PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1988

Addendum

COUNTRY PROJECT RESULTS BY REGION

I. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1. During the 1980s the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific maintained the highest economic growth rates of any region in the world. This was achieved with progressively more open, market-oriented economies and the aggressive application of improved science and technology leading to higher productivity in agriculture and industry. However, land degradation is becoming a widespread problem due to population pressures and inappropriate use. Urban areas have become increasingly congested and polluted with a concomitant deterioration in the quality of urban public services.

2. To maintain growth rates, Asian Governments are asking the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to give greater attention to improving the environment for private sector activities and to increasing productivity and competitiveness through improved technologies. UNDP is also addressing environmental and urban needs through programmes ranging from social forestry to urban planning and disaster preparedness activities. Many of these programmes are directed at the poorer sectors of society.

Development of regional cities

3. In Thailand, the Government has long been aware that the welfare of its citizens varies considerably from region to region. According to national surveys, the standard of living of people in the northern and southern sections of Thailand
falls far below that of Thais who reside in Bangkok and in the country's central interior. A Government study has shown that the average household income in Bangkok is more than twice that of families living in the rural north-east.

4. In an effort to achieve a more balanced distribution of growth, the Government sought UNDP assistance in promoting new approaches to urban development in five cities: Khon Kaen and Nakhon Ratchasima in the north-east, Chiang Mai in the north and Hat Yai and Songkhla in the south. UNDP helped to launch the Regional Cities Development Programme, which seeks to promote capital investment and employment opportunities in the five municipalities.

5. Since the project was launched in 1986, 12 officers in Thailand's Office for Urban Development (OUD) have been trained in urban economic, social and physical planning. Forty municipal planning officers have received training in urban planning strategies and methods and over 100 more are set to learn the same skills in workshops being led by the 12 OUD officers originally trained by UNDP. An urban management computerized data base system developed for Chiang Mai will be duplicated in the other four cities. Several construction projects designed to improve the physical infrastructure of the municipalities are also under way.

Serving the urban poor

6. Fully 80 per cent of the burgeoning urban population of Bangladesh subsists on less than 2,100 calories per day. Most of the urban poor lack adequate housing, water supply and sanitation. Over the past five years UNDP has been assisting the Government in refining its strategies for more housing and services for the needy, especially in the capital of Dhaka.

7. In co-operation with the Dhaka Municipal Corporation and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), UNDP has undertaken a project in Old Dhaka to improve existing low-income settlements, rebuild a major drainage canal and organize solid-waste management. It directly benefits 100,000 poor residents. An additional 1.5 million people in the area receive improved drainage, transport and waste disposal services.

8. Working with the Housing Settlements Directorate of the Mirpur suburb of Dhaka, UNDP is providing 350,000 people with improvements in infrastructure, housing and the environment. In addition, the project has generated investment plans for Dhaka, Mirpur and Chittagong that are now being financed by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Medical diagnostics and research

9. Until recently Pakistan lacked the technical capability to conduct diagnostic testing in the fields of immunology and tissue typing. This severely hindered basic research and treatment of tropical diseases. With assistance from UNDP and the World Health Organization (WHO), the country has established advanced immunology and tissue typing facilities at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad. The one-year programme trained an immunology team composed of three medical scientists, five technicians and two laboratory attendants.
10. As a result, Pakistan can now carry out tissue typing more quickly and at substantially reduced costs because specimens no longer have to be sent abroad. In the research area, full-scale investigation into the immunology of tropical diseases and the establishment of technology for monoclonal antibody production is under way. Several immunological reagents are being produced to facilitate their wide availability in the country, and a malaria vaccine is being developed. Additional resources provided by UNDP in a second project phase have helped to establish units in parasite immunology and radio immunoassay. Following the outbreak of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the laboratory set up an AIDS screening facility that receive further support from the UNDP/WHO Alliance to Combat AIDS.

Helping the disabled

11. Disabled children in Burma are for the first time attending school, and adults with physical or mental disabilities are producing simple consumer items. Ninety villages are already participating in this effort, supported by UNDP and WHO, to bring community-based disability prevention and rehabilitation services to rural Burmese, who comprise 75 per cent of the population. Since 1982, 255 health care workers have been trained and refresher courses for physiotherapists have been given in 38 township hospitals. Prostheses and other rehabilitation aids are being produced at the Hospital for the Disabled in Rangoon and distributed throughout the country. A WHO handbook, "Training the Disabled in the Community", has been translated into Burmese and provided to 2,000 disabled persons and their families.

Railway automation

12. The 4,500-kilometre railway system of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a central component of its increasingly industrialized and urbanized economy. As demand on rail lines increases, however, the country is faced with either costly construction of additional tracks or introducing automated signalling systems to increase efficiency. Since 1980, UNDP has been helping to develop a pilot railway automation system on one of the country's busiest sections of track. The pilot programme forms part of a larger automated network serving the most heavily used track between the capital city of Pyongyang and the port of Chongjin.

13. A remote control traffic system housed in a new centre is now in operation on a 100-km-long section of track serving 17 stations near the capital. Imported electronic equipment has been installed and Korean nationals have received computer hardware and software training needed for the efficient functioning of the system. Through the pilot project, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea now has a replicable, functioning model for full-scale automation of the entire railway system.

Clearing the way for entrepreneurs

14. Government officials and businessmen met in UNDP-sponsored seminars in countries throughout the region in 1988 to examine ways to boost a market-driven economy. At a regional meeting in China, entrepreneurs and management experts from India, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the host country...
met to discuss enterprise reforms that are being implemented in their countries. Their deliberations covered the changing perceptions of the role of Government in expanding industrial production, decentralization of decision-making, and ways to facilitate the access of enterprises to modern technologies and capital. A spin-off of the meeting was an exchange of visits between participants from different countries to explore new markets.

**Citric acid production**

15. A major goal of the Government of the Philippines is to become self-sufficient in the production of basic chemicals, such as citric acid, that are routinely used in industry. Owing to a lack of an adequate production facility for citric acid, the Government spent more than $2 million in 1987 importing the chemical for use in many industrial applications, including the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. By 1998, it is estimated that the Philippines will require 7,100 tons to meet its production needs.

16. Faced with an ever-present need for citric acid and with high import bills, the Government approached UNDP in 1986 for assistance. UNDP responded by launching a pilot project designed to give the country the ability to manufacture adequate supplies of the chemical, using a variety of indigenous raw materials.

17. The project has so far resulted in the design of a plant for citric acid production, along with the fabrication and testing of required manufacturing equipment. Initial fermentation of molasses into citric acid has already begun, and the necessary manpower has been trained to operate the pilot plant, which will also be used as a training facility.

**Disaster preparedness**

18. On the morning of 21 August 1988, an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale shook remote, mountainous regions of central and eastern Nepal. The earthquake killed more than 700 people and caused widespread damage to homes, roads, bridges, and drinking water and irrigation systems. Response to the emergency was unusually quick, thanks to a new Disaster Co-ordination Unit set up with the assistance of UNDP, the United Nations Secretariat Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). Partly through the efforts of UNDRO and the Resident Representative of UNDP, who was asked by the Government to co-ordinate external relief efforts in Nepal, $3.6 million was mobilized for emergency relief and an assessment made of needs for longer-term rehabilitation.

19. The establishment of the Disaster Co-ordination Unit was part of a national effort to improve the country's preparedness and response to the floods, earthquakes and landslides which are commonplace in Nepal. This included preparation of a National Plan for Disaster Preparedness and Relief, the training of a core group of officials in disaster management, and contingency plans for 15 districts. The project has heightened awareness among policy makers of the importance of disaster management, and UNDP has been asked to provide additional support to the Unit.
Disasters and the environment

20. The relationship between disasters and the environment is of great concern to the Government of Sri Lanka. A boom in housing construction on steep, deforested hillsides has been one of the reasons for a record number of landslides in the 1980s. UNDP assistance to the National Building Research Organization, in co-operation with UNCHS, has helped to promote awareness of the problem and its underlying causes. The project trained government officials in landslide management. It also helped to develop the first computerized data base and monitoring units for all landslide-prone areas. As a result of these efforts, over 500 families have been evacuated from high-risk areas.

21. The urban environment has also been addressed. For the first time in Sri Lanka, an Environmental Impact Assessment Manual has been produced which is providing uniform standards for evaluating the longer-term, environmental repercussions of new infrastructure and industrial construction in urban areas. The manual is used by the Urban Development Authority and a number of other government agencies to assess the environmental impact of development projects before they are approved.

II. AFRICA

22. In Africa, UNDP continues to assist countries in restructuring their economies and promoting growth and improved economic management through technical assistance and human resource development. The country programmes and intercountry programme for the fourth cycle have been jointly formulated by the Governments and UNDP within the guidelines of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD, 1986-1990).

23. The role of UNDP in the development of Africa was the subject of extensive consultations between UNDP and African Governments in 1988 through four subregional meetings of African Ministers of Planning. The results of these consultations will shape the role of UNDP in Africa for the 1990s. UNDP helps to organize donor round tables and National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NatCAP) exercises for least-developed countries (LDCs) that request this assistance. Rehabilitation continues to receive attention in countries torn by internal conflict. In Angola, UNDP financed a report on reconstruction needs in the southern provinces of Huila, Nabibe and Cunene. The report is expected to form the basis of a $208 million programme.

24. The following sampling of project results reflects support for the continuing efforts of African countries to increase food and energy supplies, halt and reverse environmental degradation, create better living conditions through provision of clean water, adequate sanitation and better housing, foster jobs and small industries, and increase opportunities for women.
Improving planning

25. For the past nine years, Equatorial Guinea has been striving to re-establish administrative structures, revive the economy, rehabilitate infrastructure and restore basic services, all of which had badly deteriorated under the previous regime. Assistance from UNDP and UN/DTCD helped to strengthen the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development through creation of a Central Planning Unit that assists the Government in negotiations with donor countries and international organizations. While a Three-Year Economic Rehabilitation Plan presented to the country’s first donor round-table conference in 1982 resulted in a substantial flow of assistance, the Ministry requires continued technical assistance to consolidate its system for planning, economic policy formulation and project follow-up.

26. In 1988, UNDP and UN/DTCD assisted the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in preparing for Equatorial Guinea’s second donor round table. They also helped to formulate the country’s Structural Adjustment Programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Government planning capacity was enhanced through the establishment of an Interministerial Planning Committee, integrating the Ministries of Planning, Finance and External Affairs and Co-operation, and defining precise functions for each in relation to projects and planning. Other achievements were the development of a modular course for training in project formulation, evaluation and administration, creation of a documentation centre in the Ministry of Planning, and the elaboration of a Triennial Public Investment Plan.

Managing the forests

27. Like most African countries, Burkina Faso has experienced a grave shortage of firewood, which accounts for 92 per cent of its fuel consumption. Studies have warned that, between 1983 and 1995, 1.5 million hectares of wooded land risk deforestation. This represents 11 per cent of the total forested surface. With annual wood production declining by up to 20 per cent in some provinces, rural women have to walk longer distances to find supplies. Nutritional status could worsen, as people reduce the number of hot meals cooked per day. Fuel costs are bound to rise, with especially serious implications for the capital city of Ouagadougou, where 500,000 people need at least 274 million kilos of firewood yearly.

28. With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP is helping the Government to manage its forests and ensure a permanent firewood supply. A community-based model for managing natural forest reserves has been developed and applied to 22,000 hectares in the Classified Forest of Nazinon, two hours from Ouagadougou. Nineteen Forest Management Groups, with a total of 493 members, have been formed to assume responsibility progressively for the reserve. Training has been provided and guidelines established for cutting wood, planting new trees, managing spontaneous regeneration, and preventing forest fires. In a little over a year, 5,622 cubic metres of firewood with a value of $30,000 were produced and marketed, providing income for the community as well as funds for permanent forest management. A second phase will extend activities to 60,000 more hectares and consolidate the model for countrywide application.
Fixing the dunes

29. Sand is a serious problem for the 2 million inhabitants of Mauritania. Massive dunes imperil farmlands and pastures, inundate roads and swallow up whole villages. Working with FAO, and with supplementary funding from UNCDF and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) (through a grant from the Government of Denmark), UNDP supports a project to "fix" the sand dunes. Two fixation techniques have been developed. Biological fixation involves the planting of 15 different types of trees, well adapted for arid zone afforestation. Mechanical fixation stabilizes mounds of sand with dead branches, palm leaves and panels woven of twigs and leaves. Using these methods, 535 hectares of dunes have been stabilized at the project's 15 experimental sites while another 7,007 hectares have been afforested. More than 534,350 saplings were grown in nurseries and planted, 286 technicians were trained and a forestry research centre was created.

30. These activities saved the towns of Kiffa and Magta-Lahjar from the sands. Dunes fixed at four crucial points along the "Highway of Hope", Mauritania's main west-east road, protected it from being engulfed. Several farming areas and oases were preserved. The project also created rural employment, helping to reduce the exodus from the countryside and creating new hope for the future among rural residents. A second phase, running through 1991, will extend activities to 40 new sites.

Conquering the tsetse

31. Livestock is extremely important to the estimated 85 per cent of Ethiopia's 45 million people who live in rural areas. Most of them depend upon animal by-products such as milk and meat and use oxen to till the soil. They also derive income from hides and skins, the country's second largest foreign exchange earner. But animal production has been severely constrained by the presence of the tsetse fly, transmitter of deadly trypanosomiasis. According to recent estimates, 30 per cent of the country's cattle are at risk. Some 130,000 square kilometres of fertile agricultural land in the west and south-west are especially badly infested.

32. In preparation for the launching of a national control programme, the Government sought FAO assistance in assessing non-polluting, low-cost tsetse control methods. These entail baiting insecticide-treated tsetse targets with odours simulating the fly's natural host animals. After trials on 230 square kilometres of badly infected lands proved effective, UNDP provided funds to help consolidate the gains, extend the trials over an additional 700 square kilometres, and train Ethiopian staff to implement the national control programme. In just six months, approximately 180 square kilometres were cleared, preparatory work was completed for the additional area, and technical staff became proficient in applying the technique.

33. As the flies were controlled, residents returned to formerly deserted villages. Livestock numbers began to rise and agricultural production increased by over 100 per cent in some areas. Greater supplies of milk, meat and other food improved the nutritional status of the population. The Government of Italy, the European Community and the World Bank have all expressed interest in funding further projects.
Building affordable houses

34. Half of Malawi's 1.2 million rural dwellings are substandard, requiring rehabilitation or complete replacement. Most of them are traditional huts that lack clean water and proper sanitary facilities, have inadequate ventilation, and provide an unhealthy and undesirable living environment. With UNCHS and UNCDF, UNDP has been assisting the Government's Rural Housing Programme since 1981. Indigenous building materials such as sun-dried bricks and sisal-cement roofing sheets were developed and used in low-cost construction with simple housing designs suited to the daily lives of rural residents. A credit scheme was set up for low-income families wishing to build or improve houses. The Programme won the 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless Award, organized for 80 countries by the Building and Social Housing Foundation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

35. By the end of 1988 there was a rural housing centre in each of Malawi's 24 districts and three regions. More than 500 beneficiaries had completed new houses and another 470 had renovated their old houses. More than 1,600 applications for credit had been approved, with some 750 families receiving loans in 1988. Twice as many are expected to benefit in the next few years. Training was also provided to 21 middle-level staff and 200 apprentices. The scheme gave a boost to rural industry by making loans of up to $720 available to small-scale entrepreneurs producing building materials or housing components. The project has attracted over 1,000 visitors interested in its potential for duplication elsewhere. Its extension for another three years is expected to lead to the construction of 6,000 more homes.

Improving urban habitat

36. Housing is a problem for the rapidly growing urban population of Zaire. UNDP and UNCHS have assisted the Government in defining a national policy for urban management to assure better housing and a healthier environment for Kinshasa, the capital city. The project analysed the city's habitat, identified sites for action and made proposals for a housing policy and urban management. It also had a marked impact on living conditions for the residents of the Masina district. More than 100 families obtained home-improvement loans to repair roofs or ceilings of their dwellings, install sanitation facilities and add electricity. Two access roads were constructed, giving Masina access to Kinshasa by vehicle for the first time. A health centre was rehabilitated and steps were taken for the evacuation of sewage and rainwater.

Increasing self-sufficiency

37. In Ghana, a five-year pilot project to help four rural areas to develop food and energy self-sufficiency is off to an excellent start. The programme is executed by the Environmental Protection Council. After just one year, through the introduction of improved farming systems and agro-forestry practices, 53 communities in the four areas had been united in common efforts to increase food and fuel supplies. A total of 8,000 participants, half of whom were women, exceeded food production targets, producing a total of 200 large bags of maize, 150 of sorghum, and 66 of ground-nuts.
38. Agro-forestry farming techniques were demonstrated and adopted, overcoming traditional tree planting inhibitions. Some 10,000 leucaena tree seedlings were planted for fuelwood. The use of fertilizers was taught and improved seeds introduced. Abandoned lands were converted to wood lots. Future activities will include the establishment of kerosene depots (as an alternative to the use of wood for cooking), construction of latrines, procurement of an additional 20,000 leucaena seedlings and establishment of seedling nurseries.

Food for the city

39. A special concern of Guinea-Bissau is to ensure an adequate supply of food for the 120,000 residents of Bissau, the capital city. Produce destined for the urban area is grown in the Green Belt of Bissau, a 4,000-hectare zone of arable land adjacent to the capital. The Government has established the Autonomous Agricultural Sector of Bissau to encourage market gardening and popularize modern cultivation techniques in this area, where tuber crops and vegetables have traditionally been grown by women.

40. UNDP has been working with FAO to increase the women's productivity and to strengthen the Government's capacity for agricultural development and management. More than 1,300 women have doubled the area of their market gardens and they are growing new vegetables such as aubergine, cucumber, carrots and watermelon. Their incomes increased as they became integrated into the monetary economy. Future activities will cover vegetable processing, local seed production, the introduction of rice cultivation and a strengthening of extension services.

Jobs for youth

41. Mali's population of over 8 million is increasing at the rate of 2.9 per cent yearly. The problem of finding employment for the large number of young people entering the job market has become crucial due to a retrenchment of industrial activity, a reduction of the number of posts in public and parastatal enterprises, and an absence of new jobs in public services. Up to 16,500 young secondary school graduates are estimated to be unemployed and another 2,500 join their ranks every year.

42. With the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNDP has helped more than 1,500 young graduates to obtain jobs or set themselves up in small businesses. Youths looking for salaried employment were taught techniques of job hunting and personal presentation. Those wishing to establish small production units were helped to define their goals, make feasibility studies and prepare credit proposals. Some 40 dossiers were presented to potential investors. The creation of new enterprises has led to additional financing. The European Development Fund has agreed to set aside $1.5 million for credits for the development of small and medium enterprises and the World Bank will provide $500,000 for a similar purpose.
III. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

43. Latin America has been losing competitiveness in world markets. Its rapidly growing population has been becoming poorer while its huge foreign debt continues to grow. This situation has placed a premium on the adoption of macro-economic policies and management systems that will encourage a more efficient use of resources. The region also needs to promote micro-enterprises and programmes that will directly provide the critically poor with the basic services and opportunities that will bring them into the development process. UNDP programmes focus on implanting technologies to enhance productivity while supporting economic planning and management to restore growth and competitiveness. UNDP also supports regional initiatives, including major programmes in critical poverty reduction, environmental conservation and economic rehabilitation for Central America.

Critical poverty

44. An estimated 150 million Latin Americans - one out of three - are critically poor. UNDP has been a leader in addressing their problems at both the national and the regional level. In 1984 it launched a pilot programme in Colombia in support of the Government's commitment to abolish critical poverty. Support was provided to the Secretariat of Popular Integration, the National Planning Department and the Treasury Department, all of which helped to formulate the National Rehabilitation Plan. The Plan created demonstration projects, redirected investment towards rehabilitation areas, brought about greater community participation in decision-making and developed financial and performance monitoring systems. The Plan, directed at 25 per cent of the population, is helped by a UNDP investment of $1.3 million for the period 1987-1990.

45. Non-governmental organizations are key participants in these programmes to help the poor. This was underscored at a 1988 meeting between almost 500 Colombian non-governmental organizations and top government officials, under the auspices of UNDP and the President's office. The group explored means of greater co-operation in providing education, health and housing in response to community initiatives. A co-ordinating committee was established to follow up on the meeting, with technical support to be provided by a UNDP-assisted secretariat.

46. Colombia and a dozen other countries have now adopted a regional poverty programme which seeks to alleviate the effects of an estimated 30 per cent decline in social service expenditures in the 1980s. Launched in 1987, it supports improved planning and information systems, pre-investment studies, establishment of small enterprises and employment, and demonstration projects in low-cost housing, water and sanitation.

Island economies

47. Economies of scale are difficult to achieve in small states. On eight islands in the eastern Caribbean - Antigua, Anguilla, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent - which range in population from 7,000 to 120,000 inhabitants, even meeting domestic food needs has become a problem. The cost of food imports has risen rapidly, reaching an estimated
$1 billion in 1988. With prices of traditional food exports declining, these islands became net importers of food.

48. In the late 1970s the eight Governments requested UNDP to help them to stimulate food production. The Caribbean Agricultural and Rural Development Advisory and Training Service (CARDATS) was set up to help small farmers to become efficient food producers with better technology, seeds, fertilizers, marketing services and credit. This combination of improvements led to notable results. In Antigua, the introduction of okra as an export crop helped to double farmer income. In Saint Lucia, per capita farmer income reached $3,100 with the export of fresh vegetables to the United Kingdom during the winter months. In Antigua, Montserrat and Saint Kitts, incentives to market livestock led to a tenfold increase in sales between 1984 and 1987. By 1988, 1,981 farms comprising 1,700 hectares had been served by CARDATS. In 1987, the value of crop and livestock sales from the islands had jumped 22 per cent over the previous year.

Environmental planning

49. The warnings of environmentalists about ecological destruction and the greenhouse effect penetrated the world's consciousness in 1988. Concern was perhaps greatest with respect to the Amazon, where a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) satellite photographed 170,000 forest fires in 1987, most in the state of Rondonia. The burning of the forests led the Government of Brazil to ask UNDP for immediate help. A UNDP/FAO team is working with the Government and the World Bank in formulating a program to improve the management of health, education and environmental programmes for the current half million settlers and 20,000 Indians living near a new highway slashed through the forest. The team is also training over 300 Brazilian extension workers to help the settlers in adopting ecologically-viable farm practices.

50. At the policy level, the use of incentives such as tax breaks for cattle ranchers that appeared to encourage destruction were re-evaluated. The UNDP/FAO team developed an agro-ecological map and zoning proposal designed to reorient incentives away from these destructive policies. The map - mandated by state law - identifies areas suitable for sustained farming of fruits and trees, and areas so ecologically fragile that no exploitation will be permitted. The zoning proposals are to be implemented with the help of a $120 million World Bank loan. This formula may one day be applied to the whole Amazon Basin.

Community income-generation

51. The Mixteca region of Oaxaca, Mexico, has a population of approximately 500,000. Life expectancy is 43 years. Half the people are illiterate and the primary school drop-out rate is 90 per cent. Only three of 10 Mixtecs remain permanently in the region. Of the remaining seven, three migrate and four leave for seasonal work. The land area cultivated for food had declined from 53,000 hectares in 1980 to 36,000 in 1983, when the Government asked UNDP for help.

52. UNDP and the ILO helped to fashion a development programme - building on a local tradition of community participation - to generate employment, increase the
number of hectares cultivated and reforest denuded land. The project set up a system to co-ordinate the activities of six government agencies, four international organizations and three local academic institutes in 350 of the 500 targeted communities.

53. The community-based rural development programme has created 4,000 permanent jobs, built approximately 600 waterworks and brought 4,777 hectares under irrigation. Community assemblies were formed to plan and carry out these activities, which have reached 50 per cent of the poorest and most isolated villages of Mixteca. The government of Oaxaca, which allocated $4 million to cover construction costs of the project, has adopted the Mixteca model for the rest of the state. It is also being used to plan a multi-agency project, "Community Development of Indian Women", involving four United Nations bodies and federal and state government agencies in the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero and Mexico.

Integrating markets by air

54. The Andean mountains, which run through the centre of Ecuador, divide the country into three distinct economic zones. The oilfields are in the Amazon basin, the farmlands and capital of Quito are high in the Andes and the main commercial centre, Guayaquil, is on the Pacific coast. To hasten economic integration and expand tourist and export markets as well as shorten internal travel time, the Government asked UNDP to help upgrade its air traffic control system and to develop plans for larger, safer airports for Quito and Guayaquil.

55. Since 1979, 62 UNDP-funded, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specialists have supervised the installation of modern air-traffic control equipment, set up a laboratory for aircraft equipment calibration and trained 102 technicians in air traffic control, electronic maintenance and computation. The Civil Aviation Technical School has been improved, making the country more self-sufficient in personnel. Greater radar capability makes flying much safer and the new airfields will give exporters of perishable fruits, flowers and shrimp more rapid access to foreign markets. The $1.7 million UNDP commitment was backed by $11.4 million in government cost-sharing.

Urban protection

56. Latin America's cities are growing so rapidly that two of them, Mexico City and São Paulo, are expected to become number one and two in the world by the end of the century - both larger even than the population of Canada. UNDP is addressing the problems created by this growth through a combination of individual projects, regional urban analysis and design, and cultural heritage and development programmes. These projects are often linked, as in Mexico, where UNDP-supported seismic risk studies following the 1985 earthquake are related to programmes to build housing for the poor in Mexico City while revitalizing its historic centre.

57. In Villa El Salvador, Peru, a town of over 300,000 inhabitants founded in 1971, most of those who work are in the informal economy. A UNDP-financed industrial park now houses 25 of an estimated 1,000 small businesses that now operate out of people's homes. As the rest move to the park they will receive free
financial, legal and technological advice in return for payment of taxes. A UNDP-supported milk and cheese processing plant, run mostly by women, already operates at a profit. It is helping to improve nutrition for some 80,000 people, many of whom find the cost of meat prohibitive.

58. The cultural heritage and development project of UNDP, started in 1974, has trained nearly 3,000 people in subjects ranging from environmental archeology and textile preservation to cultural legislation. A current project is a film about Villa El Salvador. Other projects include the rehabilitation of historic urban centres, including housing for the poor. One study takes a long-term perspective on better ways for municipal government to incorporate and provide services to the poor.

59. In north-east Brazil, shortfalls in urban services exacerbate the effects of widespread poverty and unemployment. In 1986 SUDENE, the Government's regional planning organization, with UNDP assistance began training government officials at all levels in urban development. By October 1988 the Training Programme in Urban Development (TPUD), created and run by the project, had trained 1,024 public servants in 51 courses at SUDENE headquarters and at institutions throughout the north-east. TPUD seminars have trained 851 participants to evaluate the public finance and other needs of small- and medium-sized towns. Training is now being decentralized and an investment proposal for 430 small towns is being prepared.

A stronger presidency

60. Costa Rica has a strong democratic tradition, but its small population, large debt and the uncertainties cast by its war-torn neighbours limit the capacity of its Government to respond adequately to major problems. The Government decided it needed a more effective presidency, operating within its democratic tradition, but better able to analyse alternative policy options and provide needed follow-up and evaluation. In 1987 UNDP helped to launch a support system for presidential decision-making. An Analysis Unit in the Office of the Presidency was set up with administrative support and computers. A management information system has been developed and tested. Although specific policy results are difficult to identify, it is already possible to see that greater access to information improves communication and makes it more difficult for office-holders to hoard information as a tool of power rather than to share it with others as a tool of policy. The Analysis Unit is currently focusing on social and economic development policy.

Facilitating government procurement: A first

61. Precarious economic conditions in Bolivia between 1980 and 1985 had a negative effect on almost all public sector development projects. Hyperinflation and an overvalued currency resulted in significant cost overruns and uncertainty in final project costs. Procurement contracts often had to be renegotiated or cancelled. Moreover, cumbersome procurement procedures usually delayed implementation of development projects by more than a year.

62. In July 1987, the Government issued a decree which requires government entities to obtain prior approval from a procurement agency before making an
overseas purchase. In January 1988, it signed an agreement with the UNDP Office for Project Services (OPS) to make it a recognized agency for this purpose. The establishment of an OPS office in La Paz has helped government bodies to accelerate their procurement process by drawing up technical specifications, calling for and evaluating tenders, and making recommendations for purchase.

63. From March 1988 to the end of the year, more than 140 requests for services had been received involving procurement worth approximately $250 million. Most government entities have used this service in order to speed up procurement with funds provided by the development banks and bilateral funding agencies. By year end, UNDP/OPS recommendations for approximately $35 million in procurement had been accepted by these bodies. This is the first instance where UNDP has served such a function.

IV. THE ARAB STATES AND EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES

64. UNDP activities in the Arab States reflect diverse social and economic needs. While the region as a whole had an average per capita gross national product (GNP) of about $2,000 in 1985, national variations ranged from $270 per capita in the poorest countries to $15,000 among major oil exporters. UNDP contributions have ranged from industrial advisory services, communications, and high technology engineering to fixation of sand dunes, development of basic health services and expansion of agricultural capacity. Food production has lagged badly behind population growth rates in rich and poor Arab nations alike.

65. Declining oil revenues have forced the wealthy nations to re-examine their growth strategies and have obliged poorer nations to absorb the loss of wage remittances from migrant workers in neighbouring oil economies. Unemployment is a growing problem in the region, especially among the young. Against this backdrop, UNDP's experience with the development of human resources and employment opportunities is at a premium, and it is supporting many countries in the provision of basic training in literacy, agriculture and industry to economic management. A fundamental feature of these programmes is their attempt to reach a large portion of the population, including women.

Reaching Out

66. In 1970, Oman was one of the most isolated, underdeveloped countries in the world. There were only three schools and less than a thousand students in the country. Modern health care was unknown. While education at all levels has since proceeded rapidly, the country is still heavily dependent on expatriate workers for professional and skilled jobs. "Omanization" - replacing expatriates with Omanis who are adequately trained - is a government priority.

67. Oman's approach to development begins at the grass-roots level, in the villages where most of its citizens live. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has initiated programmes in education, health and nutrition, handicrafts and agriculture in more than half the villages of the country. UNDP is assisting the Ministry in planning and carrying out surveys to see what villagers want. Ten
United Nations Volunteers, soon to be 20, are training Ministry officials and are working directly with villagers in health care, agriculture and planning.

68. A majority of the participants are women, who constitute about 60 per cent of the village population, because many men are away working in the oilfields. Instruction courses in weaving to boost income and literacy classes are well attended. Almost half the students in over 700 schools are women and they constitute the majority in the first class of medical students at the new national university. Oman is using its valuable but finite oil income to see that the full population has access to basic but heretofore unavailable services, thus laying a firm foundation for Omanization.

Regional planning

69. Egypt, after its 1973 war and the return of the Sinai, wanted to restore the damaged areas immediately east of Cairo and to make better use of the Sinai peninsula. While the major goal of the Government was physical development, another objective was to decentralize planning and decision-making, thereby strengthening the six local governates of the region.

70. A regional planning office was set up in Ismailiya, on the Suez Canal, to work directly with each of the governates. The office trains local authorities in physical planning and has established a data bank which consolidates socio-economic information for the whole region. It also submits to each governate economic and investment strategies that correspond to the national five-year plan.

71. UNDP helped to provide office and computer facilities as well as international and national consultants to the regional planning office. It also assisted in the preparation of area master plans for the largest cities and a regional plan for the Suez Canal area. Personnel from the governates are provided with computer training and software programmes for up-to-date regional planning exercises. There is a continuous process of feedback to and from the governates. This pilot project has attracted a top-flight team of Egyptian experts for its permanent staff.

Adding value to oil

72. In Algeria, the Government seeks to maximize the value of its oil and natural gas reserves by developing chemical and petrochemical industries. Studies indicate that finished and semi-finished products from petrochemical plants could add $2 billion a year to the nation's economy. Detergents, paints and pharmaceuticals are currently imported at high cost, depleting valuable foreign exchange reserves. To ensure the rational development of these industries, the Government called on UNDP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to help build a long-term research and development capacity.

73. The immediate objectives of this $566,000 project include estimating the types and quantities of chemical products that could be absorbed by local markets by the year 2000. A computerized data bank of information on chemical and petrochemical industries and a master plan for research and production are being developed. So far, technological profiles have been drafted for 41 groups of products that could be developed locally.
Raising industrial output

74. In Democratic Yemen, UNDP has contributed $1.7 million to boost production of light manufactured goods and construction materials. Although industrialization has been a national objective since 1967, the sector still accounts for just 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and absorbs only 11 per cent of the labour force. Major constraints include the nation's limited infrastructure and low productivity due to shortages of trained technical and managerial staff and investment capital.

75. The project has trained 295 high- and middle-level executives and 342 technical staff in subjects ranging from cost accounting, finance, marketing and management to industrial engineering. A unified accounting system has been introduced in government-owned factories. The return on UNDP's investment has been extraordinary, with four factories alone reporting savings of more than $7 million.

Learning to trade

76. The consumer needs of Djibouti as a nation without natural resources or a significant industrial base, are met almost entirely through costly imports. This situation is complicated further by a private sector which has limited knowledge of international markets or trading opportunities. UNDP supports a $500,000 project through the International Trade Centre of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to train locals in import management and to promote Djibouti as a choice port of call for regional and international trade.

77. A project team has developed a plan to streamline operations in the Ministry of Trade, Transport and Tourism. By end-1988, 400 people from the public and private sectors had been trained to operate more efficiently in international markets. Early success with the project can be seen in the stabilization of local cereal supplies and prices and in the interest of foreign donors. The European Community, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Sweden and the United States of America have contributed a total of $280,000 for local training.

Building agricultural capacity

78. Yemen is a rugged, mountainous country which is also vulnerable to drought and desertification, particularly in its eastern Marib region. The Government, anxious to build agricultural capacity, has constructed a 400 million-cubic-metre dam at Marib to irrigate 10,000 hectares of farmland. Irrigation canals have been built in the valley below the dam, and an asphalt road now links Marib with the capital city, Sana'a. But encroaching sand-dunes remain a threat to the highway and to the livelihood of villagers and farmers hoping to take advantage of the new water supply.

79. UNDP and FAO have responded with a four-year project worth more than $1 million to check desertification and promote agriculture. Over 4,000 hectares of privately held farms have been established on reclaimed dunes. The value of crops produced on these lands has increased by $1.2 million a year. A tree nursery
will provide about 30,000 tree seedlings for free distribution to farms this year. Ultimately, about 400,000 seedlings a year will be produced and planted near Marib as windbreaks. The long-term plan for Marib includes a self-sustaining network of farmers' associations and co-operatives to work on sand-dune fixation, manage the watershed and restore vegetative cover to surrounding rangelands. A national Desertification Control Commission is expected to oversee these activities.

Towards food security

80. With its population growing at 3.5 per cent a year, the Syrian Arab Republic has stepped up efforts to reduce its reliance on food imports. Agriculture contributes about 20 percent to Syria's GDP and provides employment for 25 per cent of its work force. However, production has fallen short of development targets for almost two decades and is a major reason for a drift in population from rural to urban areas.

81. UNDP has invested $1.4 million through FAO to boost the nation's agricultural productivity by training extension workers to help small farmers, farm labourers and rural women. A National Extension Training Centre has been established to service 600 extension units around the country. The Centre has been fully staffed and equipped, and 891 university graduates have been trained.

Quality control

82. Iraq has been addressing a problem common to many food importers, namely, the world-wide increase in the types of potentially harmful compounds found in food. Iraq's Institute of Nutrition Research has had support from UNDP and FAO to equip laboratories capable of tracing harmful compounds such as organo-chlorine, heavy metals, preservatives and aflatoxin.

83. Five senior-level microbiologists and chemists have completed three months of training at institutes in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. They, in turn, have introduced new laboratory methods and training for their staff. The laboratory results, comparable with those of more developed nations, have had a positive impact on quality control and the food industry in general. The Institute has also surveyed nutrition among schoolchildren, recording substantial gains in their height and weight for age over the past decade. Malnutrition is said to have disappeared, even among low-income groups.

Freeing resources

84. Tunisia has taken a bold step to free itself from economic growth constraints imposed by high interest rates and the country's heavily indebted entrepreneurs. The Government has enlisted the help of UNDP through the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to revitalize its stock exchange by rewriting rules and regulations on investment and redrafting fiscal legislation. This relatively small, $243,000 project has the potential for major returns by reducing demands on public investment funds and by encouraging the general public to invest in commercial and industrial enterprises. The project developed postgraduate training programmes and trained stock market staff in readiness for new exchange procedures which are expected to take effect in mid-1989.
Sustaining tourism and the environment

85. UNDP and the World Tourism Organization have produced a Tourism Master Plan for Cyprus based on a thorough study of the industry. Although more than 1 million tourists - mostly from Great Britain and Western Europe - visit the island each year, most prefer the coastal areas and most come in the months of July and August. The impact of this heavily concentrated activity is taking a heavy toll on the environment.

86. The Master Plan warns that if something is not done soon to manage tourism in an environmentally sound way, the base resource could become so degraded that tourists will soon go elsewhere. The Tourism Master Plan calls for a $2.9 billion investment in infrastructure over the next 15 years and argues against the scattering of new facilities around the island. Instead, it proposes the consolidation of quality facilities for affluent visitors at locations that are already popular.

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