned for the third programming cycle. This appeal was endorsed by the General Assembly, in resolution 38/145.

4. The total amount of \$7.5 million made available from Special Programme Resources has now been expended for completed projects, committed for projects under way, or allocated for approved projects which will become operational during 1984.

5. This full utilization of all available UNDP funding means that the size of any future activity will be entirely dependent on voluntary contributions now being sought. Project identification is no longer a problem, since four years of experience in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have enabled UNDP to identify critically important sectors and areas of concentration which call for priority action in development terms. Within these sectors and areas, project concepts are being developed which meet the two major criteria to be satisfied in the first instance:

(a) Responsiveness to genuine and urgent needs of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as confirmed by their representatives; and

(b) Strong probability, based on initial negotiations and reviews with all parties directly concerned, that agreement can be achieved on a Project Work Plan to be developed from the initial concept, with the assistance of highly qualified international consultants and in accordance with the special procedures developed to meet the circumstances in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

6. UNDP initiated, in early 1984, a programming exercise which covers an extensive array of these project concepts, in terms of both scope and cost. Though this exercise is still under way, UNDP has tentatively identified, in consultation with all parties concerned, projects that would require at least \$45 million. Some of these involve project inputs that are modest in both size and cost, while others call for much more massive expenditures and will result in important advances in the basic infrastructure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The new proposals reflect the Administrator's intention, subject to availability of funding, to move away from the ad hoc and somewhat random selection of projects which necessarily operated during the initial, exploratory period of the programme.

7. The tentative plan for future project activity represents a programme oriented more fully towards basic development activities, and covers, for example: assistance to farmers, citrus producers and fishermen; development of plum and grape processing and olive and olive oil production; roads, classrooms and water supply for rural villages; assistance in primary and secondary education and teacher training; improvement of sewage disposal; development of glass and ceramic engineering technology; agricultural and hydrology research; and strengthening of health institutions.

8. The perceived development needs of the Palestinian people are so extensive and substantial that the amount and nature of project execution should be dependent on the funding available and the delivery capabilities of the UNDP project machinery, rather than on arbitrarily designated spending levels. The Administrator considers that delivery performance is not a major constraint, since expanded use of existing in-house services and consultants could result quickly in a tripled rate of project delivery, currently running at \$2-\$3 million annually.

9. The availability of funding is, on the other hand, a major problem. While a number of Governments and intergovernmental institutions have signified strong interest in supporting the programme with special voluntary contributions, only one Government (Tunisia) has so far made a definite pledge in response to the appeals of the Council and the General Assembly.

10. The Administrator therefore recommends that the Council consider the future viability of the special programme in the light of the prevailing financial circumstances.

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Annex

A. PROJECTS COMPLETED OR NEAR COMPLETION

Promotion of Pre-Primary Education (PAL/79/003) (\$255,500)

The major objective of the project is to meet critical and otherwise uncovered needs of nursery schools and kindergartens.

UNDP has financed three seminars to provide training to 234 pre-primary education teachers. Furniture, which was manufactured locally, and educational toys and games at a cost of \$213,000, were distributed to 94 kindergartens in the West Bank and 26 in the Gaza Strip.

In addition, three kindergarten supervisors were hired by UNDP for a period of two years to study the needs of the kindergartens, to prepare refresher courses and to provide appropriate guidance to other teachers.

Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education (PAL/79/005) (\$395,000)

The project focuses on supplementing existing vocational courses, operated by United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, governmental services and private organizations, to meet the critical needs in this sector.

Construction of additional premises required for the courses has been completed and the required equipment purchased and delivered. Courses offered with UNDP assistance include two radio and television repair courses in the West Bank, one radio and television repair course, one airconditioning/refrigeration and domestic appliances repair course and two courses for services to women in the Gaza Strip.

Development and Strengthening of Health Institutions (PAL/79/008) (\$619,220)

This project responds to the urgent needs of hospitals, nursing facilities and other medical institutions for medical and laboratory equipment, teaching aids, library books and supplies and vehicles.

Such equipment, \$619,220 was purchased from suppliers around the world and delivered by UNDP personnel to five hospitals and clinics in the Gaza Strip, including equipment for a completed orthopedic theatre, as well as five hospitals and one nursing training school in the West Bank.

Specialized Training Programme in Agricultural Development (PAL/79/009) (\$150,000)

The project was designed to provide advanced studies to farmers and relevant officials in the production of selected crops, agricultural extension and management.

UNDP has financed 10 fellowships for specialized training in various agricultural fields, to take place in the United States.

Children's Institutions (PAL/79/018) (\$402,000)

The project aims at developing to the maximum the innate abilities of children who require institutional care, who are physically or mentally disabled or are members of social case families.

A vocational rehabilitation centre was established in Gaza, with equipment and personnel (instructors) financed by UNDP, to train about 25-40 adolescents suffering from various physical disabilities and mild mental retardation. A similar institution for 25 mentally handicapped boys was set up in the West Bank with UNDP-financed equipment and personnel, including qualified nurses and social workers, to provide residential treatment and training.

In Gaza, UNDP has also financed the renovation of two buildings and equipment to provide vocational training to adolescents, in auto repair for the boys and domestic science for the girls.

Development of Health Institutions (PAL/83/006) (\$390,000)

To strengthen and improve the various specialized health services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, UNDP has previously provided medical equipment to the hospitals and health institutions in the area at a cost of \$619,220 (see PAL/79/008 above). However, additional equipment was required for this project and UNDP has provided a complete Ultra-Sound machine for the Shifa Hospital in Gaza and equipment for two mobile Tuberculosis Detection and Treatment Centres in the West Bank.

UNDP has also provided a Cap-Mobile Capacitor Discharge Mobile X-Ray Machine to the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, as an extended support to health care in the private sector.

B. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

Specialized Training in Industrial Management (PAL/79/002) (\$114,000)

To meet urgent training needs in industrial management, owners/managers of small businesses will participate in a specialized training course organized by the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin, Italy.

The specialized training aims at strengthening managerial capabilities and upgrading management skills in industries in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. UNDP is in the process of finalizing arrangements with the Centre. Candidates will be selected shortly and the training course is expected to start in June 1984.

Health Manpower Development (PAL/79/007) (\$948,000)

The pressing needs for specialized training in the health sector are so important that UNDP has undertaken to fund a number of fellowships in medicine, surgery, nursing and midwifery, environmental and sanitary, and paramedical services.

Several fellowships sponsored by UNDP have been completed, and the fellows have returned to carry out the mandate to improve health services in the area.

Agricultural Training (PAL/79/010) (\$356,000)

This is the only project that is outside the West Bank and Gaza; it is located in the Syrian Arab Republic. The project is to assist Palestinian farmers through the provision of expertise and some equipment at one site, while providing assistance in improving productivity to Palestinian poultry and dairy cattle farmers at another site.

The project is executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Youth Programme (PAL/79/016) (\$169,000)

To strengthen institutions for youth, and to assist in the development of youth programmes and youth counselling services, UNDP has agreed to provide fellowships in training programmes and workshops in order to acquire skills in community development and administration.

In addition, UNDP will assist various community centres to improve their present facilities, and will provide sports and audio-visual equipment and library materials for various youth, cultural and social centres in the West Bank and Gaza.

Medical Services Training Centre (PAL/83/002) (\$2,000,000)

UNDP has allocated \$2 million to this project for the construction of the Centre. The Centre will replace the existing facilities for the training of nurses in the West Bank, which have been operating under intolerable and makeshift conditions. In the new premises, for the first time, courses will be available in nursing specialties and for medical technicians.

Architectural plans have been drawn, and competitive bidding for the construction of the complex will be launched soon. However, additional funds will be required for furniture, equipment, and operational costs for 2-3 years.

The Centre will train students from both the West Bank and Gaza.

C. PROJECTS TO START IN 1984

Training in Housing (PAL/79/014) (\$147,000)

The project concept includes provision for training in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to enhance knowledge and expertise in housing and habitat and to broaden managerial, planning and operating techniques of municipalities, as well as to develop skills in the areas of housing co-operatives, construction, design, planning and engineering.

Training courses for 20-25 Palestinian professionals (architects, engineers, planners, public officials) in the housing field will be conducted in 1984. In addition, training courses will be held for 200-250 skilled workers, foremen/supervisors and small contractors.

Training in Anaesthesiology (PAL/83/001) (\$278,000)

Trained anaesthesiologists are urgently needed. Presently, there are no qualified anaesthesiologists but only an insufficient number of assistants.

UNDP is in the process of organizing a two-year training course, to be associated with a hospital, to train 30 anaesthesiologists for both the West Bank and Gaza.

Tulkarem and El-Aroub Agricultural High Schools (PAL/83/004) (\$224,000)

After examining the existing facilities at Tulkarem and El-Aroub, UNDP is in agreement with the authorities that relatively modest inputs could transform these marginal institutions into a dynamic force for development in the agricultural sector.

UNDP has drawn up plans to assist these two institutions by providing the necessary equipment and teaching aids to improve the facilities. In addition, advisory services will be provided to improve the quality of the teaching staff.
