COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Request for authority to approve assistance to the Kampuchean people

Note by the Administrator

1. In September 1979, the Secretary-General requested several agencies of the United Nations system to provide humanitarian relief assistance to the Kampuchean people through UNICEF as the "lead agency" of the joint international emergency relief effort. In response, the Administrator authorized the resumption of four projects in the areas of food production and health control. This was reported to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session in June 1980. These reactivated projects in rice and fish production, and malaria and tuberculosis control were selected on the basis of indications from an interagency Working Group and reports of the specialized agencies on the priority needs for short-term emergency assistance against wide-spread starvation and diseases which were threatening the very survival of the Kampuchean people.

2. In the area of food production which has accounted for the bulk of UNDP emergency assistance, inputs provided through the Rice Rehabilitation Programme have included rice seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and rodenticides, sprayers, agricultural implements and advisory services costing approximately $21 million, while for the rehabilitation of fresh-water fish production the UNDP has provided fishing gear, related equipment and supplies costing approximately $1.6 million. In the health field, UNDP emergency assistance to the malaria and tuberculosis control programmes has mainly included medical supplies costing approximately $3 million. The implementation of these $25.6 million emergency relief operations during 1980-1981 has been monitored satisfactorily and detailed reporting has been carried out periodically by the executing agencies concerned.

3. Due to the country's particular situation, the Administrator is unable to indicate when its next country programme will be ready for submission to the Council. Should the situation change and the Administrator thereafter determine that a programme, in conformity with UNDP guidelines, will be presented, he wishes to be authorized, prior to the presentation of the programme, to proceed with preparatory assistance to identify and formulate projects which would be presented to the Council for its consideration and approval. By proceeding in this manner, it would be possible to act speedily while at the same time ensuring that UNDP's procedures are fully observed.
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