



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

Distr.  
GENERAL

DP/1985/43/Add.1  
12 April 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL  
Thirty-second session  
June 1985, New York  
Agenda item 7

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In response to Governing Council decision 79/22, this addendum to document DP/1985/43 provides information on the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

This report describes the main trends and activities undertaken by the Department in the fields of development issues and policies, natural resources and energy, development administration and finance, statistics, rural development, ocean economics and technology and humanitarian affairs.

It also describes the work of the Department in relation to evaluation and includes descriptions of a number of projects completed in 1984, technical assistance recruitment and project personnel administration activities. Also described are the activities carried out by the Department for the World Food Programme and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on technical co-operation activities is submitted in response to Governing Council decision 79/22. It provides detailed information on the main trends and work carried out by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) and includes, as in past years, a description of the scope and accomplishment of the projects executed during 1984 in DTCD's main substantive areas: development issues and policies, natural resources and energy, development administration and finance, statistics, population, ocean economics and technology, and social development and humanitarian affairs. Also forming part of the report is an overview of the work of the Department carried out in conjunction with the World Food Programme (WFP) and Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

### I. SUBSTANTIVE AREAS

#### A. Development issues and policies

2. In 1984, the Department executed 210 field projects in 84 countries in economic and social development, including those in integrated rural development; the 1984 budgets for these projects totalled \$32 million. In addition, Headquarters staff undertook 165 weeks of project-related and direct advisory missions in this substantive area in 1984.

3. In the field of integrated rural development, important activities included the following: multidisciplinary grass-roots development projects in the Central African Republic and in Liberia; a community development project aimed at the Bedouin population in Democratic Yemen; and assistance to a centre for applied research and training in community development in Saudi Arabia, which also provides services to neighbouring countries. In a related field, the Department executed a project in Swaziland aimed at integrating women into the development process. The experiences gained from this project are expected to be applicable in similar projects in other countries.

4. The Department continues to emphasize its assistance to least developed countries, including preparation for and participation in international donors' round-tables for the Gambia and Malawi, and follow-up activities to such round-tables for Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. The Department continued to organize its series of interregional workshops on key aspects of development planning of particular concern to least developed countries. In 1984 a workshop of this nature was held in the Congo, with the participation of least developed countries from Africa and the Caribbean, concerning investment project analysis, recurrent costs and budgeting. Also of importance to least developed countries has been the Department's assistance to Lesotho and Malawi in establishing project evaluation and implementation management systems. It is expected that this experience will be useful in future follow-up work on donors' round-tables and to least developed countries in general. An interregional project, which was initiated to develop investment project banks as an operational approach to public

investment management, also aimed in particular at the needs of least developed countries. The Department has already assisted in developing project banks in Chile, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Panama.

5. In other areas, the Department assisted the Gulf Co-operation Council Secretariat, comprised of six member States, in industrial sector planning, including the identification of industrial investment projects for joint execution. In Bolivia, the Department completed the installation of a system of computerized models for short- and medium-term planning, which have already been instrumental in dealing with critical economic situations. The Department continued its assistance to the development of the cultural centre at Lumbini in Nepal, with contributions from other countries in the region, including provision of infrastructure and facilities for tourism. The results of a terminating regional planning project in Panama are now being used to consolidate regional planning institutions, methodology and training. It is expected that this experience will also be applicable in other countries.

6. The Department strengthened its relationship with WFP to the extent that the Department is now being included in the WFP country reviews in addition to continuing involvement with WFP activities at later stages of the WFP programme-project cycle.

## B. Natural resources and energy

### 1. Minerals

7. Technical co-operation activities in the minerals field in 1984 covered mineral exploration, institution-building and strengthening, rehabilitation of mines, mine development, formal and on-the-job training, mineral sector planning, mining legislation and contract negotiation, supply of equipment, and application of computer techniques in mineral exploration and development. Increasing importance was assigned to activities which are expected to strengthen the capabilities of the developing countries in exploration for, and development of, their natural resources, with special emphasis on creating opportunities for the transfer of technology.

8. A total of 55 projects were operational in 1984 funded from the United Nations Regular Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and Trust Funds with total expenditures of almost \$14 million; about 10 projects were in the final stages of becoming operational. Some 75 advisory missions were undertaken in this field.

9. The major change from 1983 has been an increase in the number of projects concerned with strengthening of national institutions - geological surveys, bureaux of mines, ministry departments, State mining companies - and training, in several cases in conjunction with other activities, such as exploration for non-metallic and metallic minerals. More than 40 per cent of all projects were concerned with these activities in 1984. Examples are operational assistance to the Ghana State Gold Mining Corporation (SGMC) together with assistance in the rehabilitation of

SGMC's mines; a major training programme for geologists and mining engineers from Namibia; mineral exploration, evaluation and development planning in the United Republic of Tanzania; technical and economic evaluation of a base metal deposit in Colombia; supervision of the evaluation of gold mineralization in Suriname; and three projects in co-operation with the Indian Bureau of Mines.

10. Exploration for metals and minerals continued in many countries. In Jamaica, the country's non-metallic minerals are being investigated in co-operation with the Geological Survey for local consumption and, possibly, export to other Caribbean countries. A major project in the United Republic of Tanzania continues exploration in many parts of the country, together with provision of advice on mineral sector planning and investment strategies. Exploration for precious and other minerals and metals also continues in Burundi, with training in the application of computer techniques in mineral exploration and development being a major activity. In Paraguay, the Department is co-operating with the Government in the preparation of geological, hydrogeological and metallogenic maps of the country. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a volcano monitoring system has been installed and local personnel are being trained in its operation.

11. Several projects continue exploration for precious metals, especially gold, as these are among the relatively few mineral commodities which have suffered less severely from low prices and slow growth rates in consumption. In addition to exploration for these metals, the United Nations is co-operating with several countries in the rehabilitation of existing gold mines.

12. A similar wide range of activities also characterizes the advisory services made available to developing countries under the Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation. Some 20 missions were undertaken in the fields of mining legislation, contract negotiations and mineral sector planning. Other advisory missions were concerned with electronic data processing in mineral exploration and development, mining engineering, geochemistry and geophysics and other areas of expertise within the mandate of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

13. In November, the United Nations convened a Group of Experts on Electronic Data Processing in Mineral Exploration and Development in Brazil, combined with an Interregional Seminar on the same subject. More than 50 participants from developing countries and experts and lecturers from other countries attended both meetings, together with some 30 Brazilian participants.

## 2. Energy

14. Technical co-operation provided by DTCD in the field of energy was concentrated in three main areas: conventional energy, electric power and new and renewable sources. During 1984, a total of 88 energy projects were under execution.

15. In the field of conventional energy, which includes energy planning and economics, there were 24 projects relating to petroleum and coal with another 15 in planning and economics. Among the latter, two projects were regional in scope; one was executed in co-operation with the Latin American Energy Organization, an intergovernmental body with 25 member States.

16. Technical co-operation projects, especially new projects added to the technical co-operation programme in 1984, are characterized by the fact that they are aimed at introducing and transferring new and high technology to the developing countries. A project in China provided advanced equipment and expertise for a geophysical survey in southern China using reflection seismic techniques, to be followed by geological interpretation to detect potential sub-surface traps. In India, DTCD supplied the most modern three dimensional seismic technology together with telemetric equipment, as well as training in its operation and maintenance. In Romania, DTCD assisted the Government in establishing a computer-based system for coal operation management; in Yugoslavia, DTCD contributed its assistance to the Government's effort to exploit oil shale. The Department itself is developing microcomputer-based software for application in energy planning aimed at the developing countries where DTCD has technical co-operation projects and to those countries which may wish to request this software.

17. Interregional advisory missions in petroleum legislation, formulation of legal codes for exploration and production of oil, and model agreements applicable to the petroleum industry were provided to 12 developing countries; 6 were assisted in matters relating to coal resource development and 1 in energy planning.

18. Development of new and renewable sources of energy was also the focus of technical co-operation projects during 1984 with a view to assisting developing countries in reducing dependence on energy imports. Over the year geothermal energy projects were carried out in the following countries: China, Djibouti, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, the Philippines, Romania, Thailand and Yugoslavia. A geothermal project in Bolivia was also approved to begin in 1985. Projects in solar energy, wind energy, bioenergy, energy conservation and rural energy supplies (through rural energy centres) were implemented in: Argentina, Cape Verde, China, Egypt, India, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Seychelles and Yugoslavia.

19. The Department is executing a survey programme for the development of small hydropower resources, which will eventually encompass 48 developing countries with particular emphasis on the least developed countries. This programme is funded from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation with contributions from the Governments of Japan, Norway and Sweden. Thirty-three countries were surveyed by the end of 1984 and an additional 15 countries have been identified for coverage in 1985. This will be followed by a second phase, under which feasibility and design studies in 12 selected countries will be implemented.

20. The Department also provided advisory services in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to Argentina, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, St. Lucia, Mongolia, Romania, Haiti, Yugoslavia, Nigeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran which resulted in recommendations on problems and projects for the consideration of Governments. During the course of the year the Department prepared and circulated to UNDP offices, analytic reports on "Cost trends for photovoltaic systems for developing countries" and "Comparative costs of solar, wind and diesel-pumping at village sites in Nigeria, Somalia and Zimbabwe".

21. The Department has also responded to the request of Pakistan for the application of high technologies for harnessing new and renewable sources of energy which are likely to enhance the country's natural resource base. Feasibility studies are being planned as a first step and a trust-fund arrangement is under discussion with the Government.

22. In electricity supply development there were 31 projects under execution in 1984. Many concentrated on introduction of computerization for utility management, the application of new technologies in thermal power plant fuel cycles and use of computerized training simulators.

23. In China, a thermal power plant operator training centre was being established based on a large simulator installation in which all the functions of a generating plant can be reproduced. Training was arranged at appropriate centres abroad and the simulator installation was being designed on the basis of the standard power plant layout to be introduced in China.

24. In India, a training simulator was being introduced to permit study of the management of high voltage interconnections between different areas and power systems in the country and to train system control personnel in the operation and management of the high voltage network.

25. In Egypt, a data base for medium- and long-term planning of the electricity supply network was being developed and strengthened through the provision of a computerized centre.

26. In the United Arab Emirates, the introduction of computerized techniques was being studied for the management and operation of both the national and regional electricity supply systems.

27. To assist developing countries in assessing problems arising with the greater use of solid fuels for power generation, two interregional studies were under way, one examining the energy sources available for electricity supply and the other on the handling, disposal and utilization of ash resulting from power generation with solid fuels.

27. DTCD has also provided technical assistance in the establishment of research and test facilities in developing countries. Such projects include those in Bhutan and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the creation of national centres for the development and testing of power plant components, using the most modern techniques appropriate to the countries in question.

### 3. Water resources

28. During 1984 there were approximately 90 water resources projects in 50 countries with implementation in excess of \$18 million. Approximately 20 new projects were initiated during the year with budgets totalling \$8.3 million. Half of these were directed towards alleviating the arid conditions in Africa, and four were in direct response to the recent drought - in Burkina Faso, the Central

African Republic, the Comoros and Somalia. In Burkina Faso operations funded by the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund (UNEOTF) in the amount of \$80,000, were geared to organizing, equipping and putting into service well deepening teams in order to replenish recently dug wells which had dried as a result of the general drop in water pressure. In the Central African Republic activities were aimed at constructing 22 new wells and deepening 23 existing wells. The UNDP input was approximately \$250,000. In the Comoros UNEOTF provided \$300,000 to strengthen drilling operations on Grand Comoros Island where frequent droughts had created a serious problem in the distribution of water to various regions. In Somalia emergency water relief efforts consisted of installing new pumping equipment at 15 deep wells which had not been delivering water, repairing another 35 deep wells and training 50 well operators in preventive maintenance.

29. Other projects initiated during the year were in Mauritania, where a major effort is under way to repair and maintain wells with a \$1 million contribution by UNDP. In the Niger the second phase of a project to develop ground water in rural areas is progressing with a UNDP contribution of \$1.5 million and a UNICEF contribution of \$1.7 million. In Chad preparatory assistance was completed preparing the way for a full scale project for rural water supply.

30. A project is under way in China to provide assistance in the assessment and monitoring of ground-water resources in one of the major grain-producing plains areas of northern China through the provision of consultant services, scientific equipment and specialized training programmes (fellowships, study tours).

31. In Viet Nam, assistance is being provided for the exploration of ground-water resources in the priority zones of Long An Tien Giang provinces in order to prepare hydrogeological maps and to organize exploration teams. The project provides drilling equipment, laboratory apparatus and expert and consultant services.

32. In collaboration with the Argentinian National Institute of Water, Science and Technology (INCYTH), the Department is providing assistance to Argentina in ground-water exploration, flood-forecasting, river basin planning, laboratory research and information systems (including water resources distribution and inventory). These aspects will be achieved through the transfer of technology (consultant missions) and fellowships for INCYTH staff and the purchase of equipment to modernize the existing facilities at five main centres.

33. Of the more than 60 technical and interregional advisory missions undertaken, one third was concentrated in Africa to review ongoing projects and advise on particular problems relating to water resources. For example, in Madagascar discussions were held relating to strengthening the Division of Hydrogeology, the identification of a programme to repair wells in the north, and improvement of rural water supply. In the Comoros the results of a project for ground-water exploration and development were assessed, and discussions were held regarding the future orientation and work programme of the project. In Equatorial Guinea advice was provided on methods of improving rural water supply. In the United Republic of Tanzania discussions were held regarding the organizational structure needed to improve control and efficiency of the drilling rigs throughout the country, as well as on-the-job training for drillers and rig mechanics.

34. In Turks and Caicos assistance was provided in the drafting of water legislation. An advisory mission to South Pacific islands included the review of ongoing and planned activities in water resources development specially related to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

35. Interregional advisory services relating to water problems were provided to 25 countries.

#### 4. Public works, cartography and remote sensing

36. During 1984, activities in the field of public works focused on the execution of projects financed by UNDP as well as by national, bilateral and international sources. They also included ad hoc contributions such as participation in WFP appraisal and evaluation missions, scrutiny of public works components in WFP projects and short-term advisory missions to 20 countries.

37. Ongoing projects involved work in 16 countries in such areas as pre-investment and engineering feasibility studies, institution-building, training of nationals, director support, provision of related equipment and subcontracts. Three regional projects, involving railways, river navigation and integrated transport development are under way in Africa. Interregional advisory services were provided on various public works services and municipal engineering activities.

38. Although some of the activities in 1984 were oriented towards the development of new physical infrastructure there was a continuing trend in promoting initiation, evaluation, rehabilitation, upgrading, maintenance, and restoration of existing works, involving training, transfer of technology and equipment.

39. In 1984 cartography (surveying and mapping, including hydrography) continued to receive a high priority in many developing countries. It plays an important role in planning and development of the infrastructure, the economy and the agriculture. Technical co-operation projects in cartography include institution-building, transfer of technical expertise to national cartographic and hydrographic institutions and provision of training and equipment. In 1984, 20 projects were executed in this field.

40. Technical co-operation projects covering geodetic surveying, mapping, hydrography, photogrammetry and map production were active in Bhutan, Burundi, the Cayman Islands, Ethiopia, Fiji, Jamaica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam.

41. Advisory and preparatory assistance missions for the identification of potential future technical co-operation projects or the extension of ongoing activities were made to Honduras, Iraq, Madagascar, Nepal, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

42. A total of 22 fellowships and 12 grants for study tours were awarded for studies in surveying, cartography, photogrammetry and hydrography to candidates from Burundi, Bhutan, the Cayman Islands, Ethiopia, Nepal, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam.

43. In 1984 technical co-operation activities in remote sensing included projects to establish a remote sensing centre in Ethiopia, the regional remote sensing centre in Argentina and the application of remote sensing technologies in natural resources in Ethiopia and Kenya, Zaire, as well as joint projects between Egypt and the Sudan and Democratic Yemen and Yemen. Assistance was also provided to Poland. These projects focused on providing fellowships, technical assistance and interpretation equipment with the long-term objective of enabling developing countries to use up-to-date methods in locating and developing natural and human resources.

44. Technical assistance missions were also fielded to the following countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Federal Republic of Germany, China, Yemen, Romania, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba, Qatar and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

45. An Expert Meeting on the Use of Satellite Imaging Radar and Thematic Mapping Data in Natural Resources Development was organized in co-operation with the German Foundation for International Development during November-December 1984. Thirty-six experts participated in the meeting which had the objective of disseminating information on the latest space technology to developing countries and planning for the future use of remote sensing by developing countries.

#### C. Public administration and finance

46. The programme of technical co-operation in public administration and finance encompasses a wide range of differing but interrelated activities in the fields of institution-building by way of reform of existing administrative structures and the creation of new ones, training and personnel management, and improvements in the planning and implementation of strategies for greater efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the public sector. The programme also involves co-operation in the improved mobilization of resources, strengthening of financial management systems geared to the achievement of more effective public control and accountability in the allocation and use of resources and improvement in the organization and management of public enterprises.

47. As in the past year, various factors limited the availability of resources for development in developing countries in 1984. The shrinkage in resources underscored the need for greater economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the organization and management of public sector in developing countries. In revamping their public administration and finance systems, Governments showed their preference for the improvement of performance and productivity of existing institutions, personnel, policies and mechanisms over creation of new institutions and further expansion of the system. Developing countries also showed interest in strengthening public financial management systems, performance improvement of public enterprises, better training of scientific and technical personnel and development of management information systems for improved development planning and implementation.

48. In responding to these needs, during 1984 DTCD continued to strengthen the capacity of public administration and financial systems for development through substantive backstopping of technical co-operation projects, preparation of

technical publications and guidelines in support of operational activities, organization of interregional workshops and seminars, administration of fellowships and short-term advisory services.

49. During the year, the Department backstopped over 134 technical co-operation projects in 63 developing countries mostly in the areas of administrative reform, training and personnel administration, financial and public enterprise management, resource mobilization and management information systems. Of these 62 were in Africa, 41 in Asia and the Pacific, 17 in the Americas and 14 in Europe and the Middle East. Nineteen projects were completed this year while 20 projects began operations mostly in the area of public enterprises, administrative reform, training in management, audit and computers.

50. As in past years, administrative reform and improvement accounted for approximately one third of all projects, a result of the continuing need for rationalization and consolidation of existing agencies and institutions to achieve developmental goals. Some of these projects are concerned with strengthening organization and management and others are aimed at eliminating obsolete administrative entities and practices and introducing new ones. A major new project in this area has recently been launched, in collaboration with the World Bank, in Mali.

51. The need for improved information processing systems for effective decision-making resulted in activities at different levels of Government in various parts of the world. This has included ongoing projects in a number of countries in the Persian Gulf area and in North Africa. With new requests received from Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka, it is anticipated that the demand for increased technical assistance in the area of information systems will continue to grow.

52. As in the past year, personnel training and management continued to demand significant attention owing to the extreme shortage of skilled manpower in many developing countries, especially in Africa. While most of these projects were directed at strengthening existing national institutions and facilities for training of nationals as in Burundi, some efforts were also made in developing new training institutions, as in Liberia.

53. With regard to financial management, modernization and strengthening of audit and accounting systems and their orientation towards performance improvement continued to occupy the attention of many Governments. Several, including Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malawi and Peru, took measures to ensure more effective and efficient utilization of resources and to upgrade the level of public accountability. Others like Ecuador, Uganda and Bhutan have taken steps to upgrade staff skills and to rationalize the operation of their financial institutions.

54. In the field of public enterprises, Governments were increasingly concerned with performance improvement. While some projects focused on re-examination and rationalization of approach and policy for public enterprises, including their selective privatization as in Kenya, most other projects dealt with designing and instituting better performance monitoring systems, as in Bangladesh, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

55. Confronted with declining aid flows and increasing budget deficits, many Governments undertook measures to reform policies and improve implementation in order to intensify resource mobilization. These measures, as currently carried out in Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau and Nepal, included specialized training of tax and customs officials, improvement of local training institutions, selective changes in tax policies and procedures and better recording, analysis, and intelligence facilities for tax collection purposes.

56. Owing to the enormous needs of developing countries in the area of trained manpower, a sizeable proportion of DTCD's technical co-operation activities has been directed towards training and upgrading the skills of officials in the public services of developing countries. In 1984 fellowship awards organized by the Development Administration Division totalled 274. These were awarded to 140 officials in Africa, 95 in Asia and the Pacific, 37 in Latin America and 2 in Europe and the Middle East.

57. In addition to national projects, the Department backstopped 12 regional and 1 interregional projects. In the Arab region, DTCD continued to support the Arab Organization for Administrative Sciences in assisting various Governments of the region in improving their public administration systems. In Africa, the Department maintained its collaboration with the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD) as a means of enhancing technical co-operation among the countries of the continent. Similarly, it continued to co-operate with the Centro Latinoamericano de la Administración para el Desarrollo (CLAD) and the Instituto Centroamericano de la Administración Pública (ICAP), the two principal regional public administration institutions in Latin America. DTCD maintained its collaboration with the International Centre for Public Enterprises in Yugoslavia in 1984.

58. In 1984, the Department carried out 21 advisory missions in 20 developing countries at the request of Governments. These missions focused on specific problems and their solutions in such areas as administrative reorganization, information management and use of computers, training and personnel administration, tax policy and administration, government accounting, auditing and budgetary practices, and management, training, monitoring and control of public enterprises.

59. As part of its operational activities and to promote an exchange of views and experiences between developed and developing countries, the Department organized an interregional seminar on government auditing held at Vienna in collaboration with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions. In addition to this, preparations are being made for organizing during the 1984-1985 biennium four other interregional seminars and training workshops in the areas of modern management techniques, management training of senior officials at intersectoral levels, government budgeting and role of public sector in developing countries.

60. During 1984, DTCD organized the Seventh Meeting of Experts in the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance, which was held at Geneva. The meeting was preceded by a two-day informal inter-agency consultation for representatives of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations. The meeting was attended by 20 experts from different

regions of the world and representatives of specialized agencies, regional commissions and United Nations bodies, interregional and regional institutions and non-governmental and other organizations. They reviewed current challenges and priorities in development administration, examined United Nations operational activities in the context of these challenges and made specific recommendations including an action programme in public administration for sub-Saharan Africa. The report of this meeting has been sent to all member Governments and will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1985.

61. The Department has continued its efforts to co-operate with the World Bank and other international financial institutions in assisting Governments in the improvement of their public administration and finance systems. During the year, several joint missions utilizing the combined experience of DTCD and other agencies were carried out in the area of public enterprise performance, government accounting and auditing and administrative reform.

#### D. Statistics

62. Statistics continued to play a major role in the development of the developing countries, through country projects as well as projects at the subregional and regional levels. Technical co-operation was provided in a number of statistical activities such as statistical organization national accounts, demographic and social statistics, including population censuses, surveys, and civil registration, industrial and trade statistics, and statistical data processing. During 1984, 151 country projects were under execution. Of these 57 were in Africa, 42 in Asia and the Pacific, 30 in the Middle East and Western Asia and 22 in Latin America. Substantive support for DTCD activities in the field of data processing was provided by the United Nations Statistical Office.

63. The Department also continued to place emphasis on training. The on-the-job training project to train junior statisticians and programmers of one developing country in another developing country suitably chosen was extended in 1984 for two more years. This project promotes mutual understanding, assistance, and co-operation among the developing countries. The courses, with two sessions each per year continued to be organized in the USSR to train statisticians of developing countries in the areas of economic statistics and the collection and processing of statistical data.

64. The National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), implemented by DTCD, represents a major technical co-operation effort of the system, bringing together national donors and international agencies to assist countries in producing a wide range of socio-economic and demographic statistics. NHSCP made substantial progress during 1984 with widespread participation of developing countries. At the end of 1984, 22 countries were carrying out household survey programmes within the framework of NHSCP and meeting roughly three quarters of the project costs out of their own resources. Many countries made significant efforts to develop their data collection and processing activities on a systematic basis and to develop the necessary infrastructure and skills. NHSCP gave continued attention to training of national survey personnel and improving technical

standards. Twenty multilateral and bilateral donors provided support to the participating countries with cumulative assistance amounting to approximately \$16 million. Of this, somewhat less than one half was channelled through the United Nations system.

65. Progress continued in the transfer of data processing technology both in statistical applications and in a more general environment. Several projects recently initiated focused upon the role of combining the statistical data base with appropriate communications and analytic tools to support significant improvements in the national planning process. Concurrently, there has been an upsurge in activity using data processing technology in population census activities, most notably in Latin America. Interest continues to grow in the use of lower-cost microcomputer-based systems, which have penetrated many country markets.

66. The project sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) providing software and support for population data processing delivered software to a number of countries, conducted a workshop for French-speaking countries in Africa, participated in a workshop-seminar on population census for African countries and provided software demonstration and training on site and at headquarters for participants from various countries in other regions. Also under the project preparation of software for demographic analysis and population projections has begun and this is expected to be delivered in 1985.

#### E. Population

67. During 1984 in the field of population, the Department continued to co-operate with developing countries in the establishment and strengthening of national institutions in the areas of basic data collection and processing; the analysis of basic population and demographic data; training in demography and population; and population policy planning and development.

68. DTCD executed 100 UNFPA-supported demographic projects in 1984, of which approximately 33 per cent were in demographic training, 47 per cent in analysis of census and survey data (some in collaboration with the Statistical Office) and 20 per cent in population policy and development. Most were individual country projects, covering about 65 developing countries. About 70 demographic experts, in addition to a number of short-term consultants, assisted in the implementation of these projects.

69. Technical co-operation in the field of demographic training was provided to individual developing countries through support of national demographic training institutions and departments of demography, and fellowships for population study abroad together with the three United Nations interregional demographic training centres and programmes (the Cairo Demographic Centre, the demographic training programme at Moscow State University and the United Nations-Romania Demographic Centre (CEDOR) in Bucharest (which ceased operations in June 1984)). Approximately 92 fellows from developing countries in all regions were trained at the three interregional demographic centres. In addition, 49 new awards and 12 extensions

of earlier awards were approved for fellows from 24 developing countries, to study at other than the United Nations centres. A report entitled "Teaching in population and development: aspects of technical co-operation" was completed and submitted for publication; and an in-depth analysis of trends in United Nations-sponsored population training over three decades was initiated.

70. UNFPA-funded DTCD-executed projects in the field of demographic analysis dealt particularly with the evaluation and analysis of data collected by developing countries as part of the 1970-1980 round of censuses. Through the analysis of population data (including estimates of measures of fertility, mortality, migration, and urbanization) and projections of national, subnational and sectoral population levels, Governments are becoming increasingly aware of the demographic processes taking place in the countries, as well as prospects for the future. Renewed efforts are being made for the dissemination and utilization of the results of such analysis and projections through meetings, on the one hand, of policy makers and administrators, and, on the other hand, middle-level workers. The Department has also initiated activities for making computer software programmes and packages available to developing countries in a usable form, in connection with the demographic evaluation and analysis of data, including preparation of population projections.

71. In the field of population policy and development, most Governments are now well aware of the important role of population in social and economic development planning and of the need for defining adequate population policies and implementing them as an integral part of their development strategy. UNFPA support has enabled DTCD to provide technical co-operation in the establishment and strengthening of population units or centres for studies of the interaction between demographic factors and social and economic variables, formulation of population policies and integration of demographic factors in planning.

72. In addition, DTCD participated in a number of UNFPA-sponsored missions on population needs assessment, project formulation and tripartite reviews as well as technical evaluation of ongoing projects.

73. DTCD participated in the 1984 International Conference on Population and is implementing the recommendations adopted at the Conference, particularly in the field of technical co-operation.

#### F. Ocean economics and technology

74. Substantive support in the implementation of technical co-operation activities in this field is provided to DTCD by the Ocean Economics and Technology Branch of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. During 1984 primary undertaking in this regard consisted of continuing support for the Marine Affairs Institute of Trinidad and Tobago. This support took the form of provision of the services of consultants to the Institute, which is concerned with coastal management, scientific research, legal aspects of marine affairs and environmental protection.

G. Social development and humanitarian affairs

75. During 1984 DTCD continued to execute projects in fields related to the social aspects of development including assistance to the disabled, concerns related to youth, crime prevention, criminal justice and women's activities. As in previous years, the Department relied on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs to provide substantive support for programmes that fall within the terms of reference of the Centre.

76. Activities relating to youth received priority attention during 1984 with the approach of International Youth Year (IYY). Interregional advisory services on youth were provided to the following countries during the year: Haiti, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Qatar, St. Lucia, Senegal, Swaziland and Turkey. This included technical co-operation advice and assistance in the promotion of TCDC.

77. The Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level for IYY explored ways and means of promoting technical co-operation activities in this field, and on the basis of an inter-agency appeal, the Administration issued a directive requesting resident co-ordinators/representatives to assist in preparation for IYY, including assistance to related technical co-operation projects. The IYY Trust Fund, established to finance programmes and projects benefiting young people, and especially those in developing countries, has received contributions from seven countries and from a coin programme under the sponsorship of CSDHA. It is anticipated that additional technical co-operation projects will be supported by the IYY Trust Fund during 1985.

78. In the area of activities related to the disabled, missions were undertaken to assist in formulating national programmes concerning the disabled and to help identify projects of an innovation and catalytic nature to be implemented with the overall framework of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

79. With regard to crime prevention and criminal justice, advisory services were provided to 13 countries in such areas as juvenile offenders, corrections, the judiciary, economic crimes, crime prevention, computerization of the judicial system, penitentiary systems and police departments. Interregional advisory services were also provided to the United Nations Social Defence Research Institute, the regional commissions - ECLAC in particular - and the Organization of American States.

## II. PROJECTS OPERATIONALLY COMPLETED IN 1984

### A. Introduction

80. During 1984 an effort was made to analyse the lessons that could be drawn from a review of a number of UNDP-financed projects evaluated during the year. The results of the review were circulated within the Department to provide assistance in this aspect of project management.

81. While it was found that the predominant number of the Department's projects were successful, a number of areas were identified in which the DTCD management process could be improved. One was project document formulation, where it was found that greater attention could be paid to clarity in statements on project, outputs and activities. The review also noted that UNDP guidelines for evaluation needed to be followed more closely. Other recommendations drawn from the review include a need for more uniformity in Headquarters backstopping of projects, a better understanding of the responsibilities of national project co-ordinators and a suggestion that the post-fellowship questionnaire utilized by DTCD might need to be reviewed. The review also pointed to frequent difficulties with the provision, training and retention of qualified counterparts in institution-building projects.

82. Taking these lessons into account, preparations were made during 1984 to organize internal workshops in project design and evaluation, and their interrelation, with reference to technical co-operation projects. It was anticipated that these workshops would begin in 1985.

83. A full listing of projects operationally completed in 1984 appears in table 20 of addendum 3 to this report. As it is impractical to include a critical review of all projects, a representative sample is given below.

### B. Description of projects

#### COL/76/030 (Base metals)

84. The United Nations and the Government of Colombia, through its Geological Survey, successfully completed the economic and technical evaluation of a major mineral deposit in the southern part of the country near the village of Mocoa, containing primarily molybdenum and copper mineralization. Project activities included not only diamond core drilling, metallurgical testing, preliminary investigation of infrastructure requirements and cash flow estimates, but also - and probably more importantly - training of Colombian nationals in mining, engineering, geology, computer applications in mineral exploration and development and related activities.

85. Field work was extremely difficult in the mountainous terrain where the main mineralization is located, and supplies and personnel had to be flown in by helicopter on several occasions. Despite these physical obstacles, reasonable progress was achieved to the point where adequate information is available for the preparation of a pre-feasibility study, which was one of the main objectives of the

project. The study, completed in late 1984, reached the following conclusions: (a) the molybdenum-copper reserves are comparable to those existing in deposits currently in production around the world; (b) the physical infrastructure in the region is minimal and represents one of the most difficult challenges for the development of an open-pit or underground mine; and (c) prices of copper and molybdenum constitute the most critical variable affecting the rate of return.

86. While prices for these two metals were at historically low levels at the end of 1984, so that the development of a mine is unlikely at present, it is hoped that in the long term prices will increase to make this project attractive for investment by either national or foreign companies. Even if this does not materialize in the near future, the project has proven that potentially promising mineralization exists. Another important result is the training of nationals who are now able to undertake such technical and economic investigation without outside assistance, aided by computer programmes installed by the United Nations.

CYP/77/009 (Energy conservation and development)

87. The purpose of this project, which was carried out from May 1979 through early 1984 was to:

(a) Establish an institutional framework for energy development and planning in the country;

(b) Initiate programmes of energy conservation by energy audits, promotional activities, proposed building codes, and so on, to improve the efficiency of energy utilization and management;

(c) Explore the possibilities for the substitution of imported petroleum by indigenous non-conventional sources such as solar, wind and biomass energy.

88. With a total UNDP contribution of \$344,427, assistance was provided through international experts (a chief technical adviser and an energy conservation expert) complemented by short-term consultants in such fields as building design standards; heat pumps; solar collector technology; wind energy; and biomass energy. Advisory missions were also carried out by an interregional energy adviser.

89. As a result of the project and upon its completion, the Government of Cyprus, through a World Bank loan of \$3.6 million to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, expanded the scope of the project and established an Applied Renewable Energy Centre to further strengthen the energy planning and energy audit capabilities and to serve as a focal point for Cyprus' renewable energy programme including data collection and pilot/demonstration projects.

HON/82/001 (National system of regional planning)

90. This project was instrumental in planning the integrated development of a major river basin (the Aguán valley) in Honduras. It provided assistance in engineering, hydrographic and socio-economic fields. The project relied heavily on national professionals and contracts.

91. The international contractor produced two multi-volume studies, one entitled "Feasibility studies of development areas within the Aguán river basin", which provided alternatives for selecting and developing such areas; and the other on "Master integrated hydraulic development plan for the Aguán hydrographic basin", which included detailed analysis and engineering and hydrographic studies covering irrigation, socio-economic plans and other areas, to permit the full development of the basin.

IND/73/009 (Applied earth sciences at the Central Water and Power Research Station); IND/73/043 (Coastal engineering at the Central Water and Power Research Station); IND/75/020 (Hydraulic Instrumentation Centre at the Central Water and Power Research Station)

92. These three projects were carried out with a view to strengthening the capabilities of the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) in Puna, India. One helped improve expertise in applied research in soil dynamics, geophysical surveys and seismological studies through the provision of sophisticated equipment and training of fellows abroad. As a result of the project CWPRS now has the capability of applying new techniques in the analysis of data collection for seismicity studies in designing foundations for nuclear power plants and for testing these foundations.

93. As a result of the second project, CWPRS has been able to maintain its lead in the areas of coastal and offshore engineering. Advanced facilities were established, equipment was acquired and expertise developed to address coastal and ocean engineering problems. Substantial savings on various maritime projects have accrued as a direct result of the investigations carried out by the project.

94. The third project assisted in providing the latest hydraulic instrumentation and training of national staff in its use. CWPRS has thereby achieved the highest international standards in hydraulic instrumentation and is capable of meeting the needs of the country and of the ESCAP region in the field of flood-forecasting, river valley projects and coastal studies.

MLW/78/P01 (Population census analysis)

95. This was the first comprehensive analysis of population census carried out in Malawi. The analysis of the 1974 census was completed with the publication of two analytical volumes and a seminar organized by the National Statistical Office on dissemination and utilization of population data. The seminar attracted participants from various ministries who presented papers on the use of population census data for planning and research in their respective sectors.

96. Although the census analysis was conducted satisfactorily with full involvement of the counterparts, it was an extension of the population census project without a project document with clearly defined project objectives. As a result, there was a delay in starting analysis because of the late consideration of this component in the census project and the subsequent delay in the arrival of the expert.

97. The lessons learnt from the 1977 census project of Malawi, which should be considered for future censuses, particularly in processing and analysis of results include the following: (a) software programmes for data processing should be developed early to ensure speedy production of tables; (b) plans for analysis should be made part of the census project or a separate comprehensive project document prepared with clear objectives and project activities and work plan; (c) computer software packages for demographic analysis and projections should be installed well in advance of analytical computation; (d) local capability should be developed for the expeditious execution of project and the preparations for the analysis should be made before the completion of data processing; and (e) adequate time should be provided for the preparation of papers for a dissemination seminar.

RLA/79/017 (Assistance to the Central American Institute of Public Administration)

98. United Nations assistance to the Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP) reached another milestone at the end of 1984. Serving all six countries of the Central American isthmus, ICAP has achieved some success among member countries in promoting a scientific approach to the problems of public administration. Through basic and applied research, ICAP has developed a new methodology for administrative analysis which is being transferred to member countries.

99. From 1980-1984, United Nations technical co-operation concentrated largely on supporting teaching activities related to the two-year post-graduate academic programme in public administration. Launched in June 1980, in collaboration with the University of Costa Rica, this programme leads to a Master's degree in Public Administration and is geared to prepare public officials to exercise leadership roles in the national and local administration of their countries. Owing to a break in relations with the University of Costa Rica, ICAP since September 1984 has pursued independently the activities delivered under the Master's degree programme and has relied heavily on United Nations assistance in re-orienting the design and curricula based on earlier experience of the programme's implementation. Financing for this programme is provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and, although seriously jeopardized as a result of the problems encountered in its execution, it will continue during the next project phase.

100. United Nations assistance was also provided in the form of advisory services to member States and materials development in support of a database network established between ICAP and participating countries (Central American Information and Documentation System in Public Administration (SIDCAP)). The project has promoted horizontal co-operation among member countries and the development of national capabilities to utilize administrative research as a management tool.

101. New initiatives are envisaged for continued United Nations assistance to ICAP under RLA/84/005 under which the Centre is expected to reach self-sufficiency in its capacity to respond effectively to the needs of the region for improving public sector performance.

### III. SUPPORT SERVICES

#### A. Technical assistance recruitment and project personnel administration

102. Within DTCD the Technical Assistance Recruitment and Administration Service (TARAS) recruits and services the provision of advisory and executive personnel to developing countries under the aegis of the United Nations Technical Co-operation Programme. For these purposes TARAS engages in the prospection, selection and appointment of experts and consultants who will advise recipient Governments on various aspects of social and economic development.

103. In 1984 a total of 1,020 experts and consultants were appointed. This represents a significant increase over the number of experts and consultants in previous years. In 1983 and 1982 there were, respectively, 818 and 869 experts and consultants who were appointed.

104. The increase in the number of experts and consultant posts occurred without commensurate increases in the budgets for the periods concerned. This was due to the fact that there has been a trend in recent years for developing countries to request the services of more short-term experts. For example, 771 of the 1,020 appointments made during 1984 were of a short-term duration. This constituted 75.6 per cent or 3 out of 4 of the total recruitments in that year.

105. The recruitment lead time by necessity had to be reduced. In 1984, 46 per cent of experts and consultants were appointed within one month of the date of receipt of recruitment requests and, overall, 77 per cent were appointed within four months of such requests. This was a considerable reduction from the lead time in the two previous years and was made possible by the collaboration of the substantive divisions, the help extended by various UNDP resident representatives and modifications made on TARAS procedures as well as those of other associated offices in the Secretariat. Timely action by the Governments concerned likewise was crucial in facilitating recruitment action.

106. As in previous years, DTCD availed itself of the services of former experts of high calibre and ability. In 1984, 48 per cent of the appointees belonged to this category. Many were secured through the co-operation of their employers who made their services available through reimbursable or non-reimbursable loans.

107. Developing countries provided a significant share of expertise to the technical co-operation programme. During 1984, 350 experts and consultants from developing countries were appointed, representing 34 per cent of total appointments. The percentages for the four preceding years were 34 per cent in 1981; 35 per cent in 1982; and 31 per cent in 1983.

## B. Contracts and procurement

108. In 1984 DTCD issued a total of 2,930 purchase orders in the amount of \$US 30.1 million compared to 2,330 purchase orders in the total value of \$US 30.2 million in 1983. Purchase of equipment accounted for about 80 per cent of the total value; the remaining 20 per cent was for the provision of services. In 1983, the respective rates were 75 per cent and 25 per cent. By value, about 15 per cent of all purchase orders and contracts issued in 1984 were placed in developing countries, compared to 13 per cent in 1983.

109. Further improvements in the application of the on-line computerized tracking system, which allows monitoring of shipments from vendors' premises to final destination, as well as comparison of scheduled versus actual ex-factory delivery and shipping dates, has resulted in substantial improvements in prompt deliveries to the benefit of the field projects. Additionally, wider and more systematic use at substantive, operational and programme support levels of the reports generated by the Automated Purchasing and Payment System (APPS) has reduced lead times and improved overall and timely processing of procurement requests.

## C. Training

110. During 1984, DTCD implemented a total of 3,820 fellowships, of which more than 2,000 were in developing countries. Resources of developing countries continued to be explored and used to the greatest extent possible in these training efforts in furtherance of TCDC. The use of group training, which is effective as a means of speeding placement and reducing individual costs, continues to be encouraged by a number of recipient countries with large training components, as well as by training authorities in several of the major host countries.

111. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and the United Nations Fund for Namibia continued in 1984 to emphasize training for professional and technical degrees in fields related to the development of southern Africa. Contributions to the former enabled the Programme to grant 410 new awards in addition to extending 486 awards. The total of 896 students being administered under the Programme consists of 777 South Africans, 49 Namibians and 70 Zimbabweans. Following the independence of Zimbabwe, new awards are granted only to South Africans and Namibians. Scholarships for Zimbabweans previously awarded by the Programme are being continued until completion of courses for which they were granted. Of the 410 new awards under the Programme, 378 were granted to South Africans and 32 to Namibians. The Programme continued to emphasize training in African and Asian institutions at the first degree level while also granting some awards in Europe and North America at the post-graduate level in specialized fields of study. DTCD also administered 53 awards financed under the Fund for Namibia. Both programmes continued to give high priority to women candidates. Awards under these programmes are administered by DTCD without the imposition of overhead charges.

112. In an effort to provide guidance for the identification of training facilities, the Department annually publishes the "Directory of Training Courses and Programmes for Europe and Neighbouring Areas". The 1984 edition includes information on more than 500 courses in all fields of DTCD competence. Special emphasis is given to training facilities for technical co-operation among developing countries. The Technical Assistance Recruitment and Fellowships Office (TARFO), Geneva, continued to serve as the focal point for inter-agency consultations.

#### D. Financial management

113. In 1984, the DTCD project management system, which incorporates expenditure data from the United Nations accounts system with budgetary and statistical project data, was enhanced with the introduction of the computerized production of project budget documents. This sub-system, which had been in testing in the final months of 1983, was upgraded and fully instituted in time for the preparation of the mandatory budget revision exercise. Additional improvements consisted of the computerization of the matrix for the calculation of experts' and consultants' costs and the facility for direct entry of the cost-sharing contribution in the budget documents. The former already has contributed significantly to consistency in calculating project budgets for the personnel component, and additional improvements are expected once the matrix for fellowship costs is developed and added to the system for automatic calculations of the required budgets.

114. The installation of three additional computer terminals and printers also resulted in more timely issuances and cost-effectiveness in producing budget documents. New programmes were developed for retrieval of data by substantive sectors and exception reports were made available to all levels of management for monitoring project and programme implementation.

115. Increased attention has been given towards improving the accuracy in forecasting and monitoring programme delivery. To this end, considerable effort has also been directed towards analyses of historical data for the development of current and future trends.

#### E. Reports

116. In 1984 DTCD processed 63 reports, the highest number undertaken since 1978, and a level of output made possible through the use of outside contractors. The 63 reports included 35 agency terminal reports, 12 technical reports and 16 seminar and mission reports. Depending on the recipient country, these were issued in English, French or Spanish, with English accounting for 52, or 82 per cent. Of the 35 agency terminal reports and 12 technical reports, 18 went to Africa, 24 to Asia and the Pacific, 2 to Latin America and 3 to Europe and Western Asia. Twelve contractors' reports were distributed.

117. The DTCD reference collection accessioned 309 documents, 56 of which were published. It entertained 49 requests from Governments, universities and corporations and sent some 300 documents to the Informations Systems Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs for inclusion in its computerized data base. Approximately 140 derestriction requests were received for reports listed in the Unit's bimonthly Development Information Abstracts.

#### IV. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

118. The critical economic situation in Africa and other parts of the developing world has given justification to the priority attention accorded by both WFP and DTCD to low-income food-deficit and most seriously affected countries.

119. A high-level meeting between the Under-Secretary-General, DTCD, and the Executive Director of WFP and their senior staff was held to strengthen the collaboration that exists between the Programme and the Department and to establish the framework for DTCD's involvement in the implementation of WFP's new project cycle.

120. Although the current critical food situation facing Africa has produced a shift in resource allocation toward emergency operations, nevertheless development projects continued to receive the major proportion of the Programme's resources for the region.

121. In 1984, 80 project documents comprised of 31 assistance requests and 49 project summaries were submitted to the United Nations for technical scrutiny. Although this was less than the 88 which were submitted in 1983, the degree of sophistication in project design as well as the average commitment per project increased. Of this total, 17 new projects and 17 expansions of ongoing projects with a combined value of \$558 million were approved and 15 new projects and 7 expansions of ongoing projects with a combined value of \$240 million were approved by the eighteenth session of the Committee on Food Aid. In addition to the technical scrutiny of WFP projects submitted to the United Nations, the Department took part in 11 inter-agency missions carried out by WFP. In addition to missions in Bhutan, Cameroon, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Pakistan and Rwanda, a mission was also carried out in Viet Nam by a DTCD planning consultant to identify the constraints faced by this country and its needs and priorities and to examine the role food aid could play in helping the country to promote its social and economic development.

122. Most of these activities stressed the development of the rural sector, particularly food production and the development of rural infrastructure and community development. This emphasis on rural development is justified in the light of not only the current food crisis facing least developed countries, but also the priority given by both WFP and the Department to these countries in their assistance programmes.

123. The implementation of WFP's new project cycle and the Programme's growing use of the logical framework method in the design of its projects will require further quantitative and qualitative adjustments and improvements of technical inputs provided by the Department and WFP.

V. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

124. The Department also continued, during 1984, to execute projects funded by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, which carries out projects to help to involve rural and poor urban women in achieving development goals. During 1984 the Department expended \$164,997 provided by the Fund.

125. In connection with a project being carried out with the support of the Fund, the Department fielded a consultant to assess a clay deposit in Mauritius for its potential use in pottery and tile making. Training of national staff was an integral part of the consultant's assignment. A project in Oman working to involve women in national community development continued to provide workshop training in health, including mother and child care, preparation of balanced meals, sewing, needlework, home management and related subjects. Work has also progressed in different fields of activity, including environmental improvement, women in development, agricultural extension, joint efforts in the construction of village meeting and training places and establishment of local development committees.

126. A project in Swaziland that seeks to foster the role of women in development by training in the production and marketing of handicraft items was strengthened by the Fund's provision of capital for strengthening a revolving fund to provide loans for equity and working capital for the graduates of the project. The loans are used both for the purchase of raw materials, machines and tools and also for maintenance of an inventory of these items in the project's stores.

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