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S U P P O R T

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE

ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

Summary

At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly once again adopted a series of resolutions which noted the special needs of specific countries and requested UNDP, various other organizations of the United Nations system and Governments to provide expanded programmes of assistance to these developing countries. Ten of the resolutions (38/205, 38/207, 38/210, 38/211, 38/212, 38/215, 38/218, 38/219, 38/221, 38/222) invited UNDP and other United Nations organizations to bring to the attention of their respective governing bodies, for their consideration, information about the special needs of these countries, and to report the decisions of these governing bodies to the Secretary General by 15 July 1984. This year, the General Assembly requested that such information be conveyed concerning Benin, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Ecuador, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Peru, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Vanuatu.

The present report informs the Governing Council of action taken or being taken in favour of the countries concerned.

Introduction and general considerations

1. Under its agenda item "Special economic and disaster relief assistance", the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly, on 28 November 1983, adopted a series of resolutions pertaining to assistance for nearly 30 countries and regions. These resolutions requested Member States and international organizations to maintain or expand their programmes of assistance to the specific countries and regions. Ten of the resolutions specifically invited UNDP and other United Nations organizations "to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs" of 12 countries and "to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1984".
2. The relevant resolutions which requested UNDP to bring the respective special needs to the attention of the Governing Council are as follows:
 - 38/205. Assistance for the development of Sierra Leone
 - 38/207. Assistance to Uganda
 - 38/210. Special economic assistance to Benin
 - 38/211. Assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the Central African Republic
 - 38/212. Assistance to the Gambia
 - 38/215. Assistance to Lesotho
 - 38/218. Economic assistance to Vanuatu
 - 38/219. Assistance to Cape Verde
 - 38/221. Special economic assistance to Guinea-Bissau
 - 38/222. Assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to alleviate the effects of natural disasters
3. In each of these countries, UNDP continued in 1983 to maintain a resident representative and a UNDP field office (with the exception of Vanuatu for which the resident representative in Fiji was responsible) for the purpose of assisting the respective Government, in conjunction with other organizations of the United Nations development system, with the planning, administration and evaluation of a technical co-operation programme.
4. In addition, to provide the framework for UNDP-financed assistance, a country programme of technical co-operation was being implemented for each country during the past year. In the case of two countries, Benin and Bolivia, the special needs are contained in new country programmes which were formulated in 1983 for submission to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session in June 1984. Nonetheless, even for Benin and Bolivia, the existing country programme served as a framework for the planning and implementation of UNDP-assisted projects. Moreover, due to continuous programming, the UNDP-financed portion of each programme is sufficiently flexible to respond to part of the priority development needs of the respective country. The

necessity to maintain programmes at 55 per cent of the illustrative Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) is, however, causing considerable duress in relation to effective implementation of the country programmes.

I. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BENIN

5. During 1983, UNDP continued to provide assistance to the Government of Benin within the framework of the extended second country programme of assistance. Approximately \$3.1 million was expended from IPF funds for priority development projects. As a least developed country (LDC), Benin received an additional allocation of \$318,000 from the Special Measures Fund (SMF), bringing Benin's total allotment from that Fund to \$3.313 million. Approximately \$400,000 of SMF/LDC resources were spent in 1983. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) projects approved in 1982 and prior years were also executed in part during this period; the UNCDF programme in Benin is one of the largest in the Africa region. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) also supports a relatively large programme of activities in Benin; four ongoing projects expended nearly \$400,000 in 1983.

6. UNDP provided substantial assistance to the Government of Benin in its organization and implementation of a round-table donors' conference, which was convened in Cotonou from 28 February to 4 March 1983. The Government has asked UNDP, as the lead agency, to support follow-up activities and to participate actively in continuing efforts to mobilize and co-ordinate donor contributions.

7. The third UNDP country programme for Benin (DP/CP/BEN/3), in which the needs of the country are described in detail, will be submitted for the consideration of the Governing Council at its thirty-first session. The UNDP-assisted programme, financed from IPF resources, comprises the balance of the \$18.206 million available during the 1982-1986 programme cycle, calculated at the level of 55 per cent of the illustrative IPF.

8. Late in 1983, following the General Assembly's decision to liquidate the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and to entrust the major portion of the balance of its resources to UNDP,^{1/} programming discussions began between UNDP and government officials in order to meet urgent needs associated with drought and agricultural development. An initial project was approved in principle by UNDP within six weeks of the Government's being informed about the Fund, and other priority projects were programmed soon after to help alleviate some of the most pressing problems.

II. ASSISTANCE TO CAPE VERDE

9. During the past year, UNDP began implementing the Cape Verde country programme of technical co-operation for 1983-86 which was approved by the

Governing Council at its special meeting in February 1983. This programme was designed to help meet the particular priority requirements of the country. The total of IPF programme resources available to Cape Verde for 1983-1986, at the reduced level of the illustrative IPF, is \$5.015 million, of which approximately \$1.15 million was expended on priority projects during 1983.

10. In addition, Cape Verde received an allocation of \$108,000 at the end of 1983 from SMF/LDC funds, in recognition of its status as an LDC, bringing the total allocations from that Fund to \$556,000. Six projects financed by UNSO were under implementation during the past year, with earmarkings in 1983 totalling more than \$600,000.

11. During 1983, UNDP continued to provide support and advice to the Government of Cape Verde to follow up on the round-table conference of donors, which was organized the previous year with UNDP assistance as lead agency.

12. In response to the special needs of Cape Verde, UNDP foresees the provision of additional resources resulting from the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund. (See paragraph 8 above.) Proposals were rapidly submitted, following close consultations between the resident representative and government officials about priority requirements, and relevant activities are now being undertaken with UNSO support.

III. ASSISTANCE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

13. The Governing Council, at its thirtieth session, approved the third country programme submitted by the Government of the Central African Republic covering the period 1983-1986. This programme, it will be recalled, reflects the Government's priority needs, including several projects for reconstruction and rehabilitation as well as rural development. The programme's orientation resulted in the formulation and approval during 1983 of special projects in food aid management and strengthening of the economic infrastructure through, inter alia, decentralized economic activity and improved communications. A total of approximately \$3.1 million of UNDP funds from the illustrative IPF were expended on priority projects in 1983.

14. Moreover, UNCDF in 1983 approved a new large-scale project to develop poultry production in the Central African Republic, for which UNCDF's contribution is \$2.46 million. This follows project approvals totalling nearly \$3.8 million in 1982 and almost \$5 million in prior years. Up until the present, nine projects have been approved by UNCDF related especially to increasing food production and rural development. SMF/LDC funds for the Central African Republic were increased by \$281,000 in 1983, bringing the total SMF/LDC allocation to \$2.0 million.

15. The Government of the Central African Republic has requested UNDP to serve as lead agency for the round-table conference of donors, foreseen by the Government to be convened in early 1985. In that lead capacity, UNDP provided initial advisory services to the Government during 1983, as a result of which work advanced in the preparation of economic studies and documentation for prospective donors.

16. Within the framework of the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund, the Central African Republic was targeted as one priority recipient, as a consequence of which the Government, in close consultation with the resident representative, began a special programming exercise at the end of the year. Ten project proposals were identified and appraised and determination of the highest priorities was carried forward into early 1984.

IV. ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA

17. During 1983, UNDP commenced the implementation of the Gambia's third country programme of technical co-operation for 1983-1986, which was approved by the Governing Council at its special session in February 1983. Of the \$5.15 million of UNDP resources in the programme (based on the reduced level of 55 per cent of the illustrative IPF), approximately \$1.45 million was expended on priority projects.

18. Given the Gambia's needs, a reserve of priority projects exists. In that light, UNDP's 1983 allocation of \$135,000 from SMF/LDC resources provided a small extra margin. UNSO also had budgeted more than \$1 million of support for priority projects in 1983. Moreover, at year end, following the decision of the General Assembly with respect to the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund, special efforts were launched in order to programme resources which would address the most urgent needs in the Gambia.

19. UNDP has been invited by the Government to serve as lead agency for the round-table conference of donors scheduled for late 1984. In that capacity, UNDP financed various macro-economic studies and support for the preparation of appropriate documentation.

V. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA-BISSAU

20. UNDP assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau centred principally on the implementation of the country programme of technical co-operation which was approved in 1982 by the Governing Council. During 1983, \$2.45 million of illustrative IPF resources were expended out of a total of \$10.963 million for the 1982-1986 period. This allotment is at the reduced level for the illustrative IPF, as determined by the Administration of UNDP. As a

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consequence of the reduced resources, even more careful programming and some project cutbacks and deferrals were effected during 1983, always trying to meet the highest priority needs of the country.

21. In addition to IPF assistance provided in 1983, \$206,000 was allotted from the SMF/LDC. Moreover, UNSO supported an additional project which expended about \$50,000 in 1983.

22. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau has been earmarked as one of the priority recipients to receive resources from the liquidated United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund in order to meet emergency rehabilitation and developmental needs stemming, inter alia, from the recent adverse climatic conditions and special development problems of the country.

23. During 1983, UNDP undertook special assistance activities at the request of the Government by providing preparatory support to the round-table conference of donors scheduled to be convened in May 1984. Special IPF resources were allocated to a support project.

VI. ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

24. UNDP's programme of technical co-operation with the Government of Lesotho was characterized particularly by the implementation of the country programme which was approved by the Governing Council in 1982. During 1983, approximately \$2.7 million of illustrative IPF funds was expended on priority projects. In addition, the large programme of UNCDF assistance approved in prior years was being implemented during 1983. Lesotho is also the beneficiary of an allocation of \$60,000 from the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, and in 1983, \$211,000 was allotted to Lesotho from the SMF/LDC, bringing the total allocation to Lesotho from that Fund to \$2.78 million.

25. At the end of 1983, Lesotho was designated as one of the prospective recipients of special resources from the liquidated United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund. Within weeks, the Government, in consultation with the resident representative, had programmed the funds for high-priority projects related to famine relief and food distribution.

26. During 1983, UNDP provided two other types of special assistance to the Government of Lesotho. Significant support was provided in the preparation for the round-table conference of donors, scheduled to be hosted by the Government in May 1984 with UNDP invited to serve as lead agency.

27. Second, UNDP conducted an extensive review of technical co-operation in Lesotho that culminated in mid-1983 in wide-ranging conclusions and recommendations which are being put into effect by the Government. The

results include improved means and procedures to manage programmes of technical co-operation, an adjustment of the UNDP-supported programme, and closer co-ordination among donors so that the totality of assistance to Lesotho can correspond more closely to the current priorities for development.

VII. ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

28. The particular development requirements of Sierra Leone are reflected in the country programme for 1983-1986 which the Governing Council approved at its special meeting in February 1983. During the balance of 1983, extra effort was made to programme these resources from the illustrative IPF and a significant number of new project activities are expected to be fully operational in 1984. UNDP expenditures on projects totalled about \$3.4 million in 1983, and are expected to surpass \$4 million in 1984.

29. Having been designated an LDC in 1982 by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/133, the country's illustrative IPF was revised upward by the Governing Council at its thirtieth session (decision 83/13) from \$32.5 million to \$34.9 million for the third programming cycle, 1982-1986. This meant that the authorized programming level at 55 per cent of the illustrative IPF for the third cycle went up from \$16.9 million to \$18.2 million. In addition, Sierra Leone received its first allocations from the SMF/LDC: \$236,000 was available for programming in 1983; and an additional \$331,000 at the end of 1983 which can be programmed to meet priority needs in 1984.

30. One special form of support to the Government of Sierra Leone is assistance in eventual preparation of a round-table donors' conference. Consultations with the Government began in late 1983 and, as a first step, UNDP has been invited to serve as lead agency for a meeting of the country's principal aid partners, scheduled provisionally for the latter part of 1984.

VIII. ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

31. At its thirtieth session in June 1983, the Governing Council approved Uganda's third country programme of technical co-operation covering UNDP assistance for the period 1983-1986. The approved programme reflected certain new orientations. However, in view of development plans approved by the Government later in 1983, the UNDP-supported programme was adapted to maintain the most relevant ongoing projects and to give greater attention to the Government's special needs and most urgent development priorities.

32. As a consequence, UNDP assistance in 1983, which had been planned at about \$10 million, is expected to amount to approximately \$6.5 million of

expenditures. Nevertheless, with continuous programming and renewed initiatives to design the most relevant and effective projects, it is expected that expenditures from IPF resources will increase significantly in 1984.

33. To aid the Government further in meeting its special needs, \$564,000 was allocated from SMF/LDC resources in 1983. Moreover, late in 1983, UNCDF approved a major preventative medicine project representing \$1.95 million, which is expected to become operational in 1984.

34. Uganda has been designated as one of the prospective recipients of special assistance from resources of the liquidated United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund, which ought to provide increased flexibility to the Government as it moves more actively in programming resources available through UNDP.

35. The World Bank organized a Consultative Group meeting in January 1984 in which UNDP participated along with other principal bilateral and multilateral donors. This process, for which preparations were made during 1983, attempted to co-ordinate a programme of effective assistance to meet Uganda's priority needs.

IX. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VANUATU

36. The Governing Council, at its special session in February 1983, approved the first country programme for Vanuatu. This programme, in 1983, focused on several of the country's highest priority needs through the provision of OPAS-type (operational assistance) expertise, primarily in public administration, economic planning, fisheries and industrial development.

37. As a consequence of Governing Council decision 83/14, section VI, Vanuatu's authorized programme level for 1982-1986 was increased from 55 per cent to 80 per cent of the illustrative IPF, an amount equal to \$100,000. The total of IPF funds for the period 1982-1986 is now \$1.366 million and approximately \$450,000 was spent in 1983.

38. This sum was supplemented by the Government of Vanuatu's participation in the UNDP-supported Pacific Island Inter-country Programme, which provided support towards meeting the priority needs referred to above as well as assistance in such other priority areas as rootcrop cultivation and manpower planning. Interregional advisors of the United Nations have also been utilized in co-ordinated efforts.

X. ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA, ECUADOR AND PERU TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

39. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/222 in which it invited UNDP to refer the special needs of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to the Governing Council. Additionally, the resolution requested the

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Secretary-General "to continue his efforts and take appropriate steps in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of special programmes of economic assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and to disseminate widely the findings of the multisectoral mission".

40. During 1983, UNDP played a central role in responding to the particular needs resulting from the adverse meteorological phenomena and resulting natural disasters which began in 1982. The Secretary-General appointed the Assistant Administrator of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America as his personal representative to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru for the purpose of advising him on the needs for emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. In carrying out this responsibility, the Assistant Administrator led a UNDP-funded, multi-agency mission, which included representatives of UNDP, UNDRO and ECLA. The mission, in July 1983, conducted its assessment of emergency relief needs. On the basis of the mission's findings, the Secretary-General launched an appeal for assistance in August 1983.

41. As of 18 January 1984, in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, \$49.5 million had been committed in cash or in kind for Bolivia, \$5.1 million for Ecuador and \$33.1 million for Peru. A second mission financed by UNDP was fielded in November 1983 to assess the needs for the longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.^{2/}

42. UNDP continued to provide assistance to the three countries within the framework of their country programmes. The country programmes for Ecuador and Peru were approved by the Governing Council in 1982. The country programme for Bolivia, its third, which conveys the country's requirements for 1984-1986 was formulated in 1983 for submission to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session in June 1984. In the implementation of the programmes which were in effect in 1983 in all three countries, some adaptations were made to take into account the socio-economic implications of the severe climatic difficulties.

43. During 1983, UNDP provided IPF assistance of approximately \$2.16 million to Bolivia, \$1.61 million to Ecuador and \$2.96 million to Peru. In addition, assistance to deal with natural disasters was provided in 1983 in the amount of \$200,000 to each of the three countries from UNDP's Special Programme Resources for the purpose of rehabilitation, and \$30,000 was granted to Bolivia and \$20,000 each for Ecuador and Peru for the purpose of emergency assistance.

NOTES

^{1/} General Assembly Resolution 38/201.

^{2/} The report produced by the inter-agency mission (E/CEPAL/G. 1274) was distributed by the Office of the Secretary-General.

