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SUPPORT

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION  
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE  
ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

Summary

At its thirty-ninth 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 (39/180, 39/183, 39/185, 39/186, 39/188, 39/189, 39/192, 39/198, 39/202 and 39/203) 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 1985. This year, the General Assembly requested that such information be conveyed concerning Benin, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, 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

1. Under its agenda item "Special economic and disaster relief assistance", the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 17 December 1984, adopted a series of resolutions pertaining to assistance for 28 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 the 10 countries and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1985.

2. The relevant resolutions which requested UNDP to bring the respective special needs to the attention of the Governing Council are as follows:

- 39/180. Assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the Central African Republic
- 39/183. Assistance to Lesotho
- 39/185. Special economic assistance to Benin
- 39/186. Special economic assistance to Guinea-Bissau
- 39/188. Assistance to Uganda
- 39/189. Assistance to Cape Verde
- 39/192. Assistance to Sierra Leone
- 39/198. Economic assistance to Vanuatu
- 39/202. Economic and financial assistance to Guinea
- 39/203. Assistance to the Gambia

3. During 1984, UNDP continued to maintain in each of these countries a resident representative and a field office for the purpose of assisting the respective Governments with planning, providing and evaluating technical co-operation programmes in association with other organizations of the United Nations development system.

4. In addition, a country programme of technical co-operation which provided the framework for UNDP-supported activities continued to be implemented in each of these countries. The unprecedented social and economic crisis in Africa, in part caused by the drought that affected most of sub-Saharan Africa, posed a challenge of immense proportions not only to UNDP but to the entire United Nations development system and other multilateral and bilateral donors. Continuous programming which characterizes the implementation of UNDP-supported country programmes provided a vital instrument in enabling Governments and UNDP to readjust their programmes, in order to enhance their immediate relevance and effectiveness as far as the African crisis is concerned. Thirty-two resident representatives in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa were instructed to adjust and to realign ongoing projects and programmes with a view to making them more responsive to the changing needs of the drought-affected countries. This is being monitored very closely.

## I. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BENIN

5. During 1984, UNDP continued to provide assistance to the Government of Benin within the framework of the third country programme of assistance. Approximately \$3.4 million were expended from indicative planning figure (IPF) funds for priority development projects. As a least developed country (LDC), Benin received an additional allocation of \$132,000 from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC), bringing Benin's total allocation from that Fund to over \$3.4 million. Approximately \$293,000 SMF/LDC resources were committed in 1984. United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) projects approved in 1983 and prior years were also executed in part during this period; the UNCDF programme in Benin (\$8.9 million) is one of the largest in the African region. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) also supports a relatively large programme (\$1.5 million) of activities in Benin; three projects expended at least \$250,000 in 1984.

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 continue its efforts to mobilize and co-ordinate donor assistance. The follow-up activities conducted by UNDP in 1984 received valuable support from the Trust Fund for the Special Netherlands Contribution for the Least Developed Countries.

7. The third country programme for Benin was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-first session in June 1984. The resources made available for programming amounted to \$22.972 million. In addition, following the General Assembly's decision to liquidate the United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund (UNEOTF) and to entrust the major portion of the balance of its resources to UNDP, programming discussions began between UNDP and government officials in order to meet urgent needs associated with drought and agricultural development. Two priority projects totalling \$530,000 were approved in March and May 1984 to help alleviate some of the most pressing problems.

## II. ASSISTANCE TO CAPE VERDE

8. During 1984, UNDP continued implementing the Cape Verde country programme, 1983-1986, approved by the Governing Council at its special meeting in February 1983. The total of IPF programme resources made available to Cape Verde amounted to \$5.015 million. In 1984, approximately \$1.2 million were expended on priority projects.

9. In 1984, contributions from SMF/LDC to Cape Verde amounted to \$259,000 which, after taking into consideration the amounts of SMF/LDC resources expended in 1983, brought the total allocation from that Fund to \$559,000. UNSO, for its part, continued in 1984 financing five projects with earmarkings totalling more than \$1.8 million.

10. UNDP, in response to the special needs of Cape Verde, has allocated \$750,000 from resources resulting from the liquidation of UNEOTF. Two projects have been approved for urgent implementation: a project for the development of a desalination plant to be located in the island of Boa Vista; and a second one to deal with the procurement and delivery of spare parts for rural development activities to assist the Ministry of Rural Development in its priority activities dealing with the control of desertification. During 1984, the emergency situation in Cape Verde reflected the impact of the recurrent drought that continued to affect most of the agricultural areas of the country. The situation of Cape Verde was exacerbated by the torrential rains of September 1984 which washed out cultivated areas in valleys and destroyed small retention dams and irrigation canals. Following a special evaluation mission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which visited the country in late December 1984, a special programme of action is anticipated with project proposals for potential donors.

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

11. The third country programme for the Central African Republic for the period 1983-1986 was approved at the thirtieth session of the Governing Council in June 1983. The Government considers the resources made available through UNDP as a key component of its 1982-1985 National Plan of Action. The latter is to be followed by a five-year plan for economic and social development beginning in January 1986. UNDP has been specifically requested by the Government to provide technical support for the preparation of the plan. This reinforces the Government's expressed wish for UNDP to serve as lead agency for the round-table conference tentatively planned to be convened about the time of the launching of the plan. The contribution of UNDP to the preparation of the plan and to the organization of the round-table conference is expected to increase external donor funding for the implementation of the plan. For 1984 UNDP committed over \$135,000 towards the combined preparations of the five-year Economic Plan and of the round-table conference. Financing from this allocation helped the Government to hold a preliminary meeting with prospective key financiers of the plan in November in Bangui. Consultancy services were also provided to the Government during the year from the same resources towards the preparations of the round-table conference.

12. During the same year, UNDP was able to provide extra funds amounting to over \$1.29 million. Of this amount, \$342,000 was an allocation from SMF/LDC and the rest was made available following the liquidation of UNEOTF. The SMF/LDC allocation was used to finance projects in manpower development. In response to the drought problem in the Central African Republic in 1984, the new UNEOTF allocation was used to finance high-priority, quick-disbursing projects in food production, well-digging, cattle-raising and animal health. These projects were the result of very close co-operation among the Government, the executing agencies and UNDP.

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## IV. ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA

13. The Gambia experienced social and economic problems due to natural, domestic and external factors. For its export earnings the country depends mainly on groundnuts. However, fluctuations in production and prices due to bad weather and weak world demand have resulted in a shortfall in foreign exchange earnings. The situation was exacerbated by an increased import bill which adversely affected the country's balance of payments and by reduced government revenue. The latter problem has necessitated a cutback in public programmes with social and economic repercussions. The cultivable land is also limited and productivity has deteriorated partly because of shortened fallow periods and the drought conditions.

14. The country's population is growing rapidly as a result of a natural increase as well as net immigration from the neighbouring countries. Furthermore, the gap between the urban and rural areas with respect to infrastructure and facilities has accelerated rural-urban migration with considerable strain on the existing economic and social infrastructure in the Greater Banjul area which was inadequate even when the population of Banjul was lower.

15. In the face of these difficulties, the Government has initiated policies, programmes and strategies with a view to redressing the situation. These reforms are embodied in the Public Investment Programme (1984/85 to 1987/88) which pays increased attention to agriculture, energy, water resources and the role of the private sector, and which also aims at enhancing the efficiency of public administration and state-owned corporations.

16. To carry out effectively these structural reforms, the country will need external support in the amount of \$306 million for the entire four-year period. Such assistance would also cover part of the recurrent counterpart costs of donor-funded projects as the Government does not have sufficient funds for this purpose.

17. A round-table conference was held at Banjul in November 1984 with UNDP assistance. The conference was attended by 16 countries, 6 financial organizations, 17 organizations of the United Nations, two international organizations outside the United Nations system, the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (TANGO) and some observers. The donors expressed an interest in specific programmes and projects, and made commitments or declared their intentions to give support. The conference endorsed the recommendations for follow-up activities and for improved co-ordination. UNDP is closely following and supporting the developments relating to these activities.

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## V. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA

18. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/59, a United Nations mission visited Guinea in August 1984. The mission, which was led by the Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, surveyed the current economic situation in Guinea. Following consultations with the Government, it was agreed that a two-pronged approach should be adopted: a humanitarian assistance programme and an interim programme of economic rehabilitation (1985-1987). Within the humanitarian assistance programme, a list of specific emergency requirements was drawn up for which international aid was sought (food, medicines, educational equipment, agricultural inputs, etc.)

19. The economic reconnaissance mission was followed by a joint UNDP/World Bank mission which defined more precisely the Government's needs in technical assistance, equipment and logistic support for the preparation of the interim programme, and to reinforce the governmental structure in development planning.

20. A project was formulated and a team of advisers and consultants is assisting the Government in elaborating the interim plan for economic rehabilitation which is expected to be ready by April 1985. Similarly, a project was formulated to provide for longer-term multidisciplinary technical assistance in a number of key development areas as well as for the programming, co-ordination, execution, supervision and follow-up of the interim plan. UNDP also financed technical advisory assistance in the industry sector to assist the Government in defining and elaborating new industrial policies and strategies.

21. UNDP continued to provide assistance to the Government of Guinea within the framework of the third country programme of assistance. Expenditures during 1984 from IPF funds are expected to be in the region of \$3.9 million. The country programme will be reviewed in early 1985 in consultation with the Government with a view to reorienting ongoing and planned activities to meet the priorities defined in the interim programme of economic rehabilitation.

22. In addition to IPF assistance provided in 1984, \$422,000 was allocated from SMF/LDC for programming during that year, as well as an amount of \$175,000 for programming in 1985.

23. Guinea was earmarked as one of the priority recipients to receive resources from the liquidated UNEOTF in order to meet emergency rehabilitation and development needs stemming, *inter alia*, from the recent adverse climatic conditions and special development problems of the country. One project in the agricultural sector has been approved for the total amount of \$750,000.

24. In order to assist the Government to cope with the emergency conditions caused by the earthquake which occurred in north-west Guinea on 22 December 1983, an amount of \$30,000 was allocated from UNDP's Special Programme Resources. This amount was disbursed during January and February 1984.

## VI. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA-BISSAU

25. UNDP assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau continued within the context of the country programme of technical co-operation approved in 1982 by the Governing Council. During 1984, approximately \$2.1 million of IPF resources were expended out of a total of \$10.963 million for the 1982-1986 period. Owing to the reduced level of the illustrative IPF which reduced programme flexibility, the policy of project cutbacks and deferrals continued.

26. In addition to IPF resources, \$206,000 was allocated from the SMF/LDC for programming during 1984, and an additional amount of \$86,000 for programming in 1985. Inputs have also come from UNCDF to a number of rural water supply schemes in a total amount of \$1.44 million. Guinea-Bissau was earmarked as one of the priority recipients of resources from the liquidated UNEOTF in order to meet emergency rehabilitation and development needs stemming, inter alia, from the recent adverse climatic conditions and special development problems of the country. Six projects have been approved for a total amount of \$530,000.

27. UNDP assistance was provided for the preparation of a first donors conference for Guinea-Bissau which took place in Lisbon in May 1984. The round-table process continues with UNDP assistance for the convening of a first follow-up meeting scheduled for 16-18 April 1985 in Bissau. This will be followed by a non-governmental organization (NGO) conference and an agricultural sector consultation during 1985.

## VII. ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

28. UNDP's programme of technical co-operation with the Government of Lesotho continued to be implemented in the framework of the country programme which was approved by the Governing Council in 1982. During 1984, approximately \$2.2 million of illustrative IPF funds were expended on priority projects in the following sectors: agriculture/rural development, economic infrastructure, water and mineral resources, social infrastructure, education and training.

29. In addition, \$185,000 was committed in 1984 to Lesotho from SMF/LDC bringing the total allocation to Lesotho from that Fund to \$2.87 million. Furthermore, UNCDF assistance approved in prior years continued to be implemented in 1984.

30. Following the designation of Lesotho in 1983 as one of the prospective recipients of special resources from the liquidated UNEOTF, projects to provide aid to drought-affected households and the construction of food aid stores to meet the requirements of the emergency have been approved.

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31. As a follow-up to the global conference held at Paris in 1981, which adopted a plan of action for LDCs, the Government of Lesotho hosted at Maseru, 14-17 May 1984, a donors round-table meeting. Significant support was provided by UNDP for the preparation of the meeting during which UNDP served as the lead agency.

#### VIII. ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

32. The 1982-1986 country programme, as approved by the Governing Council in June 1983, was for an IPF earmarking of \$59.5 million or \$32.7 million at 55 per cent of the illustrative IPF. With a carry-over of \$5.9 million from the previous cycle, total resources actually available for 1982-1986 amounted to \$38.6 million. As of 31 December 1984, there remained an unutilized balance of \$12.3 million.

33. As a result of the unusual situation (political, economic, military, etc.) which has prevailed in Uganda since 1982, the approved country programme has had to be revised and reoriented by the Government on a number of occasions. The first major reorientation took place in November 1983 when the Government and UNDP agreed to revise the country programme in order to bring it into line with the Government's new revised recovery programme which had been launched in October 1983. Presently, the programme consists of nearly 30 projects in agriculture, transport and communications, industry, public administration, planning, banking and finance. Other areas covered include rehabilitation and reconstruction of physical facilities and human resettlements as well as general vocational and technical training.

34. During 1984, problems of internal security, inadequacy of skilled manpower and of physical infrastructure continued to be major constraints in programme implementation resulting in much lower than expected delivery rates.

35. The strategy of continuous programming was fully utilized during 1984, primarily with respect to meeting the requirements of the Government's revised recovery programme. At least 14 new projects were identified ranging from National Manpower Survey (\$845,190) and Support to Makerere University (\$2,765,000) to Small Scale Industrial Development (\$661,500) and Rural Development in the Karamoja Region (\$850,000). Supplementary financing amounting to \$850,000 has been made available from the liquidation of UNEOTF. Of the amount made available through the Belgian Survival Fund, approximately \$30 million is expected to go to projects in Uganda.\*/

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\*/ The major organizations involved in handling the Belgian Survival Fund are UNICEF, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development and the World Health Organization.



36. In the light of difficulties encountered during both 1983 and 1984 in recruiting experts for postings in Uganda, UNDP initiated in 1984 the modalities of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and TOKTEN (transfer of know-how through expatriate nationals). It remains to be seen in 1985 how these approaches will improve the implementation of the country programme.

37. As regards reviews of the country programme, an overall review was carried out by the UNDP field office with the Government between February and June 1984. This consisted of individual desk reviews of large-scale projects as well as in-depth evaluations by UNDP, the executing agencies concerned and the Government. These reviews resulted in the termination of selected projects and/or project managers as well as reorientation or revision of the individual projects. Examples of this are Development of National Industrial Training Scheme and Vocational Training Centre at Kampala (UGA/78/008), Assistance to Dairy Production (UGA/80/018) and Emergency Transportation Rehabilitation and Development (UGA/79/008)

38. A consultative group meeting was organized by the World Bank for Uganda in January 1984. UNDP actively participated in the meeting together with other major partners of development in Uganda.

#### IX. ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE

39. UNDP assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone continued within the framework of the 1983-1986 country programme approved by the Governing Council in February 1983. The authorized programming level for Sierra Leone for the current cycle, 1982-1986, amounts to \$18.2 million. UNDP expenditure during 1984 on projects within the country programme totalled about \$3.1 million. Expenditures are estimated to surpass this figure in 1985, as the programming of additional funds allocated to the country programme begin to take effect.

40. Having been designated an LDC in 1982 by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/133, the country's IPF was revised upward. In addition, Sierra Leone received its first allocations from SMF/LDC: \$236,000 in 1983, \$331,000 in 1984 and \$138,000 for programming in 1985. Within the context of its programme for LDCs, UNCDF approved a project, Rural Water Supply Development in the Eastern Province, for Sierra Leone in December 1984 in an amount of \$1.5 million.

41. Further, Sierra Leone was earmarked as one of the priority recipients of resources from the liquidated UNEOTF in order to meet emergency rehabilitation and development needs stemming, inter alia, from the recent adverse climatic conditions and special development problems of the country. Five projects were approved for a total amount of \$530,000. The projects were all to address problems in the areas of food production, processing and storage.

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42. During 1984, UNDP undertook special assistance activities at the request of the Government to support preparatory activities for a round-table donors conference. UNDP has been invited to serve as lead agency for a meeting of the country's principal aid partners which will now take place in October 1985.

#### X. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VANUATU

43. The first UNDP country programme for Vanuatu covering the period 1983-1986 was approved at the February 1983 special session of the Governing Council. In 1984, the programme continued to focus on several of the country's highest priority needs in public administration, economic planning, fisheries, vocational training and industrial development. However, a Government decision to have policy-making positions filled by nationals resulted in the termination of OPAS-type (operational assistance) experts as well as those provided under various bilateral assistance programmes. However UNDP continued to provide expert advisers and United Nations volunteers.

44. During 1984, the UNDP field office at Suva, Fiji, which covers Vanuatu, undertook three separate missions to Vanuatu to monitor and review ongoing UNDP country and regional projects and to co-ordinate third-party cost sharing and other multi-bilateral arrangements with bilateral donors. In addition, assistance was provided to the inter-agency mission led by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator of the Special Economic Assistance Programme which visited Vanuatu in June 1984 and prepared the report on Vanuatu's urgent development needs (A/39/388)..

45. UNDP spent an estimated \$207,000 in country IPF funds for Vanuatu in 1984 for six projects and expended an additional \$224,000 for five non-IPF-funded projects. This assistance continued to be supplemented by the Government of Vanuatu's participation in the UNDP-supported Pacific Island Intercountry Programme, which provided support towards meeting the priority needs referred to above as well as assistance in such other priority areas as rootcrop cultivation, energy development and manpower planning. Interregional advisors of the United Nations were also utilized in a co-ordinated manner. Assistance to Vanuatu in 1984 was facilitated by the move of the United Nations Development Advisory Team (UNDAT) from Fiji to Vanuatu where it was combined with the Pacific Office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to form the new ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC) now headquartered at Vila, the capital of Vanuatu.

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