



**Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1984/52
17 May 1984
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Thirty-first session
June 1984, Geneva
Agenda item 8 (f)

SUPPORT

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUDANO-SAHELIAN OFFICE (UNSO)
AND ASSISTANCE TO OTHER DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

Assistance to other drought-stricken countries in Africa

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

1. At its twenty-first session (January-February 1976), 1/ the Governing Council decided to request the Administrator to include in his annual report that on the situation in drought-stricken countries in Africa and in adjacent areas.
2. The present report is based on data provided by UNDP Resident Representatives in the countries concerned, and provides information on the countries and regions of the African continent affected by the drought during 1983. It also underlines the effect that the drought is having on the people, livestock and the economies of such countries and briefly recalls the measures taken to mitigate the consequences of unpredictable weather conditions both by the countries themselves and by the international community.
3. The report thus reviews the critical situation in the countries in the Sahel and that of other drought-stricken countries in Africa.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	3
I. THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES IN THE SAHEL	6 - 44	3
A. Cape Verde	7 - 11	3
B. Gambia	12 - 17	5
C. Upper Volta	18 - 22	6
D. Mali	23 - 26	7
E. Mauritania	27 - 31	8
F. Senegal	32 - 37	9
G. Chad	38 - 42	10
H. Niger	43 - 44	11
II. OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, NOT MEMBERS OF CILSS, PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT	45 - 105	11
A. West Africa	45 - 60	11
B. Central Africa	61 - 71	14
C. East Africa	72 - 82	16
D. Southern Africa	83 - 100	18
E. North Africa	101 - 105	21
CONCLUSION	106 - 109	22
<u>Annex.</u> Population		24

INTRODUCTION

1. The drought, which began to have a serious impact on Africa in 1968, worsened considerably in 1983; whereas formerly it had been confined to countries in the Sahel, it has now spread to areas in eastern, central and southern Africa and is becoming increasingly severe and alarming.
2. In certain African countries, particularly countries in the Sahel, the level of rainfall in 1983 was lower than it has been at any time since the disastrous 1972-1973 drought; in several cases, the shortfalls were the greatest recorded in the last 30 or 40 years.
3. The impact of the drought on watercourses and ground-water horizons, crops and pasture lands has in many cases been catastrophic. The rural economy of the countries concerned has been deeply affected and the food situation has become particularly critical. The effect on the population has been disastrous: many people have moved to the water points and urban centres, many are undernourished, and diseases and epidemics are on the increase.
4. Since many lakes, rivers, wells and even boreholes have dried up, the water shortage has resulted in the loss of large numbers of cattle, the reduction and/or halting of hydroelectric power production, bushfires and, finally, a speeding up of the desertification process. Even countries which had hitherto been spared were affected by the drought in 1983 because the lower water levels in the dams led to a sharp drop in hydroelectric power production.
5. Accordingly, some 150 million people in Africa, from Cape Verde to Somalia, and from Chad to Lesotho are in a very precarious position.

I. THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES IN THE SAHEL 2/

6. In 1983, drought conditions in the Sahel were as bad as - and in some cases even worse than - in the period 1972-1973. The exceptionally severe drought has had a substantial impact on the lives of people and livestock. It has almost ruined the already weak economies of the eight countries of the Sahel, six of which are classified among the least developed countries (LDC) while the two others (Senegal and Mauritania) are treated like LDCs in light of the constraints which the endemic drought has placed on them (see General Assembly resolution 3054 (XXVIII)).

A. Cape Verde

7. Although Cape Verde has suffered from the drought for several years, in 1983 the drought became more acute, jeopardizing agricultural production. The late rains of the 1983 crop year were irregular and well below normal. The main crops in 1983-1984 were down 50 per cent from those of the previous year:

maize 2,700 tons

beans 2,200 tons

whereas annual food needs are estimated at:

maize 47,000 tons

rice 8,500 tons

wheat 13,200 tons

beans 7,000 tons.

Fodder crops were also affected by the drought and unless emergency measures are taken livestock losses could go as high as 34 per cent.

8. In the three most seriously affected islands (Boa Vista, Santo Nicolau and Santo Antão), the result of the repeated rainfall shortfalls of recent years has been a dramatic reduction in water resources. The people most affected are those in the rural areas (accounting for 60 per cent of the total population) who have lost much of the product of their toil. More people are malnourished than before and the degree of malnutrition is more severe.

9. In view of the situation, the Government has adopted an emergency programme that is separate from the regular programme under the national development plan. It covers a number of areas: water supply in areas where the situation is most critical, livestock policy suited to the country's fodder potential (a voluntary 50 per cent reduction in livestock is planned in the stricken areas) and creation of 2,000 additional jobs in the most seriously affected areas (the programme is designed basically to strengthen soil and water conservation, reforestation and irrigation programmes). These various programmes cannot be implemented without sustained assistance from the international community. In particular, in light of the foodstuffs in hand and the imports, international assistance amounting to approximately 37,000 tons of grains and beans would be required in 1984 in order to meet the needs. The World Food Programme (WFP) is currently providing food aid to some 44,000 persons who are among the most vulnerable groups.

10. In addition, the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector calls for the provision of some 50 tons of maize seed and 8 tons of cashew seed as well as miscellaneous inputs. Given the impact of the drought on pasture lands, 10 tons of grass seed will also be needed. The equipment and assistance urgently needed for water supplies have also been determined (20 motor-driven pumps, building of 23 storage tanks and 54 public standpipes, 9 tank trucks, 1 desalination unit for a town of 2,500 inhabitants).

11. The following contributions have been received from the international community:

- (a) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): \$100,000 to purchase 1 tank truck, 2 delivery trucks for logistic food support to 100 schools and 50 tons of enriched flour;
- (b) Swedish Government: 6,000,000 kronor (utilization to be determined);
- (c) European Economic Community (EEC): 600,000 European currency units (ECU) to purchase at least 1,000 tons of beans;
- (d) United States Government: 2,000 tons of beans;
- (e) Netherlands Government: 3,000 tons of wheat and 1,200 tons of edible oil;
- (f) Government of the Soviet Union: 500 tons of rice.

B. Gambia

12. In 1983, the Gambia suffered one of the worst droughts of recent years. Rainfall in 1983 came to 494.9 millimetres whereas the usual average is 945.7 millimetres.
13. The country's output of grains (rice, sorghum, millet and maize) was down 50 per cent. Ground-nuts, which are more resistant to drought, were the only crop that hardly suffered. Food shortages are beginning to be felt but will be particularly acute just before the rainy season when the meagre crops will have been consumed.
14. The Government, fearing famine, has appealed to the international community for 50,000 tons of grains (the amount lost as a result of the drought). WFP has sent 7,200 tons and is continuing to monitor the situation closely. Kuwait has provided 1,200 tons of grains and 4,200 tons have been sent by various donors.
15. The extent of the damage to livestock has not yet been evaluated precisely but sizeable losses are to be expected. The Government has used part of the funds available from the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund to purchase vaccines for the animals while the other part has been used to purchase seed.
16. The short-term recovery measures are very limited because increased rainfall is essential for growing rice and the water level in the boreholes is extremely low. The long-term remedy would be to harness the water of the Gambia river for irrigation purposes, but this would require huge investments to build dams. Such a project is currently being studied in collaboration with the Governments of Senegal, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau.
17. Aside from the WFP programme, there are some UNDP-assisted projects under way to supply water to rural areas. In addition, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is assisting in projects relating to marsh reclamation and basic health centres. At the same time, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology

for Development are providing assistance in the area of groundwater development. The Government is drawing up other projects for submission to UNDP in connection with the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund.

C. Upper Volta

18. In 1983, most of Upper Volta experienced an unprecedented drought. These exceptional conditions coming, as they did, after many years in which the rainfall was below average will result in local water shortages starting in May or June 1984. The water level in Lake Lumbila, which provides water for the town of Ouagadougou, has already fallen well below what is required. The towns of Kaya and Fada N'Gourma do not have sufficient water resources to make it through the dry season. In the villages, modern wells, which were recently brought into operation, have dried up because of the overall drop in the water table.

19. The drought has had a catastrophic impact on the population and on the economy: the food situation is critical, water is in short supply and a sizeable portion of the population is living in absolute poverty. In the north, there is no more pasture land and the selling price for cattle has fallen sharply as has the purchasing power of livestock farmers. In addition, prices of export crops other than cotton have fallen even more sharply than previously, just when considerable amounts of foreign currency are being used to import grains.

20. Emergency needs are as follows:

(a) Food aid: national grains production will cover only 72 per cent of the people's food needs. The overall net grains shortfall is estimated at 120,000 tons;

(b) Seed: seed is desperately needed in the provinces of the Sahel. Needs are estimated at 500 tons;

(c) Assistance in terms of food for cattle: food contributions are urgently needed, particularly for the young animals. It is estimated that 6,000 tons will have to be imported in order to top up the products available locally;

(d) Health coverage: as the animals have had to be moved to unfamiliar habitats they will be exposed to new diseases; accordingly, they will have to be vaccinated against these diseases in addition to the usual ones. It is estimated that 2 million doses of Bissec vaccine and 2 million doses of vaccine against internal parasites will be needed for that purpose.

21. Under the medium and long-term recovery plan the Government is planning to:

(a) Launch a campaign to mobilize the people to combat soil degradation by making them aware of the problem and teaching them how to deal with it;

(b) Develop 24,000 hectares in Sourou plain for agricultural purposes, to set up agricultural cadres and technicians as farmers, to set up state farms and so forth.

22. So far various donors (Canada, EEC, France, Federal Republic of Germany, USAID) have contributed a total of 3,261,100,000 CFA francs to import millet and sorghum. Emergency food aid amounting to 51,400 tons of grains have been promised by UNDP, France, the United States and EEC. UNDP will also provide assistance for the purchase of 400 tons of seed and 250 tons of fertilizer valued at \$180,000.

D. Mali

23. In 1983, rainfall in most regions was more than 40 per cent below normal. In addition, the rains were badly distributed and stopped too soon. The output of grains (approximately 880,000 tons) represents a net shortfall of 330,000 tons, of which 150,000 is structural. Seed output, particularly that of rice paddy (13,000 tons) and millet/sorghum (14,000 tons), was also inadequate.

24. The animals are still in satisfactory health but some losses did occur during the transhumance. Currently, the main problems are how to store and market the cattle; these problems are aggravated by the fact that the water points are drying up. In addition, the biomass and grass cover have shrunk enormously.

25. The impact of this situation on the economy can be summed up as follows:

- (a) Shortage of inputs for the next season;
- (b) Loss of cattle, sharp drop in prices and over grazing;
- (c) A 12 per cent cut in food rations from the previous season when rations were already insufficient;
- (d) Indebtedness of the affected farmers and peasants.

26. WFP and the Governments of Kuwait, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Algeria and Japan have supplied 15,640 tons of grain in emergency food aid. Further assistance is expected from EEC, the French Government, WFP and the Government of the Soviet Union. Supplementary aid will also be given in connection with the WFP project to restructure the grains market. In addition, it has been announced that the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Bangladesh and WFP and EEC will provide programme assistance totalling 52,000 tons. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has made \$1 million available to UNDP for the execution of hydro-agricultural development projects in the affected areas and has contributed seed and pesticides. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is studying the possibility of providing \$200,000 in assistance for stock-raising (in the form of mineral supplements and veterinary products).

E. Mauritania

27. After two consecutive years (1982 and 1983) of exceptionally serious drought the food situation of the Mauritanian people promises to be desperate, particularly since certain areas (Trarza, Brakna, Tagant, Adrar) have not had a rainy season since 1979. Two thirds of the 1.7 million inhabitants find themselves structurally or occasionally poor because of the drought. In 1983, rainfall was 70 per cent below normal in the agro-pastoral areas and the little rain that did fall was badly distributed in both space and time. At no time has the river Kaedi risen to 5 metres - the lowest level on record since 1904. The acreage planted was less than 20 per cent of the normal amount.

28. Grains output in 1983 is estimated at 15,000 tons as compared with 61,000 tons in 1981/82 and 20,000 tons in 1982/83; this represents 6 per cent of consumption. Imports of animal feed have been woefully inadequate and 30 per cent of the livestock and 5 per cent of the camels have died. In addition, most of the wells have dried up and the groundwater level is extremely low.

29. The drought has again had tragic consequences: people have migrated, malnutrition has intensified, particularly among children, and various health problems have arisen. Mauritania's commission for aid to drought-stricken populations has appointed a technical commission to draw up a national emergency action plan with assistance from UNDP, FAO and USAID, the European Development Fund (EDF) and Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities).

30. The report of the inter-agency mission - composed of representatives from UNSO, UNDP, the International Labour Office (ILO), FAO, WFP and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) - organized by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) that visited Mauritania from 14 to 20 February 1984 emphasizes the extent and seriousness of the drought-related problems in Mauritania and the shortage of available resources, notwithstanding the Government's efforts and the generous support of the international community (United Nations agencies, various bilateral sources 3/). Accordingly, new emergency international aid measures are needed.

31. Minimum needs as determined by the mission are as follows:

- (a) The grains shortfall of 15,520 tons must be made up as a matter of urgency;
- (b) 9,492 tons of milk and a similar amount of oil;
- (c) \$1,280,000 in funds to cover the costs of shipping the food aid (purchase of trucks, fuel and oil);
- (d) Sorghum and millet seed and seed for kitchen gardens and horticultural material altogether valued at \$378,000;
- (e) 22,000 tons of animal feed at a cost of \$4,000,000;

(f) Vaccines and drugs at a cost of \$400,000 (including the cost of vaccinating teams);

(g) Approximately \$1.2 million for pasture land conservation and \$2 million for a project to rescue 4,000 head of cattle. In the health sector special health and nutritional intervention teams must be set up; this will involve expenditure in the order of \$250,000 (trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles, fuel and so forth) in addition to the cost of the drugs (approximately \$269,000).

F. Senegal

32. Rainfall distribution in 1983 was very unfavourable throughout the territory. Precipitation amounted to 313 mm as against an average of 512 mm the previous year and 617 mm for the period 1969-1982.

33. Total grains output in 1983 was 66 per cent the 1982 level and 56 per cent that of 1981. Millet, sorghum and maize crops were much affected and came to approximately 320,000 tons as compared with an average output of 650,000 tons in normal years. The overall deficit comes to 837,000 tons. As there are plans to import 445,000 tons of grains, the Government is faced with a net deficit of 392,000 tons (the deficit varies considerably from one region to another, ranging from 14 to 27 per cent of overall needs).

34. Because of the exceptionally light and irregular rains in the north, pasture lands have dried up. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the cattle and 10 per cent of the sheep and goats have died as a result of the water and food shortages. In the Senegal river valley and in the district of Louaga in particular, hunger has contributed to the spread of diseases and parasites among livestock. The cattle and camels brought in from Mauritania, where the drought is even more severe, have further aggravated the situation.

35. People's living conditions have deteriorated sharply. Food shortages, which existed as far back as 1982, can only get steadily worse until the next crop in October/November 1984. Accordingly, the purchasing power of the affected people is almost non-existent. The shortfall in sorghum and millet seed in particular mortgages any possibility of improvement in the situation.

36. Immediate needs can be summed up as follows:

(a) Food needs: 215,000 tons of grains (99,000 tons of which has already been promised); 8,000 tons of powdered milk; 5,000 tons of butter or vegetable oil;

(b) Needs for agricultural production: 2,200 tons of millet/sorghum seed and niébé seed before June 1984 (1,010 tons of which will be provided by FAO); 10,000 tons of fertilizer (of which 800 tons is to be supplied by FAO);

(c) Needs for livestock: 68,000 tons of concentrated animal feed, of which 31,000 tons is needed immediately to save the livestock capital (FAO has promised 2,000 tons and EEC 4,000). FAO and the Government of the Soviet Union will supply

a portion of the anti-parasite vaccine needed. Finally, in connection with the campaign to reduce the numbers of livestock, some \$5 million worth of additional logistic means and funds will be needed to cover the transport costs.

37. The medium- and long-term recovery programme drawn up by the Government aims inter alia at ensuring food self-sufficiency by reforming the agricultural sector and, in particular, formulating a national grains policy. Projects are also under way to develop irrigation; the largest one concerns assistance to the semi-public company, Société d'aménagement et de développement agricole (SAFD), for the period 1982-1988; financing in the amount of \$9,750,000 has been provided by bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations for this project. Two regional projects in the context of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River are currently being executed; they relate to the construction of the Dama and Manantali dams and are being financed by 15 bilateral and multilateral sources in the amount of approximately \$793,683,000. Finally, assistance amounting to approximately \$32 million (including a UNSO/UNDP project) has been planned in order to deal with the growing encroachment of the desert and to satisfy needs for firewood and coal, as this is one cause of deforestation throughout the country.

G. Chad 4/

38. Chad, one of the poorest countries in the world, is afflicted by the twin curses of military conflict and drought. The per capita income has declined steadily in recent years and is now \$100. In 1983, rainfall in both the Sahelian and the Sudanese areas of the country was again very irregular and insufficient for the needs of the crops. As a result, food shortages and famine were again the tragic lot of the people of certain northern, central and eastern parts of the country.

39. In October 1983, a FAO/WFP/UNDRO evaluation mission estimated the total grains output at 500,000 tons, that is approximately 80,000 tons below normal. The mission estimated total grains import needs for the period 1983-1984 at 125,000 tons, including food aid of about 85,000 tons, of which 57,000 tons are urgently needed. Of these amounts, 40,000 tons are needed immediately in the Sahelian area, before the wheat and berberis crop of March 1984. Emergency FAO/WFP food aid, consisting of 15,000 tons of grains, 1,000 tons of skimmed enriched powdered milk, 1,000 tons of corn/soya/milk or wheat/soy/milk compound and 1,120 tons of edible fats, to be distributed over a six-month period to the drought victims and displaced persons, was approved on 21 December 1983.

40. In addition, rinderpest has spread in the Sahelian area of the country and in the other areas and the cattle are infested with intestinal parasites and ticks. Emergency assistance is required for programmes to combat these problems.

41. International assistance to Chad was greatly increased following the special conference which was convened in Geneva in November 1982, and the appeal for assistance to Chad made by UNDRO in May 1983. One of the basic aspects of food aid concerns logistic and transport problems; the United Nations system and some non-governmental organizations have tried to remedy these in part.

42. A priority assistance programme comprising 122 projects in 10 sectors has been drawn up by the Government and submitted to potential donors. It contains 17 agricultural projects (costing \$7 million), 7 stock-raising projects (\$9 million), 4 projects relating to forestry and parks, water supply and fisheries (\$1.8 million), 21 projects relating to mines, industry and energy (\$126.7 million), 15 transport projects (\$43 million), 3 post and telecommunication projects (\$1.6 million), 13 urban development projects (\$33.6 million), 15 health and hygiene projects (\$23.4 million), 12 education and training projects (\$16 million), and 15 projects to strengthen institutions and trade (\$14.5 million). Of these 122 projects costing a total of \$341 million, 32, totalling \$107 million, have already been financed and 59 projects can be considered to be in the pipeline, subject to more detailed formulation and more in-depth negotiations with the interested donors.

H. Niger

43. Rainfall in 1983 was well below normal in certain regions of the Niger, particularly in the north and northeast. As a result, the grains shortfall for 1983 is about 30,000 tons. Pasture lands have suffered especially from the drought. The Government has organized distributions of food aid in the hardest hit areas.

44. However, grains stocks of approximately 121,000 tons have been accumulated at considerable financial sacrifice. Thus several donors have purchased grains from the Niger in order to supply on the one hand, emergency assistance to neighbouring countries and, on the other hand, direct assistance in the form of free food distributions to the affected people.

II. OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, NOT MEMBERS OF CILSS, PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT IN 1983 5/

A. West Africa

1. Benin

45. In Benin, rainfall in 1983 was the lowest ever recorded, the average rainfall for the entire country being roughly half the normal amount. Nearly all the rivers and most wells have dried up. The Government estimates the grains shortfall at 48,300 tons (out of a total annual consumption of 370,000 tons).

46. The livestock situation is critical because of the shortage of water and fodder. There have been devastating bushfires which have spread throughout the country, swept by the harmattan, which was particularly strong in 1983. In the northern regions, approximately 80 per cent of the land, both forests and cultivated fields, has been ravaged. The effects of the drought on the life of the people and on the country's economy have been catastrophic: for example, drinking water and foodstuffs are in short supply, incomes have dropped as have prices. Malnutrition and pollution of the few remaining supplies of drinking water have led

to grave health problems among the most vulnerable groups, and to epidemics such as that of meningitis.

47. Ghana, which provides Benin with electricity, has also been hit by the drought, thus Benin finds itself with half the normal amount of hydroelectric power; this has naturally affected the operation of production units and industry as a whole.

48. Benin's needs in terms of emergency international assistance are as follows:

(a) Foodstuffs to be distributed free of charge: 7,000 tons;

(b) Foodstuffs for resale on the domestic market: 20,000 tons;

(c) Support for the transport and distribution of food aid (in addition to that provided by WFP): approximately \$210,000. Part of the food aid has already been provided by WFP, the United States and France;

(d) Assistance regarding water supply for human and animal consumption amounting to \$580,000 (including the purchase and maintenance of transport vehicles and tank trucks, the equipping of 63 existing boreholes and operating costs). UNDRO has already made \$100,000 available for the purchase of the equipment;

(e) Vaccination programme for the most vulnerable groups by the World Health Organization (WHO) at a cost of \$200,000;

(f) Livestock vaccination programme costing \$95,000 (UNEP has given \$221,000 for the purchase of animal feed and vaccines);

(g) Seed (amount not yet determined).

49. The above-mentioned emergency measures would complement the development and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government in such areas as food production (strengthening of the national improved seed programme and expansion of the integrated rural development projects), water supply (review of 7,000 boreholes under a UNDP project and water supply programme in urban areas with the Federal Republic of Germany and the World Bank), livestock protection (projects with EEC, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Fund for Aid and Co-operation (FAC)), hydroelectric power production (building of a dam at Nangbeto in co-operation with the Togolese Government with financing from various multilateral and bilateral sources) and reforestation (in co-operation with UNSO).

2. Ghana

50. The drought in Ghana has been growing steadily worse since 1980; in 1983, the situation became particularly serious especially in the north and along the coast. Crops are estimated to be 25 per cent their normal level, which represents an overall shortfall of 370,000 tons. The outlook for 1984 is equally gloomy. Malnutrition has grown worse in the north and endemic diseases have spread.

51. The low level of water resources has affected the entire economy (industry, domestic consumption, irrigation, etc.) not only of Ghana but also of Togo and Benin, which receive most of their electricity from Ghana.

52. The Government has appealed to the international community for 257,000 tons of food aid to supplement the 104,000 tons pledged (of which 91,000 tons have already been delivered by WFP and by the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany) as well as for drugs and vaccines (part of which has already been sent by UNICEF and Canada). However, logistical problems, such as the lack of transport and port facilities, greatly complicate the transfer of food aid to the affected areas.

3. Guinea

53. In 1983, Guinea experienced climatic disturbances, particularly in the areas adjacent to the Sahel. As a result, grain production totalled 383,000 tons, while needs amounted to 495,000 tons. However, the livestock population was not severely affected. The Government has submitted to the international community a list of emergency needs, which includes 15,000 tons of grain and rice, maize and ground-nut seed, agricultural inputs, small tools and miscellaneous drugs. WFP, USAID, the EEC, the Kuwaiti fund and the Canadian Government have sent approximately 8,000 tons of rice, 1,515 tons of flour and 10,000 tons of grain to cover the needs for 1984.

54. The medium- and long-term recovery programmes undertaken at the national level focus on combating bushfires, developing tree cultivation and reforestation projects (UNDP/FAO project), revitalizing the Soil Conservation Service, developing water resources and building up a national livestock population of selected breeds (UNDP/FAO project).

4. Guinea-Bissau

55. The rainy season in 1983 was characterized by very irregular and poorly distributed rainfall. The country's food situation is again critical in 1984 and, in addition to the 9,300 tons of grain provided by WFP, 3,000 tons of food aid are required to meet the minimum needs. Moreover, since seeds have been consumed, 100 tons of rice seed and 310 tons of fertilizer will be needed to rehabilitate agricultural production. Livestock has also been affected, and vaccines are needed to combat various livestock diseases.

56. Thus far, part of the needs have been met by contributions from WFP, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Governments of France, the United States, Kuwait and Luxembourg. These include 15,708 tons of rice, 5,575 tons of soya, 3,011 tons of wheat flour, 291.6 tons of tinned meat and fish, 38 tons of sugar, 249 tons of vegetable oil, 76 tons of powdered milk and 74 tons of malted milk for children.

5. Other countries of West Africa

57. Although the drought did not attain such alarming proportions in some of the other countries of West Africa, it did have serious effects none the less.

58. In the Ivory Coast, bushfires fostered by the drought acquired a disastrous magnitude: approximately 250,000 hectares of coffee and cacao plantations were destroyed. In addition, the water level at dams dropped so far that the production of hydroelectric power was halted for three to four months.

59. In Nigeria, most of the northern areas suffered from the drought and experienced substantial crop and livestock losses. Grain production declined by approximately 30 per cent, while the cotton, ground-nut, coffee and cacao crop dropped by 15 to 30 per cent, depending on the area. Epidemics of rinderpest broke out in different parts of the country, with an estimated 600,000 to 1,500,000 head of cattle lost.

60. In Togo, rainfall in 1983 was 18 per cent below the 1982 level and 30 per cent below normal. Grain production dropped 10 per cent, compared with the previous year. Taking into account the country's imports, emergency needs for 1984 are estimated at 22,000 tons to bridge the gap between April and June. Thus far, 5,000 tons have been sent by WFP and 1,000 tons by France. To ensure a better water supply in the future, projects to build small multi-purpose dams have been drawn up and submitted for financing to various bilateral and multilateral assistance organizations (UNDP, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNEP, FAO, EDF, USAID).

B. Central Africa

1. Angola

61. In 1983, Malanje Province experienced a substantial decline in the maize (60 per cent reduction) and paddy rice production because of insufficient rainfall, and as a result, there is an urgent need for maize and paddy rice seed. The deficit is due both to the drought conditions and to the conflict raging in the southern provinces.

62. The Government plans to initiate an experimental project for the production of alternative crops and of seeds. In the medium and long term, improved irrigation plans are to be implemented at the village level under the authority of the commune. The Government has submitted requests for emergency assistance, primarily for foodstuffs, to FAO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and bilateral donors. However, these requests apply in particular to the 130,000 refugees in the three southern provinces that have been subjected to successive military invasions.

63. The food aid needs for 1984, as determined by the Government, consist of 65,000 tons of wheat, 45,000 tons of millet, 21,000 tons of rice and 6,000 tons of milk.

2. Cameroon

64. Insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall created a particularly serious drought situation during the first three months of 1983. This situation resulted in a decline in the quality and quantity of both crops and livestock. The fall in grain production ranged from 10 to 60 per cent, depending on the case and the area, and the production of bananas, cacao, coffee and rubber dropped considerably. There was also a serious loss of livestock due to disease and water shortages.

65. Because of the scarcity and high price of foodstuffs and the shortage of drinking water, people in some parts of the country have become more malnourished and have contracted various diseases, including cholera. The Government has been obliged to increase considerably its grain imports (300,000 tons of rice imported), just at a time when the shrinking of export crops has caused major losses.

66. Immediate assistance is needed in a number of sectors, for example to combat livestock diseases and rinderpest, to drill wells in extremely arid regions and to assist farmers and stock-raisers who have been affected by the drought.

67. In the short term, the Government is concentrating on the redistribution and/or import of foodstuffs, where necessary. In the long term, it is emphasizing increased food production through the expansion and development of cultivated land, the improvement of production methods, the institution of a livestock vaccination programme, the intensive rehabilitation of livestock and increased support in seed selection and multiplication. A number of projects and activities carried out by United Nations organizations and bilateral donors are bolstering the Government's efforts to cope with the problems related to the drought.

3. Sao Tome and Principe

68. The effects of the drought were disastrous in Sao Tome and Principe in 1983, and international assistance has been requested to back up the Government's efforts to solve the serious problems thus created. Since 1979, rainfall has declined consistently and significantly in several parts of the country: approximately 68 per cent, 47 per cent, 45 per cent, 38 per cent and 29 per cent of the normal precipitation for each respective year.

69. The cumulative effects of this reduction in rainfall have resulted in a decline, at first gradual and then abrupt, in the production of export and food crops, which in turn has created an economic and social situation characterized by a widespread shortage of foodstuffs and essential articles. The shortage affects almost all the inhabitants of the country, or 96,700 people (90,000 of whom live in rural areas). The drop in cacao production (which represents 90 per cent of the country's exports) has led to a severe reduction in the country's foreign reserves, thereby making it impossible to import sufficient quantities of foodstuffs and essential articles. The drought has caused the decline in the yield of basic food crops just at a time when the Government was experiencing real success in its intensive campaign to promote the production and consumption of local products.

70. Since September 1982, a number of streams and rivers have dried up, and this has not only curtailed the possibilities of irrigating food crops but also, because of the lack of electricity has reduced the capacity of small industrial units. Consequently, there has been over-consumption of gas oil (for generating sets) to ensure the continued operation of certain sectors which are vital to economic and social activity. Urban and rural markets are almost empty both of foodstuffs and of manufactured essential articles (soap, drugs and pharmaceuticals, salt, oil, etc.).

71. The Government has prepared a list of emergency needs for the period December 1983 to August 1984 which includes: foodstuffs (rice, flour, beans, sugar, vegetable oil, milk, etc.); other essential articles (soap, drugs and pharmaceuticals); and seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and small agricultural implements. Grain needs have been estimated at approximately 10,000 tons, of which 7,000 tons have been provided by bilateral donors and 1,700 tons by WFP. In addition, the Government is preparing a "food-for-work" project to be submitted to WFP and the World Bank as part of a governmental project for the rehabilitation of the cacao and coffee plantations.

C. East Africa

1. Ethiopia

72. The irregular and insufficient rainfall in Ethiopia in 1983 created particularly severe drought conditions, since the country had already suffered a very serious drought in 1982, following four years of especially poor harvests. The areas concerned (Gondar, Wello, Tigray and Eritrea in the northern part of the country and Sidamo in the south) are also facing a shortage of seeds for the 1984 crop year. There has also been a considerable loss of livestock, although precise figures are not yet available.

73. In the northern drought-stricken areas, 4.14 million people have been affected, and 717,000 tons of grain are needed to make up the deficit. Thus far, food aid has been transferred to only 60 per cent of the people concerned. In the Sidamo region, 580,000 tons of grain are needed for 1984. In addition, a minimum of 25,000 tons of seeds will have to be sent to the affected areas.

74. Judging from the experience of previous years, it is expected that 2 million people will migrate in search of food. Approximately 700,000 of them will be suffering from malnutrition and various endemic diseases and will need shelter and care. To deal with these problems, the Government will have to depend on foreign assistance for food relief, the construction of shelters, transport costs and the supply of vaccines and miscellaneous drugs. With the aid of WFP and UNDP, 80 camps for transferring 104,000 refugees from the northern parts of the country have already been set up.

75. To combat erosion in the northern provinces, the Ministry of Agriculture, working in co-operation with FAO, UNDP and UNCDF, has launched three reforestation and restoration projects involving some 200,000 hectares. In addition, the Relief

and Rehabilitation Commission has instituted a programme for the recovery of 10,000 hectares of land.

76. Emergency food aid has been pledged and is to arrive in stages between June 1983 and July 1984. All told, it represents:

(a) 94,785 tons of grain, provided by WFP, UNICEF, the EEC, Australia, France and Canada;

(b) 6,200 tons of other foodstuffs (vegetable oil, powdered milk, etc.), provided by WFP and Catholic Relief Services;

(c) A cash contribution for transport totalling nearly \$8 million (donors: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the non-governmental organization OXFAM).

2. Somalia

77. The rainfall in 1983 was 20 per cent below normal and, unless it improves in 1984, the drought will have a very serious impact on food production and livestock. The sorghum crop (which accounts for 30 per cent of the population's food) was 40 per cent below normal in 1983. However, good maize harvests in 1983 offset the sorghum shortfall.

78. The Government considers the water supply problem to be extremely serious. Moreover, the effects of erosion, caused by wind and livestock, are threatening any long-term improvement in the situation of the people concerned.

79. The emergency assistance required to date consists of:

(a) 2,000 tons of sorghum valued at \$400,000, including transport costs;

(b) Poultry feed valued at \$150,000;

(c) Improvement of water storage tanks valued at \$2.4 million;

(d) Miscellaneous animal vaccines worth approximately \$1,670,000 (including the cost of a vaccination campaign to combat rinderpest);

(e) 4,500 tons of fertilizer at a cost of \$825,000.

In addition, a request has been submitted to UNDP for a project to provide water to drought-stricken areas at a cost of \$1.2 million.

80. The problems related to the provision of food and water in Somalia are aggravated by the presence of an estimated 1 million to 1.4 million refugees. While 700,000 of the refugees are living in camps and receive international assistance, the others are scattered throughout both urban and rural areas of the country.

3. Other countries of East Africa

81. In Djibouti, an estimated 80,000 persons are suffering from the drought conditions. The Government has earmarked the equivalent of \$282,000 for emergency relief measures and intends to convene a meeting of international and non-governmental organizations to describe the magnitude of the drought-related problems and to discuss the possibility of emergency aid.

82. In Kenya, rainfall has been far below normal in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country, and the Government has adopted relief measures to provide food to the people concerned. FAO and Catholic Relief Services have helped to distribute this food in schools and in certain districts.

D. Southern Africa

1. Botswana

83. The drought has struck Botswana for the third consecutive year and, as the President of Botswana said in his appeal for emergency international assistance, 1983 was the worst year the country had experienced in a long time from the standpoint of rainfall and crops. Indeed, rainfall was below normal almost everywhere (25 to 60 per cent below normal, depending on the area).

84. Less than 10,000 tons of grain, sorghum, maize and millet were expected to be harvested in the areas concerned, as compared with 14,500 tons last year and 50,000 tons in favourable years. Since approximately 85,000 tons are needed, outside contributions in foodstuffs, supplies, miscellaneous articles and technical assistance are more essential than ever. The Government is drafting detailed requests, specifying exact needs, for submission to donors.

2. Lesotho

85. The country has recently experienced the worst drought since 1933 and, on 7 April 1984, the Prime Minister declared a food emergency to the National Assembly. The total grain deficit for 1983-1984 is estimated at 310,000 tons of maize, sorghum and wheat, of which 160,000 tons can be attributed directly to the drought. This shortfall is even more serious than in the period 1982-1983, when the overall deficit had been estimated at 300,175 tons. In addition, approximately 20 per cent of the livestock population died in 1983.

86. The nutritional situation is deplorable, and an estimated 6,000 people are suffering from acute malnutrition and pellagra, while in certain areas the infant mortality rate is 20 per cent. Moreover, in the southern provinces there is a widespread shortage of water both for humans and for livestock.

87. Catholic Relief Services has indicated that it can help 35,000 people. Donations of rice, oil and maize are expected from the EEC, Sweden and the Federal Republic of Germany. UNDP, in co-operation with itinerant physicians and other

non-governmental organizations, is planning to assist 4,000 people through the distribution of high-nutrition food. A total of 84,000 tons of grain have been pledged for 1983/1984.

3. Mozambique

88. The entire territory, except the province of Niassa, has suffered from the drought, but it has been particularly severe at Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and Nampula and in the southern and central provinces. In 1983, almost the entire harvest was lost at Gaza and Inhambane, and a large part of it at Maputo, Sugala, Mamika and Tete. At Gaza and Inhambane, approximately 100,000 persons died between August 1982 and August 1983. Since then, the situation has improved at Inhambane, thanks to WFP food assistance, but this assistance could not be delivered to Gaza because of safety and transport problems. Recently, as many as 50 persons died each day at Tete. According to some of the non-governmental organizations, approximately 100,000 people would become refugees in camps in Zimbabwe.

89. The drought has also had very serious effects on livestock. At Gaza and Maputo, which are the main stock-raising areas, 20 per cent of the livestock has died. The average weight of 30 per cent of the surviving livestock has fallen drastically. The situation is comparable for poultry and pigs.

90. At present, it is estimated that the survival of 1.4 million people depends entirely on outside food aid and, for 3.4 million others, assistance is needed to supplement their deficient food. Overall, one third of the population therefore requires emergency food aid from the outside.

91. The country received 180,000 tons of grain in 1982 and 235,000 tons in 1983. The various United Nations organizations, working in conjunction with the Government on a programme for relief, rehabilitation and development assistance, have prepared 40 projects for submission to potential donor countries. The projects concern the sectors of food aid, health and hygiene, transport and logistics, light industry and infrastructures.

92. According to the data submitted by the Government, the grain needs for next year amount to approximately 500,000 tons. In addition, the camps at Gaza and Inhambane include 31,000 people who are undernourished and for whom a special food programme costing \$650,000 is considered to be urgent. Water supply projects (drilling, maintenance and repair of wells) in four provinces and in the Gaza and Inhambane camps are planned at a cost of \$5 million. Furthermore, drugs and supplies for the camps and health centres are to be imported in the context of four projects representing \$4 million in financing. The need to import seeds has been identified at a cost of \$6.5 million, which will also cover support for small-scale fishing, the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and the protection of livestock.

4. Swaziland

93. The particularly low level of rainfall during the first three months of 1983 caused maize production to fall 50 per cent below normal and, like the previous year, there were severe losses in cotton production. Because of the very small maize crop, 108,000 inhabitants of rural areas required emergency food aid in 1983.

94. FAO sent 3,888 tons of maize, 389 tons of miscellaneous vegetables and 114 tons of oil for distribution free of charge over a period of three months. The EEC supplied 300 tons of powdered milk and 1,460 tons of flour; 2,900 additional tons of flour have been pledged for 1984. The Chinese Government provided 989 tons of maize, and WFP sent 5,015 tons of maize and oil.

5. Zambia

95. For the second consecutive year, Zambia experienced drought conditions which affected both crops and livestock. Rainfall was particularly insufficient in the southern province, which normally produces 40 per cent of the country's maize, its principal product. According to government estimates, 8.3 per cent of the population has been severely affected by the drought, and shortages of water and food have resulted in malnutrition and related problems.

96. The Government has requested food assistance in maize, miscellaneous vegetables, powdered milk and vegetable oil, for a total value of \$25 million. Assistance had also been requested for the water supply (well-drilling, small dams and transport), at a cost of \$11.2 million. Logistic aid valued at \$3.6 million for the transport and distribution of food has also been requested. Since March 1983, Zambia has received 55,820 tons of maize from WFP, the EEC, USAID, the Netherlands and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Moreover, FAO and UNDP have announced that they would send 550 tons of sorghum and millet seed.

97. The Government's medium- and long-range recovery programme also calls for the construction of silos to prevent the loss of crops and to build up reserve stocks, for the drilling of 700 boreholes and wells and for several small-scale pilot irrigation projects, to be carried out in co-operation with FAO and other bilateral sources of funding.

6. Zimbabwe

98. The effects of three consecutive years of drought in Zimbabwe will oblige this habitual exporter of maize to import maize in 1984 and, in so doing, to relinquish its very limited foreign reserves, which should have been devoted to projects to combat the drought. The needs for 1984 are estimated at 700,000 tons of maize. In addition, supplementary feeding will have to be envisaged for approximately 500,000 people suffering from malnutrition.

99. The Government has drawn up a programme costing \$28 million to save the livestock population by moving it from drought-stricken areas to areas better suited to grazing. Emergency international assistance is composed primarily of maize and wheat (provided by USAID, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and the Lutheran World Federation). UNICEF has set aside \$200,000 in supplementary foods, and UNDP has devoted \$750,000 to combating the drought. Special food aid for the 60,000 refugees from Mozambique has also been requested from WFP.

100. At a meeting of representatives of international assistance organizations, donor countries and members of the Government held on 16 March 1984, the situation in Zimbabwe was evaluated and a list of emergency needs was drawn up.

E. North Africa

Morocco

101. While North Africa as a whole has been relatively spared by the drought, Morocco has however been affected. During the 1982-1983 crop year, rainfall in Morocco was 34.8 per cent below average and was unequally distributed in time and in space.

102. The volume of grain production totalled only 72 per cent of normal, or 55.8 per cent of the needs, and the deficit had to be met by imports and donations. A livestock population consisting of 16.5 million head in 1980-1981 had dropped to only 10.1 million in 1982-1983 and stabilized at 12 million in 1983-1984.

103. By the end of 1983, the decline in the water level at dams had become alarming (13 per cent of the dams' capacity), with all the effects this had on the water supply, on irrigation and on the production of water power.

104. In the short term, the Government plans to import improved seeds and 430 million fodder units, an amount representing 50 per cent of the overall fodder deficit, in order to protect livestock and ensure reproduction. In the medium term, a far-reaching programme for the creation of jobs, particularly in the drought-stricken regions, was recently initiated. The Government has also set up a special fund for the protection of livestock, financed by subsidies and by a special slaughter tax. Moreover, a livestock treatment campaign is currently in progress. In the long term, the farming population is to be exempt from taxes on agricultural income until the year 2000. A national food strategy has also been prepared, and there are plans to increase the capacity of water storage facilities through the building of dams and hillside reservoirs.

105. The immediate needs to be met through international assistance, as established by the Government to offset the effects of the drought in 1984, consist of:

- (a) 2 million tons of grain for human consumption;
- (b) 430 million fodder units for livestock;

(c) 1 million doses of anti-parasite medication for the internal treatment of livestock and the same amount for external treatment;

(d) 4,000 tons of improved seeds and approximately 300,000 tons of fertilizer and grass seed.

CONCLUSION

106. The drought will surely prove to have been one of the most indelible features of Africa in 1983. Once again, many African countries located in fragile ecological zones have recently been the victims of a sharp decline in rainfall and, in most of these countries, the effects of this particularly severe drought will have been more serious than in 1972 and 1973. Unfortunately, climatic difficulties are sometimes compounded by the special problems that result from the presence of refugees and/or displaced persons, who are often in a state of utter destitution.

107. To alleviate the tragic effects of this particularly severe drought, namely famine, under-nutrition, diseases and epidemics of all kinds and losses among the herds, the countries concerned have mobilized their obviously insufficient national resources, with varying degrees of success. The international community for its part has provided emergency assistance to those areas most severely affected: food for humans and livestock, drugs, transport and the like. This assistance has been delivered either by bilateral co-operation organizations or through various United Nations agencies, in particular WFP, FAO and UNDRO.

108. In adopting resolution 38/201, entitled "Liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and allocation of the remaining balance", the United Nations General Assembly decided that 70 per cent of the remaining funds would be channelled through United Nations Development Programme-administered funds to finance urgently needed projects, primarily in the food and agricultural sectors in countries afflicted by famine and malnutrition as a result, particularly, of severe or prolonged drought, with special emphasis on African countries.

109. However, it should be strongly emphasized that the problems related to the drought in Africa, which is becoming increasingly structural and endemic, can be solved in a genuine and lasting manner only through an increased global effort, based on ongoing discussions between the countries concerned and the international community as a whole. Medium- and long-range plans for integrated economic and social development must be drawn up and implemented on the basis of multidisciplinary activities encompassing all the fundamental parameters, namely, water control, food production and human and livestock health, with a view to food self-sufficiency, rehabilitation and protection of the environment. It is on this path that the international community and the drought-stricken countries constantly threatened by desertification must embark together. However, the resources devoted thus far to development assistance for the African countries obviously fall far short of the needs.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5779, para. 36 (b)).

2/ Member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel.

3/ At the time of writing, the detailed list of donors was not available.

4/ At the time of writing, the few reports received from N'Djamena were very incomplete.

5/ One of the features of the 1983 drought is its geographical extension. As a result, even the countries of eastern and southern Africa, which had previously been spared, were severely affected that year. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, all the necessary information about the situation in a number of countries was not available.

Annex

Population of the African countries covered by this report a/

<u>Country</u>	<u>Millions</u>
Cameroon	8.94
Djibouti	0.34
Equatorial Guinea	0.37
Ethiopia	32.78
Gambia	0.64
Ghana	12.24
Guinea	5.06
Guinea-Bissau	0.85
Ivory Coast	8.86
Kenya	18.20
Lesotho	1.41
Mali	7.34
Mauritania	1.73
Morocco	21.39
Mozambique	12.93
Niger	5.61
Nigeria	86.13
Rwanda	5.51
Sao Tome and Principe	0.09
Senegal	6.04
Somalia	5.09
Swaziland	0.59
Togo	2.68
Upper Volta	6.36
Zambia	6.03
Zimbabwe	7.54

a/ Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, 1982 estimates calculated by the United Nations Population Division.
