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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR HONDURAS

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The first stage in the programming exercise consisted of assessments for the energy and forestry sectors. The third country programme was evaluated by a government/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) task force. An in-depth assessment of technical co-operation priorities was carried out and several United Nations missions undertook needs assessments in key sectors. After the submission of the Resident Representative's note and a government review of sectoral priorities, the draft document for the fourth country programme was prepared. Throughout the programming exercise, there was close collaboration among the United Nations system agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors.

2. Through a programme support project, UNDP assisted the Government in its formulation of medium-term economic strategies for development. A relationship was established with the World Bank for collaboration on the third industrial loan and an energy sector assessment was carried out with the collaboration of the UNDP interregional programme, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Canadian Government. Key projects such as forestry, women in development, housing and irrigation were evaluated so that future activities could be planned in these areas.

3. The overall conclusions of the Government/UNDP task force were that the third country programme had achieved its objectives. Noteworthy achievements include the reduction of the deficit in rural housing and the reorientation of the Government

low-income housing policy to one of self-help. The effectiveness of training activities under the programme can also be cited as a contribution to the transfer of skills for development and productive activities. For example, 7,500 professionals, technicians and labourers were trained to construct the El Cajón hydroelectric plant; irrigation and agricultural production skills were transferred to 280 peasants; 4,050 small businesses benefited from management advice from the Industrial Development Centre with assistance from the project (HON/82/017), which generated 1,750 jobs and benefited 16,000 people indirectly; 300 peasants were trained on housing construction techniques; and 5,690 technicians were trained at the Telecommunications Corporation. Training projects will continue in the fourth country programme with greater emphasis on productive skills.

4. An overall identification of technical co-operation priorities was undertaken by CONSUPLANE in co-ordination with sectoral ministries and with the assistance of a consultant. The priorities identified, which are comprehensive, were reflected in the Resident Representative's note and correspond to the areas of concentration in the fourth country programme.

5. The Resident Representative's note was the culmination of continuous consultation and dialogue with the Government, UNDP and United Nations agencies. The Government accepted the objectives suggested by the Resident Representative for the fourth country programme. The Government also accepted the suggestion to give UNDP a supporting role in sectors such as health and education, in which other donors are heavily involved.

6. Support was given by the Resident Representative to the programming exercises of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) review, all of which took into account the results of the UNDP programming exercise.

7. The Government used the Resident Representative's note as a basic document for the review of sectoral needs during a programming session held on 15 August 1986 with the co-ordinating authority, CONSUPLANE, and sectoral ministries and institutions. This programming mechanism, used for the first time for the fourth country programme, is likely to be used for programming exercises with other donors.

8. In addition to the energy sector assessment and forestry sector evaluation, United Nations system missions included a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mission in May 1986, which identified the needs in food security and the forestry sector, and missions by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in June 1986 and the International Trade Centre (ITC) in August 1986.

9. The third country programme had an indicative planning figure (IPF) of \$8.8 million and will have delivered around \$21 million by the end of 1986. For the fourth country programme, an amount of \$4.2 million has already been committed in Government cost-sharing, in funds under the authority of the Administrator, and in bilateral and multilateral donor grants and loans. This figure will increase, as ongoing negotiations are finalized and new sources become available.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

10. The objectives of the fourth country programme coincide with those of the Government, particularly with regard to: improving the standard of living; developing the agricultural, forestry and industrial sectors; and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of public enterprises. The programme also has features which will benefit the private sector, such as human settlement co-operatives and agricultural associations. The specific objectives of the fourth country programme are: (a) satisfaction of basic needs, social justice and employment; (b) support to production and growth structures; and (c) strengthening of planning systems and the co-ordination and management of public policies. These objectives will be translated into a programme that will in all likelihood continue to match the IPF with cost-sharing and co-financing funds, as in the third country programme.

11. The fourth country programme seeks to help the Government to articulate its needs for external assistance from various resources, particularly with respect to the preparation of forestry sector projects, policies for integrating women into the development process and planning in key sectors. In addition, the country programme seeks to cover areas which other donors do not, such as the search for markets for exports outside of the Caribbean Basin Initiative and the development of co-operative systems for food security, an area which has so far been limited to assistance for silo construction.

12. Assistance to be provided under the first objective is meant to support national programmes related to human settlements, food security, and the integration of women in development. Projects to be implemented under the second objective will have as a common denominator the removal of bottle-necks in the economy and the promotion of employment, particularly in forestry development, and in small- and medium-scale industries. The third objective is aimed at strengthening the capability of the Government to formulate, implement, and evaluate projects and co-ordinate and manage public policies.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

13. A mid-term review is foreseen for 1989, to coincide with the preparation of the next development plan. This will help to ensure the continuing relevance of the programme, as well as planning the use of unprogrammed resources in the last two years of the cycle.

14. At the project level, proposals to be financed under the country programme which are beyond the Resident Representative's authority will continue to be reviewed by the Project Appraisal Committee of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and other bodies, as may be appropriate. Ongoing, large-scale projects will continue to be evaluated by external consultants.

15. Co-ordination with the United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors is built into the programme. Assistance will be provided within the framework of the technical co-operation programme by WFP, UNFPA, the United Nations

Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), FAO, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Netherlands and Italy.

16. The fourth country programme will continue to benefit from the regional programme, through projects such as Critical Poverty (RLA/77/018, Module for Central America) and Assistance to the Central American Institute of Public Administration (RLA/84/005). It will also continue to benefit from interregional projects such as the Information System on Barriers to Trade (INT/81/005), Interregional Studies on Supply and Demand (INT/81/006), and Interregional Market News Service (INT/81/017).

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

17. The Administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the fourth country programme for Honduras.
