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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR
IRAQ

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Iraq
for the period 1982-1986

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$ 15 million

INTRODUCTION

1. The third country programme for Iraq covers the period 1982-1986. Its preparation was preceded by a comprehensive review of the second country programme, followed by meetings between representatives of the Government Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Planning and officials of the UNDP field office in Baghdad. At these meetings, the approach to programme preparation, the time schedule for presentation to UNDP and the financial resources relevant to the third country programme were broadly discussed. The Permanent Committee for Technical Assistance (PCTA), in its capacity as the

Note: In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, Annex I), the third country programme for Iraq is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator.

The previous country programmes for Iraq and the accompanying notes by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/IRQ/R.1-DP/GC/IRQ/R.2 and DP/GC/IRQ/R.1/RECOMMENDATION-DP/GC/IRQ/R.2/RECOMMENDATION, respectively.

designated authority within the Government for the co-ordination of UNDP assistance, held a series of meetings to establish the criteria and selection of proposals for inclusion in the country programme. The final document was prepared by the Government, in close consultation with the office of the UNDP resident representative in Baghdad.

2. The PCTA reviewed a large number of proposals for UNDP assistance submitted by the sectoral ministries in response to the elaborate preparatory exercise launched by the Ministry of Planning during the first quarter of 1981. The criteria for selection included the following:

- (a) Proposals should strictly conform to objectives and priorities set forth in the National Development Plan (NDP) for 1981-1985;
- (b) Successful ongoing projects should be encouraged to further consolidate and expand their scope of activities;
- (c) Proposals should lend themselves to the UNDP type of assistance;
- (d) To the extent possible, UNDP assistance should be confined to long-term projects and those oriented towards the acquisition of technical expertise and training, leaving other components for financing by the beneficiary organizations themselves; and
- (e) Funds-in-trust and cost-sharing systems of financing should continue to be promoted for proposals which deserved assistance but could not be accommodated within the limited resources available from UNDP under the indicative planning figure (IPF).

3. At meetings with the Government, the resident representative conveyed the offer of advisory services by agencies of the United Nations system in connection with the preparation of the third country programme. The Government appreciated the offer of such assistance but did not consider it necessary, since comprehensive sectoral reviews had already been undertaken and completed by the Government during 1980 in connection with the current NDP (1981-1985). Furthermore, on earlier occasions some of the agencies had reviewed certain sectors from the perspective of technical assistance and their reports were already available to the concerned sectoral ministries.

4. In the first half of 1980, two regional meetings, namely, the symposium on the Arab World in the Year 2000 (Tangier, 5-8 May 1980) and the Arab Regional Meeting on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (Geneva, 21-23 May 1980), were held under the auspices of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States to consider strategies and development priorities. The general areas identified for the most effective UNDP technical co-operation in the region included: (a) agriculture and food; (b) human resources, manpower and labour; and (c) energy. The substance of the third country programme is aligned with these areas in terms of projects and their priority.

5. The illustrative IPF for Iraq for the third programming cycle (1982-1986) is US\$ 15 million but, for actual programming purposes, for the present, only US\$ 14 million has been taken into account. In the case of a shortfall in UNDP resources, the Government will meet the additional requirements under cost-sharing arrangements with UNDP.

6. Government financing of projects under funds-in-trust and cost-sharing arrangements is an accepted policy of the Government. Late in 1981 there were 17 operational funds-in-trust projects valued at US\$ 27.6 million executed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Centre (ITC) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations. Major examples of such projects include the construction of the Saddam Hussain International Airport and those relating to the hotel and tourism sector. At present, several other proposals are under consideration and it is expected that, by the end of 1983, the total value of such projects will reach about US\$ 58 million.

7. The Government took note of the availability of alternative multilateral and bilateral sources of financing - particularly those of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (UNRFNRE), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (IFSTD) - to meet the technical assistance needs in various sectors. However, recourse to such sources is not considered necessary at present.

8. The Government of Iraq has extensive technical and economic co-operation agreements with a number of developed and developing countries. Training abroad for Iraqi officials, transfer of technical know-how, exchange programme for educationalists and technical personnel, equipment and supplies constitute important parts of such agreements. UNDP-assisted projects are interwoven with such co-operation agreements and thus form an integral part of the overall development efforts in the country.

9. The highlights of the third country programme for Iraq are new proposals in the field of agriculture (pasture development); top-level training for the civil service cadre; technical and managerial training for executives of the Baghdad Mayoralty; improvement of nutrition standards, and mother and child welfare; further assistance in the field of meteorology; and manpower planning and projection.

10. Due consideration has been given in the NDP (1981-1985) to global strategies and priorities for development, including the recommendations of international fora for specific activities such as the participation of women in development, the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD), rehabilitation of the disabled, and technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). In this context it is worth mentioning that a massive investment programme is envisaged, which should result in the greater involvement of women in national development efforts, clean drinking running water by 1985 for everyone in the country, and opportunities for work for all disabled. With regard to technical co-operation with other developing countries, Iraq has taken a leading role through bilateral co-operation agreements and through regional Arab organizations.

UNDP TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ENVISAGED
IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

11. NDP (1981-1985) aims at expanding and developing productivity potentials, increasing growth rates, giving high priority attention to the accelerated development of agriculture and industry and lessening the dependence on oil revenues for progress in the national economy.
12. NDP agricultural programmes envisage: (a) commissioning major agricultural projects; (b) increasing marketing facilities and storage capacity; (c) providing modern means of transportation and developing crop collection centres; and (d) mechanizing agricultural operations. These objectives are considered within the context of providing a balance between agricultural production and animal breeding. Two project proposals included in the programme for UNDP assistance, namely, pasture development and the establishment of an agricultural research station for studies relevant to semi-tropical regions in southern Iraq, have been assigned high priority in the agricultural sector.
13. In the industrial sector, the NDP stresses the need to increase present production capacities, step-up capacity utilization, establish auxiliary industries, give special attention to industries producing essential goods, promote heavy industry and foster export-oriented industries based on indigenously available raw materials. Continued assistance to the UNDP-supported project, Specialized Institute for Engineering Industries (IRQ/77/003), is closely linked with the above objectives.
14. In the housing sector, emphasis is on providing suitable accommodation to the people in a manner that ensures stability in economic and social life. This sector has been accorded a relatively high priority in the central investment allocations.
15. As regards the electricity and water sectors, NDP emphasizes the firm linkages between these sectors and other productive sectors, on the one hand, and the people's welfare and prosperity, on the other. Consequently, NDP stresses the importance of providing adequate electric power for industrial and domestic use. The same applies to the supply of drinking water, especially to non-urban and rural areas.
16. In the transport, communications and stores sectors, NDP attaches great importance to the concerted and comprehensive efforts to overcome present inadequacies and congestion and to develop these sectors in the near future to a level matching rapid economic and social development. The proposal for assistance to the central stores in Dawoodi, Abu-Ghraib and Kassra/Attash is directly related to the plans and priorities for the storage sector.
17. With respect to the health and education sectors, NDP emphasizes the continuation of efforts to improve and to develop the health of the people, to provide more educational opportunities and facilities and to improve the quality of instruction. Increased attention is given to scientific research and development. New proposals relating to food evaluation and staff training for nurseries have high priority within the health and social welfare sectors.

18. NDP investment allocations for 1981 are in the order of US\$ 22,858 million (Iraqi dinars 6743 million), distributed to the different economic sectors as follows:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Iraqi dinars</u> (Millions)	<u>Percentage</u>
Agriculture	681	10.1
Industry	1246	18.5
Transport and communications	1285	19.0
Building, housing and services	1899	28.2
Education and scientific research services	272	4.0
Miscellaneous	1360	20.2

19. Faced with the limitations in IPF resources available from UNDP, the PCTA exercised a high degree of selectivity in deciding upon proposals for inclusion in the new country programme. In order to promote self-reliance, first priority was accorded to those projects which involve high-level training for technical cadre personnel, institution building, the strengthening and consolidating of successful ongoing UNDP-assisted projects in the fields of science, health and child care and agriculture. The remaining proposals were redirected to the sponsoring sectoral ministries for consideration by other sources of financing, including funds-in-trust and cost-sharing arrangements with the United Nations system.

20. Under the third country programme for Iraq, assistance is envisaged for 10 ongoing and nine new projects. In order to conform to the directive of the UNDP in regard to programmable resources, the Government has assigned an order of priority to the new proposals as listed in the succeeding paragraphs. Should any resources problem or new priority requirements for technical co-operation arise, the project with lower priority might be postponed. In this connection, see also footnote a/ in the annex.

21. Despite some slow-down in delivery due to unforeseen circumstances, the Government is satisfied with the rate and quality of project operations during the second country programme. The continuing commitments of UNDP from the second programming cycle are described hereunder. The total cost of US\$ 5,939,000 for these ongoing projects will be charged against resources available during the third cycle: 1/

(a) Regional Meteorological Training Centre (IRC/75/037) (1983): The ultimate objective of this project is the establishment of comprehensive meteorological training facilities available also for students from other developing countries. However, as a first step, the training centre will cater mainly to national needs with special emphasis on meteorological application in the development of the communication and agricultural sectors. (See also paragraph 23 below.) (US\$ 292, 800).

1/ Projects listed in this paragraph include only those which will terminate in the 1982-1986 period (year of termination is shown against project title) and for which new phases are not planned. Ongoing projects which will require additional assistance against the third cycle IPF for new phases or extension are detailed in paragraphs 23 and 24.

(b) Forestry Research and Development (IRQ/76/002) (1982): This project assists in strengthening the Government's research programme in the various aspects of irrigated plantations, including their improvement, site evaluation, establishment and tending techniques, exploration methods, forest management planning, and the development of pilot watershed programmes. (US\$ 317,500).

(c) Centre for Mechanization in Agriculture (IRQ/76/005) (1982): Assistance is being provided to introduce improved techniques and equipment for testing the utilization of farm machinery and to augment the cadre of qualified mechanics, engineers, operators and instructors. The Government plans to continue the project under a funds-in-trust agreement. (US\$ 148,100).

(d) Improvement and Development of Industrial Crops (IRQ/76/006) (1983): This project aims at increasing the production of major industrial crops such as oilseeds, cotton, tobacco and sugar-beet. The Government is developing a programme of varietal selection and agronomical experiments to expand the present seed improvement programme and increase the acreage under industrial crops in newly developed irrigation areas. (US\$ 481,500).

(e) Improvement of Vocational Training Centres (IRQ/77/001) (1983): The project aims at achieving an integrated programme for vocational training covering all economic sectors and assists in providing the infrastructure for the training of skilled and semi-skilled workers. (US\$ 364,800).

(f) Environmental Health Programme (IRQ/77/002) (1982): The project assists the Government in implementing a comprehensive environmental health programme through strengthening the Directorate of Human Environmental Health, conducting applied research and introducing monitoring procedures for air, water and land pollution. (US\$ 151,200).

(g) Specialized Institute for Engineering Industries (IRQ/77/003) (1984): The project is directed towards assisting the Institute in the creation of an industrial base for Iraq through the development of product design and production technology, the establishment of a central information and documentation system and the implementation of relevant training programmes. (US\$ 2,232,400).

(h) Pilot Experimental Project in an Integrated Approach to Education for Rural Development (IRQ/77/006) (1982): The project aims at developing an appropriate and relevant education system encompassing children, young people, men and women, with the object of increasing rural involvement, and participation in social and economic development. (US\$ 452,900).

(i) Assistance to the Glass Industry (IRQ/78/001) (1982): In order to improve production techniques and quality, assistance under this project provides expert services and training for nationals abroad. (US\$ 223,000).

(j) Transfer of Technology (IRQ/78/002) (1984): In an attempt to absorb the economic effects and the social implications resulting from the transfer of technology, the Government is establishing a National Centre for the Transfer of Technology. The project will assist in establishing this centre. (US\$ 773,800).

22. The substance of the proposals for the third country programme, together with brief particulars of their immediate and long-range objectives, estimated UNDP contribution and order of priority are given below. The configurations in terms of expertise, training and other components will be determined in consultation with UNDP and the appropriate executing and participating agencies when the respective project documents are prepared.

A. Additional assistance to ongoing projects

National Meteorological Training Centre (IRG/75/037/WMO) (US\$ 500,000)

23. The Government has agreed to extend this project by one additional year, i.e. through June 1983, in order to further strengthen the capabilities of the Centre to function as a regional facility for the WMO/Asia II region.

Manpower Planning and Projection (IRG/77/008/ILO) (US\$ 100,000)

24. This project, which has been carried out in the Manpower Planning Commission in the Ministry of Planning since 1975, is expanding its scope of activities. The single expert post in this project will be extended through 1982 and additional fellowships and study tours will be included.

B. New proposals

Food Evaluation (US\$ 1,860,000)

25. Under this project, it is proposed to organize, on a national scale, a review evaluation and appraisal of food values and a survey of contamination of food by microorganism and chemical substances.

26. The long-term development objective is to raise the health standards of the people and increase general manpower productivity through properly planned scientific nutrition achieved by specialized scientific research in food and its composition, properties and suitability for human consumption. The immediate objectives of the project are to determine the calorific value of food consumed by the people in the country, ascertain the sources and kinds of organic and non-organic contamination and recommend plans generally to improve the nutrition standards in the country.

Development of Natural Pastures (US\$ 650,000)

27. The long-term objective of this project is the development of plant cover in semi-dry areas to prevent desertification, develop animal resources and raise the standards of living in desert areas. The immediate objective is the development of plant vegetation for the purpose of developing animal resources.

Training Centre for Nurseries Staff (US\$ 500,000)

28. The increasing number of women working in all fields of economic activity in the country has created an immediate demand for more nurseries and, consequently, for more trained personnel in this category.

29. The long-term development objective of the project is the creation of a cadre of personnel in sufficient numbers to meet future demands in the field of

nursery operation and management. The immediate objective is the establishment of a training centre with adequate facilities for instruction in diverse fields of nursery operation and management.

Establishment of Agricultural Research Station for Semi-Tropical Regions in Southern Iraq (US\$ 1,500,000)

30. The long-term objective of this project is the development of agriculture in the region, improvement of the region's economy, development of its human and material resources and fuller utilization of its resources. The immediate objective is to establish a Natural Resources and Agricultural Production Research and Development Centre for the marshes and Shatt Al-Arab areas.

Development of the Administrative and Technical Cadre of the Amanat Al-Asima (Baghdad Mayoralty) (US\$ 3,000,000)

31. The Amanat Al-Asima is an important and growing organization which handles multi-billion dollar investment projects. At present it renders considerable services with relatively limited technical, executive and administrative capabilities. There is pressing need to improve its standards of efficiency and performance. It is proposed to achieve this objective by undertaking an intensive training programme for the executives, both technical and administrative, covering diverse fields of activity of the Amanat Al-Asima.

Development and Application of Advanced Administrative Methods in State Departments (US\$ 1,000,000)

32. This proposed project aims at further improving the administrative cadre at different levels in the application of advanced managerial techniques through the training of managers, development of sectoral administration and documentation and library mechanization, specially microfilm and computer system.

Development of Central Stores in Dawoodi, Abu-Ghraib and Kassra/Attash (US\$ 350,000)

33. The stores complexes are a new phenomenon in the national economy. They provide considerable storage capacities for the socialist commercial sector in a wide range of imported commodities. Heavy investments have been made to establish these facilities.

34. The long-term objective of the project is to ensure efficient management of the storage complexes in order to ensure proper storage and delivery systems, thereby guaranteeing the consumption needs of the people and national development activities. The immediate objective is to improve the operation of these complexes by means of introducing modern storage systems and training personnel in stores management and the handling of equipment.

Assistance to the Physical Planning Commission in Urban Designs (US\$ 250,000)

35. Preparation of urban design and studies of two centres, especially in reference to transport methods, is in progress at the Physical Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning. The proposal for UNDP assistance aims at advanced level training for the national staff in order to further improve its technical capabilities in handling the preparation of plans and designs for transport networks in Iraqi towns.

Use of Computers in Engineering Designs (US\$ 250,000)

36. The objective of this proposal is to create a specialist cadre of personnel knowledgeable in the use of advanced technology in computer application in the architectural and engineering designs.

37. Currently, two UNDP-assisted regional projects are based in Iraq. These are:

(a) Regional Co-operation Programme for the Development and Promotion of Fertilizer Production and Utilization in Arab Countries (RAB/78/021):

This project commenced operations in 1979 and is aimed at building up the capacity of the Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO) and the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers (AFCFP) to assist industrial organizations in their efforts to increase fertilizer production and promote the use of fertilizers among farmers; and

(b) Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (RAB/79/028):

Commencing operations in 1977, the main objectives of this project include training in various statistical fields, the provision of guidance and training for research on statistical methodology in regard to problems of particular interest to countries in the region and the provision of consultancy services, particularly for surveys, census and related data processing.



ANNEX

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Resources

(a) IPF and other resources	\$
(i) Illustrative IPF for programme period	15 000 000
(ii) Carry-over from previous IPF cycle	2 000 000
(iii) Other resources	-
(b) Provision for adequate programming (*)	-
TOTAL	<u>17 000 000</u>

B. Use of resources

(a) Programmed	
(i) Ongoing projects	5 938 000
(ii) New projects and new phases included in the country programme	9 960 000
(iii) H earmarked for specific objectives and activities for which projects are to be worked out (continuous programming at a later stage)	-
Subtotal	15 898 000 <u>a/</u>
(b) Reserve	-
(c) Unprogrammed balance	<u>1 102 000 b/</u>
TOTAL	<u>17 000 000</u>

(*) See G-3200, item 302

a/ In case the UNDP allocation to projects exceeds resources availability, the Government agency concerned will meet the additional requirements under cost-sharing arrangements with UNDP.

b/ This amount represents less than 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which should not have been taken into account for programming in accordance with the Administrator's instructions contained in UNDP/PROG/FIELD/111; UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/126. In this connection, see paragraph 5 and footnote a/ above.

C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector

	<u>Sector c/</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u> \$	<u>New projects</u> \$	<u>TOTAL</u> \$
02	General development issues, policy and planning	-	4 100 000	4 100 000
04	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	947 000	4 010 000	4 957 000
05	Industry	2 455 000	350 000	2 805 000
09	Human settlements	-	250 000	250 000
10	Health	151 000	-	151 000
11	Education	453 000	500 000	953 000
12	Employment	864 000	-	864 000
16	Science and technology	<u>1 066 000</u>	<u>750 000</u>	<u>1 816 000</u>
	TOTAL	5 938 000	9 960 000	15 898 000 a/

c/ According to ACC classification.