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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMES
THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR AFGHANISTAN

Note by the Administrator

Programme period
1984 - 1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986
\$71.50 million

I. Nature of the programming exercise

1. The present country programming exercise commenced in July 1983 with a mid-year country programme review undertaken jointly by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, represented by the State Planning Committee, and the United Nations Development Programme. The purpose of this review was to take stock of the achievements made under the second country programme, to assess its experiences and to draw lessons therefrom for the preparation of the new third country programme.

2. Following this review, intensive consultations were held between the State Planning Committee and the concerned technical ministries and other Government entities to determine their future needs and requirements in terms of external technical assistance in support of their own development efforts planned for the years 1984 to 1986, and beyond.

*The notes by the Administrator concerning the previous country programmes for Afghanistan were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/AFG/R.1/RECOMMENDATION and DP/GC/AFG/R.2/RECOMMENDATION.

3. The consolidated requests for UNDP-financed assistance during the period covered by the programme were submitted by the State Planning Committee to UNDP in October 1983. In order to ensure effective co-ordination and harmonization of the projects to be included in the programme with the activities to be supported by the organizations and programmes of the United Nations, within and without the UNDP framework, the specialized agencies were involved in the country programming exercise through consultations with their representatives in Afghanistan and/or the circulation of the draft programme to all concerned agencies' headquarters for review and comments.

II. Relationship of the country programme to national development objectives

4. The projects included in the programme reflect the government's development strategies and priorities as set forth, for example, in its annual development plans for 1982/83 and 1983/84. The overall development goal is to improve the living standards of the people. To this end, the Government has stated that it is pursuing the twin objective of increasing economic productivity and production and enhancing the distribution of development opportunities and benefits. The development efforts are consequently directed towards establishing organic and mutually-supportive linkages between the agricultural sector, which continues to be the mainstay of the Afghan economy, and other sectors, particularly industries. In addition, the Government is assigning special importance to improving the qualification of the country's human resources through technical and professional education and training as well as the provision of other social services.

5. The Government and UNDP took into account the following criteria in selecting the projects included in this programme: the operational feasibility, cost effectiveness and relevance of the projects in terms of their contribution towards achieving the above-mentioned development goals and objectives; and the interdependence between the projects so as to ensure the formulation of an integrated, co-ordinated programme

6. The programme is made up of projects which, under the present guidelines established by the United Nations Security Co-ordinator, can be realistically carried out within the Kabul perimeter to adequately meet their objectives. At the same time, many of the projects are designed to permit the extension of their economic and social benefits, as appropriate, to other parts of the country. Thus, the planned projects within the Kabul province include strong elements of training for development of personnel from all the provinces, as well as assistance in strengthening indigenous capabilities for planning and implementation of projects.

III. Content and phasing of the country programme

7. The illustrative IPF for Afghanistan for the period 1982-1986 is \$71.50 million. After subtracting from this figure the programme expenditure for 1982 and 1983 (\$10.87 million), unprogrammed balance of 32.18 million and adding an unspent balance of \$6.88 million from the second cycle, as well

as anticipated resources of \$2.27 million from other funds managed by UNDP (SMF), an amount of \$37.60 million remains for programming for the years 1984-1986.

8. As regards the allocation of resources to the various sectors, the programme devotes the largest share, 35.8 per cent, to agriculture and forestry. This reflects the crucial role of agriculture within the Afghan economy. The sector with the second largest share is social services, with 18.1 per cent of the total. This is in line with the priority assigned by the Government to improved water supply and sanitation to enhance the health status of people, and with the importance it attaches to the development of trained and qualified human resources to whom it could entrust the effective and speedy implementation of its development plans and measures in all sectors of the economy.

9. The increase in UNDP resources to the industries, science and technology sectors under the third country programme to 13.4 per cent is an expression and result of the Government's endeavour to provide assistance for the development of appropriate industries including those in the private sector. Special attention is given to handicraft and cottage industries, which will lead to increased economic productivity and opportunities for additional employment. The projects planned in this area also include activities designed to further the exploitation and utilization of solar energy which, owing to the climatic conditions of the country, exists in great abundance.

10. Given the rugged and difficult terrain of Afghanistan, assistance continues to be provided to ongoing training activities in telecommunications and civil aviation, which receive 8.9 per cent of total programme resources.

11. Commitments for ongoing projects account for \$22.82 million; financing for new projects and new phases of existing projects for \$14.538 million, leaving an unprogrammed resource of \$228,000. It will be noted however, that in terms of the number of projects, 29 of the 53 contained in the present country programme are new projects. This is mainly the result of the UNDP/Government agreement in 1980 not to continue several of the old projects which were operational in various parts of the country, to concentrate on fewer sectors in the Kabul area and gradually develop new projects subject to individual appraisal and approval - more relevant to the country's present situation and to the Government's new economic development programme.
