



United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/MAU/2*
14 October 1982
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Special Meeting
14-18 February 1983
New York
Agenda item 3 (b)

COUNTRY AND INTER-COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR MAURITANIA

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Mauritania
for the period 1983-1986

* In accordance with decision 81/15, adopted by the Governing Council on 27 June 1981 (E/1981/61/Rev.1, annex I) the second country programme for Mauritania is being submitted to the Council without an accompanying note by the Administrator. The previous country programme and the accompanying note by the Administrator were issued under the document symbols DP/GC/MAU/R.1 and DP/GC/MAU/R.1 Recommendation, respectively.

IPF for 1982-1986: \$24.5 million

INTRODUCTION

1. The present country programme for Mauritania is the outcome of the programming exercise carried out in close co-operation between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and UNDP. Detailed consultations were held, both during the annual review of the UNDP programme in February-March 1982 and on other occasions, with the various Ministries concerned and with the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Agency programming missions took place in Mauritania throughout 1981. In the meantime, however, the Government's options regarding UNDP technical assistance were reoriented and made more specific with the adoption in March 1982 of the Fourth Economic and Social Development Plan.

2. Five themes, selected for the countries of the Sahel at the meeting of Resident Representatives at Dakar in January 1981, merited special attention: (a) self-sufficiency in food; (b) water management; (c) development of the Sahelian region, which involves environmental protection, woodlands management, action to combat desertification, and human settlements; (d) diversification of the Sahelian economies; (e) human resources and training.

3. It should be noted that, based as it is on the Sahelian themes, the main content of the second country programme for Mauritania is in direct accord with global priorities such as the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade, self-sufficiency in food, environmental conservation and improvement, and the needs of the most disadvantaged peoples. In addition, there are specific programmes related to the International Year of Disabled Persons and the integration of women in development.

4. The first country programme for Mauritania originally covered the period of UNDP's second programming cycle (1977-1981). With the postponement to February 1983 of the submission to the Governing Council of all the national programmes of the Sahelian countries, the first programme for Mauritania was extended to cover 1982. The present programme is therefore the second country programme and covers four years (1983-1986) of the third UNDP programming cycle.

5. The funds available under the indicative planning figure (IPF) total \$US 15,178,000. Of this amount, \$3,611,000 is allocated to ongoing projects; \$6,760,000 to new projects and new phases planned under the new country programme, and \$3,650,000 to activities and objectives that have been defined but for which the project documents have not yet been prepared. This leaves a reserve of \$1,157,000 (7.6 per cent of the funds available) which will make it possible to carry out, as part of a continuous programming process, the readaptations and readjustments made necessary by the reorientation of the Government's priorities.

6. In addition to the funds available under the IPF, other contributions are expected from the following sources within the United Nations system for the period 1983-1986: (a) the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) which is financing six projects (census, centre for demographic and social studies, family

welfare, national fertility survey, and assistance to the UNFPA national programme); (b) the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), which contributes to several of the projects referred to in this document; (c) the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which is making a substantial financial contribution to the projects entitled "Construction and management of earth dams" (with supplementary financing from the IPF) and "Improvement of M'Bout-Sélibaby secondary roads" (with supplementary financing from UNSO); the World Food Programme (WFP), which contributes mainly food supplies; and (e) the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. In addition, Mauritania benefits each year, as an "assimilated country" and according to the resources available, from assistance from the Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries.

7. The breakdown of the resources programmed according to programme themes is as follows:

<u>Themes</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
	(in dollars)			
Self-sufficiency in food	1 026 000	3 050 000	4 076 000	29.1
Water management	871 000	1 520 000	2 391 000	17.1
Development of the Sahelian region	1 044 000	450 000	1 494 000	10.7
Diversification of Sahelian economies	419 000	760 000	1 179 000	8.4
Human resources/ training	-	1 309 000	1 309 000	9.3
Infrastructure	<u>251 000</u>	<u>3 321 000</u>	<u>3 572 000</u>	<u>25.4</u>
TOTAL	3 611 000	10 410 000	14 021 000	

**PROPOSED UNDP TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN SUPPORT
OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**

8. The objectives and methods of action required have been determined by the Government on the basis of an analysis of the economic situation of Mauritania, where, as in the other Sahelian countries, the most pressing problems are the following: (a) the drought and its consequences, inadequate food production, unemployment and the flight from the countryside together with the advance of desertification; (b) the shortage of skilled manpower due, among other causes, to a lack of adequate technical training and, generally speaking, to an educational system ill-adapted to the development needs and economic and social conditions of Mauritania.

9. In the light of the foregoing, and taking into account the priorities defined in the Government's Fourth Economic and Social Development Plan, UNDP intervention is envisaged in respect of human resources, natural resources and institutions, according to the priority development themes for the countries of the Sahel.

A. SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

(\$4,076,000 programmed)

10. A substantial part of the IPF funds is devoted to rural development activities that have a direct bearing on the satisfaction of the country's food needs. In that context, a sum of \$2 million has been set aside for the national activities that will form part of the programme of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). Several donors are participating in these national rural development activities: the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) is financing part of the project for the development of agricultural statistics; the development of small-scale fisheries receives aid from the European Development Fund (EDF), the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Japan and the French Fund for Aid and Co-operation (FAC). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and FAC are also engaged in research and experiments relating to seeds, and the German Office for Technical Co-operation (Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)) plans to finance a training centre for the maintenance and repair of agricultural machinery. Regional project activities designed to reinforce national efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food include: assistance to the West Africa Rice Development Association (Phase II) (RAF/75/002); Assistance to OCLALAV (RAF/81/020); Protection of agricultural products against seed-eating birds (RAF/81/022); Irrigation of small areas for rice production in the countries members of the West Africa Association (RAF/81/028).

11. The project entitled "Development of agricultural statistics and studies of fauna and avifauna" (MAU/80/006) (ongoing, duration four years), is intended to strengthen the Ministry of Rural Development, to provide its services with a tool for compiling basic data in the areas of agriculture and livestock production, and to make it possible to carry out a study of the fauna and avifauna in order to establish a programme for the protection of endangered species. The project will train national officials in techniques for the compilation and processing of agricultural statistics. UNDP assistance is supplemented by contributions from UNSO and the AOAD.

12. The project entitled "Development of small-scale fisheries (MAU/80/004) (ongoing, duration four years) is in line with the Government's priorities and given the rich fishing grounds off the Mauritanian coast opens up major prospects both for self-sufficiency in food and the creation of employment opportunities. The project will thus assist the Government, in installing of structures for the production, processing and distribution of the small-scale fishery products.

13. With regard to livestock production, the project entitled "Poultry rearing" (MAU/82/008) (new, duration two years) will make it possible to diversify protein supplies through the installation of poultry rearing centres, selection of species and production of the necessary poultry feed.

14. A project entitled "Seed research and experiments" (new, duration to be determined), which will result from the combination of the rice cultivation research project (MAU/77/001) (ongoing) and a project that has been temporarily interrupted, "Establishment of a seed centre" (MAU/78/003), is under study. It will contribute to the production in Mauritania of selected seeds adapted to Sahelian conditions. Its implementation requires the development of an irrigated area provided for as part of the project entitled "Construction and management of earth dams" (MAU/81/002) (see para. 18) and the obtaining of additional external financing on the basis of which the UNDP contribution will be determined. The regional project entitled "Agronomic research and agricultural development" (OMVS) (Phase II) (RAF/78/030), will reinforce these activities.
15. In rural areas, a project entitled "Development, training and extension activities in rural communities" (new, duration to be determined) will have as its priority objective the training of village technicians in all the skills needed to adapt communities to the requirements of rural development: agricultural production and food diversification, infrastructure, hygiene, production of basic agricultural tools and equipment, and so on. The project could be partly or wholly integrated into or associated with the education project (see para. 35) in ways remaining to be determined.
16. Lastly, a project entitled "Improvement of the system of maintaining and repairing equipment in rural areas" (new, duration to be determined) will from 1984 onward reinforce rural development activities in the Senegal River basin. The establishment of a machine workshop at Kaédi is envisaged as a supplement to a repair and maintenance training programme.

B. WATER MANAGEMENT

(\$2,391,000 programmed)

17. In a Sahelian country that has been subjected to the effects of drought for the past 10 years, any effort to develop the rural sector must be accompanied by activities directed at the management of water resources. UNDP and UNSO are involved in the regions of Guidimaka and Assaba, USAID and EDF in the neighbouring regions, Hodh and Brakna. In addition, the regional project entitled "Training centre for agrometeorological and hydrological studies (RAF/74/080) includes the national project Agrhymet (see para. 20).
18. Several projects have a bearing on water resource management. The project entitled "Construction and management of earth dams" (MAU/81/002) (ongoing, duration three years) financed jointly by UNDP, UNCDF and UNSO, contributes to such management. It is strengthening rural engineering structures through the installation at Kiffa of a team which will repair and improve existing earth dams and build new ones in the Assaba and Guidimaka region.
19. In addition, the project entitled "Thirty-six Boreholes" (MAU/103), financed by UNSO, which is essential to the implementation of a capital equipment project financed by the African Development Bank (ADB), is likewise aimed at the

exploitation and management of water resources in other farming and rangeland areas of the country. UNDP will also finance the project entitled "Repair and maintenance of wells (MAU/82/010) (new, duration two years); in order to preserve the existing network of wells in the Adrar and Assaba regions which satisfies the water needs of the rural communities, cattle and agriculture. It will also make it possible to control the degree of pollution and contamination of the well water and to date the water in order to evaluate ground-water recharging.

20. Lastly, it is planned to continue the agrometeorological activities started under the project Agrhymet (MAU/77/005) after 1983, in the light of the recommendations of the current programming mission and following the creation by the Government of a national agrometeorological service. At present time, FAC has assumed responsibility for the hydrological component of the project through the Organization for Scientific Research in Overseas Territories.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAHELIAN REGION

(\$1,494,00 programmed)

21. The combined effects of the drought and human activity have had disastrous consequences for the plant cover, thus accelerating the advance of the desert. Nature conservation efforts and the campaign against desertification will receive assistance from the Danish and Algerian Governments through UNSO. An important complementary activity in this area is the USAID reforestation project. The UNDP project to improve housing conditions (see para. 23) should benefit in part from the support of the funds financing the "Gorgol Noir" project, which is being executed by the National Rural Development Company (SONADER). EDF is currently studying the possibility of financing one of the components of this project.

22. Since desertification is assuming alarming proportions, part of the IPF funds will be spent on nature conservation and the campaign against desertification with the final choice being made by the Government in agreement with UNDP and UNSO within the framework of the dune stabilization project (UNSO/DES/MAU/80/002).

23. The project entitled "Research and experiments in the field of housing and construction aimed at improving the population's living conditions" (MAU/82/003) (new, duration three years), aims at encouraging the use of local materials and the implementation of the self-help construction principle. It has three components: pilot improvements carried out within the framework of the village infrastructure component of the multidonor "Gorgol Noir" project; similar assistance to the Imraguens fishermen as part of the project entitled "Development of small-scale fisheries" (MAU/80/004), and lastly, feasibility studies financed partly by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the use of local materials throughout the country.

D. DIVERSIFICATION OF THE SAHELIAN ECONOMIES

(\$1,179,000 programmed)

24. The Mauritanian economy is largely dependent on international aid. The Mauritanian Government is exerting considerable efforts to reduce the negative effects of this situation. The mining and industrial sectors are receiving assistance from FAC, the World Bank, and the Governments of Iraq and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and UNDP is engaged in the following activities.
25. Activities are envisaged (new project, duration to be specified) to supplement the explorations that had been started under the project entitled "Airborne geophysical prospecting" (MAU/77/006) and refine their results so as eventually to be able to produce an investment project or a bankable scheme. Also in 1983 it is planned to establish a subsoil data bank as part of the project entitled "Strengthening of the Geological Service" (MAU/78/002) (ongoing, duration five years).
26. The project entitled "Development of handicrafts" (MAU/80/011) (ongoing, duration two years) was started to improve the means of production of handicraft workers and to promote small enterprises in the subsector, such as, for example, leather tanning, pottery, metalworking and woodworking.
27. A new industrial development project (duration, two years) is intended to provide assistance in industrial management (industrial information centre, industrial, sectoral and branch studies) with a view to creating conditions favourable to the establishment of small and medium-scale industries and combating a number of structural bottlenecks in this field. It is planned to employ both United Nations volunteers and consultants engaged for specific missions.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES/TRAINING

(\$1,309,000 programmed)

28. Mauritania's Fourth Economic and Social Development Plan puts special emphasis on education and training adapted to the Mauritanian context. The World Bank is participating with UNDP in financing project MAU/77/004 (see para. 29); the Order of Malta, UNICEF, the International Red Cross, the Catholic Aid Service, the Governments of Italy and the United States and FAC are participating directly in project MAU/82/001 (see para. 30). The Saudi Development Fund, the Arab Development Fund, the Government of Iraq and FAC are financing other activities in this area.
29. The project entitled "Establishment of a Centre for Basic and Advanced Vocational Training" (MAU/77/004) (ongoing, duration eight years), which began in 1978 at the same time as the World Bank project, provides technical assistance in the basic and advanced training of personnel for enterprises, managers and instructors, both in specific areas (accounting, secretarial work, plumbing, electricity, carpentry, etc.) and in teaching techniques. As part of the World

Bank project Education II, it has been decided to continue UNDP technical assistance using IPF funds for 1983 to 1985.

30. The project entitled "National Centre for Orthopedics and Rehabilitation" (MAU/82/001) (new, duration two years) has gone far beyond the original objectives of the project entitled "Assistance to the Centre for the Handicapped" (MAU/79/003). This project, which receives assistance from many donors (see para. 28), involves the establishment of a national centre offering orthopedic treatment and rehabilitation services for handicapped persons. It also involves the production of orthopedic appliances (orthetic and prosthetic) and the training of Mauritanian orthopedists and physiotherapists. Mobile units will extend the services to the rural areas of Mauritania.

31. Activities aimed at promoting the integration of women in development are being planned and some of the IPF funds will be allocated to them. In addition, a contribution from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women is expected to finance a number of projects being studied in co-operation with UNDP, in particular a project entitled "Promotion of improved cooking facilities" (new, duration three years) aimed at introducing more efficient cooking methods.

F. INFRASTRUCTURE

(\$3,572,000 programmed)

32. The Mauritanian Government is planning the gradual installation of more appropriate and effective management systems, both at the governmental level and in the para-public enterprises, which constitute a rapidly expanding key sector. An overall reform of the educational system is under study, its purpose being to adapt education better to the requirements of national development. FAC, the World Bank, and the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Federal Republic of Germany are giving the Mauritanian Government assistance in these fields.

33. One project involves the initiation of the operational phase of the preparatory assistance project entitled "Assistance in the rehabilitation of the para-public sector" (MAU/80/010) (ongoing, duration four years) and will make it possible to start implementing the national accounting plan in para-public enterprises while at the same time providing training for management.

34. It is planned to continue the project "Assistance to the Ministry of Rural Development" (MAU/80/012) (ongoing, duration three years). It will provide the Ministry with technical support which will enable it to ensure improved follow-up in the priority sector for which it is responsible.

35. An overall reform of the educational system, rather than a mere revision of curriculum content, is one of the highest priorities set by the Fourth Plan and should start coming into effect in 1986. The reform implies the carefully prepared and documented establishment of an educational system available to all, with low recurring expenses, oriented to development and responding to the needs of both the urban and rural population. The Government has therefore decided to devote a

relatively large portion of the IPF funds to preparing for this reform, in which, in addition to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other specialized agencies of the United Nations system will most likely be called upon to participate (new project, duration three years).

36. The Government attaches special importance to the establishment of an Organization and Methods Office under the project MAU/82/002 (new, duration two years) which will help to improve administrative methods and procedures and to modernize services management. The World Bank has already agreed to participate and the prospects for additional contributions from external funds seem good.

37. In the field of civil aviation, project MAU/82/009 (new, duration two years) will make it possible to improve air safety in Mauritania through such measures as the installation and start-up of radio-assisted air navigation at the Nouakchott Airport and specialized training for certain personnel.

38. A programme support project (new, duration four years) is planned, which will have three components: consultations to prepare the way for the surveys and missions that prove necessary during the third cycle to readapt and reorient the programme in the light of the Government's needs and priorities; support activities to provide the UNDP office with the necessary means for the follow-up and management of a continuously expanding programme; and a garage which will make it possible to realize substantial economies of scale in maintaining the motor vehicles used in all the projects.

C. Financial distribution of programme, by sector

<u>Sectors b/</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Sectoral</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>projects</u>	<u>projects</u>	<u>earmarkings</u>	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
02 General matters relating to development, etc.	36 000	950 000	250 000	1 236 000
03 Natural resources	100 000	1 460 000	-	1 560 000
04 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	2 112 000	1 250 000	2 250 000	5 612 000
05 Industry	319 000	500 000	-	819 000
06 Transport and communications	-	501 000	-	501 000
09 Human settlements	1 044 000	-	-	1 044 000
11 Education	-	-	1 000 000	1 000 000
12 Employment	-	1 420 000	-	1 420 000
14 Social conditions and Social justice	-	359 000	150 000	509 000
16 Science and technology	-	320 000	-	320 000
TOTAL	3 611 000	6 760 000	3 650 000	14 021 000

a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming.

b/ According to ACC classification.

