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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and approval of country programmes

THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE NIGER

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

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* The previous programmes of the Niger appeared in documents DP/GC/NER/R.1 and DP/GC/NER/R.2.

INTRODUCTION

1. The second country programme for the Niger received a financial package of \$19,750,000 from UNDP in the second programming cycle (1977-1981). An amount of \$45 million is envisaged for the third cycle (1982-1986), of which 20 per cent, or \$9 million, is to be kept in reserve to offset a possible reduction in the annual contributions of UNDP.
2. In view of the fact that submission of the country programme to the UNDP Governing Council has been deferred until February 1983, it should be noted that the funds available for 1982 and 1983 have been programmed in 1982, following the request of Niger authorities that a number of particularly high-priority projects should be launched as soon as possible. In most cases it was a question of the final phases of projects in progress in the period 1977-1981, and the intention was to achieve the initial objectives. In keeping with that approach, the authorizations made for 1982 may be regarded as an extension of the second country programme (1977-1981).
3. Of the \$35,844,000 available for the third cycle out of the indicative planning figure (IPF), an amount of approximately \$6.3 million has already been approved for 1982. There is therefore a remaining amount of \$29,544,000 for the period 1983-1986 (see annex).
4. The proposals put forward here concern the priority areas selected by the Government in which the United Nations may take action.
5. The present document deals with the content of the third country programme for the Niger and focuses on priorities, allocation of available resources and the length and nature of the projects to be included in the programme, taking account of the following factors:
 - (a) The UNDP programme of assistance adheres to the guidelines set forth in the National Plan, which is based on the specific situation of the Niger as a country in the Sahelian region;
 - (b) Since the resources provided by UNDP are limited, a smaller number of sizeable projects appears to be preferable to having many small projects;
 - (c) In view of the mandate of UNDP, pre-investment projects likely to have a catalytic effect have been selected with a view to securing supplementary funds from other sources;
 - (d) The projects have been drawn up in such a way as to be compatible with the existing government infrastructure, in order to guarantee maximum participation on the part of Niger nationals and to avoid recurring expenses;
 - (e) The projects have been selected in the light of the possibilities offered by the United Nations system, particularly in the framework of the Lagos Plan with regard to agriculture, and in the area of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), particularly African countries, in accordance with the recommendations of the Nairobi Conference;

(f) The projects have been selected in such a way as to complement other external sources with a view to co-ordinating assistance and avoiding any duplication.

6. Five topics, chosen by the countries of the Sahel at the meeting of resident representatives that took place at Dakar in January 1981, called for particular attention: (a) food self-sufficiency; (b) water management; (c) development of the Sahelian region, involving environmental protection, development of wooded areas, desertification control and human settlements; (d) diversification of the Sahelian economies; (e) human resources/training.

7. It should be noted that two of the projects in the third country programme are of particular importance as regards diversification and a measure of independence in the area of energy, and are intended to have a catalytic effect in the process of obtaining other sources of financing, namely, (a) institutional assistance to the Office for Energy for Industrial Uses (NER/81/016); (b) assistance to the High Commission for the Kandadji Dam (NER/80/006).

8. Preparation of the third country programme began in January 1981, and in the course of that year various programming missions sent by United Nations specialized agencies at the request of the Government evaluated priority sectors and made recommendations. In 1982, in a note, the Resident Representative summarized the principles that had been adhered to in the programming process, and an evaluation of the experience gained by the Government and UNDP in the period 1977-1981 was annexed to that document. That procedure was followed because joint submission of the programmes of the countries of the Sahel to the Governing Council had been postponed until February 1983. The final selection was made at a meeting between the Minister of Planning and the Resident Representative. The Ministry of Planning is the Government authority responsible for programming the UNDP IPF.

9. Evaluation of the preceding programme indicated that, to the extent possible, there should be a shift of focus towards directly productive projects, accompanied by the integration of training aspects.

10. Taking as a basis the principle of flexible planning adopted by the Government, UNDP programming is designed to be a continuous, flexible process. This approach will take the form of annual review exercises to ensure constant adjustment of the country programme to the economic situation.

11. Under the proposed programme, 12 projects (38 per cent of programmed IPF resources) will be under way by the end of 1982. In the case of the 21 new projects, the project documents have been prepared for 11 projects (31 per cent of programmed resources) and the remaining projects (31 per cent of programmed resources) are at the proposal stage and require further preparation.

12. An unprogrammed reserve (13 per cent of available resources) has been set aside for the period 1984-1985, which will be a period of reflection and evaluation for the Government following the five-year plan, which ends in 1983, prior to preparation of a new development plan starting in 1986. It should be noted that specific proposals regarding utilization of the reserve have been put forward.

13. The distribution of programmed resources by programme topic is as follows:

	<u>Ongoing Projects</u>	<u>New Projects</u>	<u>Sectoral allocation</u> (in dollars)	<u>Total</u>
Food self-sufficiency	6 119 000	358 000	3 705 000	10 182 000
Water management	317 000	1 840 000	2 100 000	4 257 000
Development of the Sahelian region		1 800 000	900 000	2 700 000
Diversification of the Sahelian economies	1 786 000	3 404 000	700 000	5 890 000
Human resources/training		645 000	500 000	1 145 000
Infrastructure (development/ policies/planning)	<u>1 488 000</u>			<u>1 488 000</u>
	9 710 000	<u>8 047 000</u>	<u>7 905 000</u>	<u>25 662 000</u>

14. The Niger will also receive assistance from other funds administered by UNDP, such as the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) (\$11.3 million); the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (\$7.7 million); the Energy Account (\$60,000); and the Special Measures Fund for the least developed countries (\$424,000). Moreover, the activities carried out by the United Nations Volunteers programme in the Niger are expanding year by year. The Niger, which participated in the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held at Paris in September 1981, has endorsed the proposal made by UNDP that a round-table meeting of financial backers should be held. Such a meeting is likely to be held in the second half of 1983. A preliminary mission financed by the UNDP regional programme has already taken place.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAMMES TO BE SUPPORTED BY UNDP

15. The Niger, which belongs to the group of least-developed countries (LDCs), is also one of the land-locked countries of the Sahel. Its development strategy therefore focuses on three fundamental components, namely, food self-sufficiency, economic independence and the creation of a development-oriented society which would be in conformity with the need to promote the co-operation, awareness and participation of the population and which would serve as a special basis selected by the State in order to build sound and adequate development institutions which respond to its concerns.
16. These options were already contained in the three-year development programme of 1976-1978 as overall objectives and reflect the socio-economic conditions of the country, whose main economic obstacles are geographic isolation, the Sahelian climate and a basically agricultural economy dominated by traditional agricultural methods with a low level of productivity.
17. Niger is experiencing runaway demographic growth at a 2.7 per cent which necessitates an additional production of more than 40,000 tonnes of grain each year. The population is very young: 45 per cent of the population of the Niger are under 15 and nearly 56 per cent are under 20. More than 90 per cent live in rural areas.
18. The principal factors that would promote the country's economic growth are mineral resources, large-scale projects of high productivity, the opening up of the country to the outside world, and the opportunities for international co-operation, the development of which should not be underestimated.
19. The five-year plan (1979-1983) was published in 1980. In this regard, it should be recalled that the formal planning process was greatly stimulated and assisted by the second country programme for the cycle 1977-1981. In the planning sector, the Government opted for flexible planning which, while according the State a major role, does not neglect the role of private partners.
20. The principle according to which national development is based on the strengths of the people of the Niger themselves is reflected in the sums allocated to the National Investment Fund (NIF).
21. The international economic situation caused: a decrease in income derived from the main raw material exported by the Niger, namely uranium, in 1980 and 1981; an increase in the prices of products, particularly oil and capital goods; fluctuations in the main international currencies (an increase in the value of the dollar against the French franc); and a still higher rate of world inflation.
22. The Government therefore faces a decrease in revenue and an increase in the costs of production and of its priority projects.

A. Food self-sufficiency

(\$10,182,000 programmed)

23. Food self-sufficiency is the priority objective of the Government of the Niger.

24. Of the country's total surface area of 1,267,000 square kilometres (km²), only one quarter is suitable for farming and only one eighth is arable. The relatively rapid expansion of crops towards the marginal areas of the north will soon bring all arable land into use.

25. In general the soil quality in the Niger is particularly precarious. The degradation process increased after the droughts of the 1970s under the combined influence of a number of factors such as excessive deforestation due to the gathering of firewood, constant over-grazing in certain areas because of the excessive increase in livestock, and the abandonment of land which lay fallow for a long period without any alternative solution (namely, crop rotation with the use of fertilizer).

26. Fortunately, the fishery resources in the rivers and lakes of the Niger are not in danger of depletion.

27. The general objectives in the search for food self-sufficiency are:
(a) increased agricultural productivity; (b) improved livestock health and production; (c) development of fisheries.

(a) Agriculture

28. In spite of the effort made by the Niger to increase the number and surface area of irrigated lands, most of the country's food supply (1,750,000 tonnes of millet and sorghum in 1980 and 2,190,000 planned for 1990) depends and will depend for a long time to come on the traditional peasant farmers, who raise rain-fed crops on dry lands.

29. Agricultural productivity will depend on the development of dry crops, irrigated crops, the system of co-operation and the regular supply of inputs. The development of dry crops will require an increase in yield, the introduction of varieties less sensitive to drought, soil protection and rehabilitation, and more intensive cropping through adapted techniques. The development of irrigated crops will make it possible to lessen the dry food-crop shortage, meet requirements for sugar and vegetables and provide additional forage for herds. The activities in the field of training, finance and marketing will have to be carried out in the context of the co-operatives.

UNDP co-operation

30. UNDP assistance involves, for the most part, projects designed to reinforce support structures, since the financing for the productivity projects and the investment requirements is provided by the other bilateral and multilateral sources.

31. The assistance provided to the Practical Institute for Rural Development (IPDR) at Kolo is continuing, as planned in the initial project document, and has entered its last phase. The previous phase enabled the Institute to act as a catalyst by assisting the Government in its negotiations with other donors such as the World Bank, the European Development Fund and the Governments of France, Belgium, the United States and the Netherlands. At the Government's request, the Institute also serves as co-ordinator of all foreign assistance provided to it.

Reform and expansion of IPDR at Kolo (phase II) (NER/81/015) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to help develop IPDR and provide it with the structures and means enabling it to train the different categories of rural development personnel; (b) to strengthen the role of the teaching centre; (c) to draw up the plan for replacing expatriates with local staff.

32. The compilation of agricultural statistics, which are essential as a basis for rural development in the Niger, was assisted by UNDP in the previous period. An agricultural census was carried out in 1980 but, for a number of reasons, the other objectives of the project could not be achieved. The assistance is continuing in order to achieve them.

Development of the Agricultural Statistics Service (NER/79/001) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to set up a permanent system of agricultural statistics; (b) to carry out various studies such as the forecasting of harvests, food losses, periods of work and livestock-raising.

33. Since a soil-mapping service is an essential tool for ascertaining the natural resources in the soil and a technical instrument for the diversification and intensification of agriculture, soil conservation and environmental protection, UNDP assistance for the establishment of such a service is continuing in order to achieve the initial objectives of the project. It should be pointed out that the time necessary for attaining this goal was initially expected to be five years, but has been reduced to 46 months because of financial constraints. Therefore, two additional years are necessary in order to complete this project.

Soil-mapping assistance (phase II) (NER/81/018) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to establish a soil-mapping section and draw up a soil-use map and a map showing grazing areas; (b) to reorganize the soil laboratories of the ecological research departments of the National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRAN), and to assist in setting up a soil and water conservation section; (c) to strengthen the Chemistry and Soil-Fertilization Section.

34. Following the marked growth of the productivity projects in the Niger over the past few years, the flow of inputs has become increasingly heavy, not only because of the quantities involved but also because the destinations are scattered throughout the agricultural area of the country. The problems encountered by the Central Supply Office of the Union nigérienne de crédit coopératif (UNCC) at both the central and the regional levels are numerous (organization, supply, inventory control, planning, etc.).

Study of supply routes and management of the agricultural loan (NER/82/001) (new)

Project objectives: An agroeconomist specializing in agricultural accounting and inventory control will have to visit the Niger at three different times in the year in order to be able to monitor and analyse input needs (evaluation of needs, preparation of orders, distribution, collection of payments due, etc.).

35. In order to make new, high-quality seed varieties available to all farmers, the Government has started a comprehensive programme for seed improvement. Under a large-scale cereals project (financed by the Government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)) a seed farm (80 hectares) is to be set up and operated at Lossa, with five propagation centres spread over the southern part of the country. Other seed programmes are in progress. An initial course of training in seed technology was organized in 1979 and financed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under its technical co-operation programme. This project also included the provision of special equipment for a seed technology training centre. The Government plans to continue this training as a regular course.

Training in seed technology (NER/82/002) (new)

Project objectives: promotion of a second training course, following the broad lines of the preceding one, the Niger National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRAN) being responsible for technical co-ordination; provision of additional equipment for protecting selected and basic seed against the hazards of the weather.

36. During the past two decades, an area of about 6,000 hectares has been developed, mainly in the Niger and Maggia river valleys. These areas are mainly for rice-growing under irrigation. The rice production will help to meet food requirements. A large-scale programme has been planned for the development of more than 1,000 hectares a year. The National Agency for Hydro-agricultural Development (ONAHA) is responsible for development, management and maintenance of the areas. It is also responsible for providing agricultural guidance for farmers, in co-operation with UNCC.

Further research on rice-growing under irrigation (NER/81/012) (new)

Project objectives: (a) to carry out the studies needed for assessing the effects of this kind of cultivation on the main types of soil and for ascertaining the most economic and effective fertilizers; (b) to continue the research carried out in the Niger by the West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) over the past few years in order to identify the varieties most suited to conditions in the country, and at the same time follow the evolution of parasites in the different developed or ecological areas.

37. The Ténéré oases include the Bilma-Sequedine series of oases and the oasis of Faschi, in the middle of the Ténéré sandhills. The local population, numbering about 7,500, live on the produce of their gardens and on salt and date production - about 80,000 date palms producing some 1,600 tonnes of dates a year, half of which are consumed in the Niger. The potential for production is falling fast because of the rapid encroachment of moving sand dunes on the oases, the rise of the salt in

places where the clay layer is too near the surface, and the infestation of the date palms by rust mite, scale insects and bayou. In addition, the isolation of this region limits access to markets and makes trading difficult. The agricultural development of this region involves a number of activities conducted jointly with those funded by other multilateral and bilateral sources, such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (\$1 million) and the United Nations Sahelian Office (UNSO).

Assistance to co-operatives in the Ténéré oases (NER/81/007) (ongoing)

Project objectives: to assist the co-operatives in training growers in the economic and financial management of the marketing and supply system, improving storage, conservation and processing of produce, and organizing co-operative shops so as to provide supplies of basic necessities on a non-speculative basis; and to ensure that operations are self-financing.

Assistance in the agricultural development of the Ténéré oases (NER/82/012) (new)

Project objectives: (a) to combat sanding-over by disseminating techniques among the population and controlling salinity through improvement of irrigation methods in order to prevent the return of salt and wastage of water; (b) to control predatory insects by biological means.

(b) Stock farming

38. Improvement of animal production will require the maintenance of good health conditions, training of staff, training and promotion of stock farmers, reconstitution of the herd in quality rather than quantity in view of the limited grazing potential, and improving output.

39. Specialized zones are also being planned, such as a breeding zone (grazing zone), a zone rearing young cattle bred in the grazing zone (intermediate zone), and a rich pasture zone for intensive breeding (agricultural zone).

40. A water policy for grazing will favour natural wells rather than drilled wells. Water points will be installed by agreement among the Water Service, the Stock-breeding Service and the stock farmers.

41. Since 1974, the Stock-breeding Service has instituted valuable programmes designed to increase the productivity of the herds in meat and milk and to increase the number of draught animals.

UNDP co-operation

42. The school for stock-breeding assistants and technicians at Niamey, the only one of its kind, is at present training about 40 medium-level staff. The Government of the Niger and the World Bank have just negotiated a loan to be used for building and equipping a new school to replace the existing one. It is estimated that about 500 medium-level staff will be required annually. The new school will open at the end of 1983.

Assistance to the stock-breeding school (NER/81/011) (ongoing)

Project objectives: starting in 1985, to train 100 medium-level staff annually and to improve the quality of existing training by concentrating on the practical aspects of stock-breeding.

43. The stock-breeding laboratory of the Stock-breeding Service plays an essential part in maintaining good health conditions. Its two main functions are diagnosing diseases and producing vaccines. In 1981 UNCDF and the Government reached an agreement of principle on the provision of funds to purchase the equipment for the laboratory. The necessary technical assistance will be provided by UNDP.

Assistance to the stock-breeding laboratory (NER/81/019) (new)

Project objectives: (a) to rationalize installations with a view to organizing the process of vaccine production, for which it will be necessary to renovate old equipment, provide new equipment and construct premises to house all the auxiliary services; (b) to set up a service for diagnosing animal diseases and a liaison service between the diagnostic laboratory and the field.

44. With the provision of new cattle-watering facilities, it will be possible to develop areas which had formerly been inaccessible to grazing. The development of vast areas will be fully justified, in terms of enhancing the productivity of the herd and ensuring a biological balance between the size of the herd and available grazing. The results will have very beneficial effects in improving living conditions for the inhabitants of those areas in the south of Tamesna.

Water supply for grazing (south Tamesna) (NER/82/004) (new)

Project objectives: drilling of three bore-holes and of wells, with assistance from the Fund for Aid and Co-operation (France) (FAC), under the project for modernizing the grazing region of south Tamesna. The sites for the three bore-holes and the wells have already been marked on the 1979 map of the Geological and Mining Research Bureau (BRGM).

(c) Fishing

45. Production potential is estimated at 20,000 tonnes of fresh fish a year. Even after the effects of the drought are considered, fishery resources are greatly under-exploited.

46. The 7,000 registered commercial fishermen form an independent, individualistic social group because of their mobile activity and their way of life.

47. The general objective of the sector is to exploit resources to the maximum without jeopardizing reserves.

UNDP co-operation

48. A technical assistance project was approved in June 1981 to help the Government to set up individualized fisheries services with the necessary means and trained personnel to carry out studies.

Fisheries development (NER/79/018) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to strengthen the competence and the capacity of the Fisheries Service to deal with staff proficiency at different levels, and the establishment of services or technical means to facilitate the work of fishermen, to improve the quality and quantity of their produce and to organize them into co-operative units; (b) to make a preliminary study of the effects of the Kandadji dam on the future of fishing above and below the dam; (c) at the request of the Fisheries Service, to provide technical advice for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the development of fish farming and sea fishing.

(d) Miscellaneous

49. An assistance project has been scheduled, but not yet prepared, to support the activities of the World Food Programme (WFP) in the Niger. The UNDP contribution is estimated at \$25,000.

B. Water management

(\$4,257,000 programmed)

50. Water is always a restrictive factor in agriculture, stock-breeding, human needs (rural and urban) and industry.

51. The Government's efforts to provide a water supply that will in time meet all the above-mentioned needs depend on the construction of a dam on the River Niger at Kandadji. The Government also needs international co-operation to speed up its programme for providing every population centre with a water supply.

(a) Water supply

52. Policy in this sector is based on the following options:

(a) Definition of a comprehensive water policy, together with a water code specifying utilization and disposal methods and quality standards;

(b) Setting up of administrative structures for co-ordinating research, study, investment and use;

(c) Continued expansion of modern water-supply systems with a view to covering the entire territory. A water-supply system to be provided for population centres of more than 2,000 inhabitants.

UNDP co-operation

53. The purpose of UNDP assistance will be to expand the services of the Ministry of Waterworks, together with a loan proposed by the World Bank/IDA (\$6.5 million).

Assistance to the Ministry of Waterworks for water management (NER/82/009) (new)

Project objectives: to help to strengthen the capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Waterworks by setting up regional departments of the Ministry to be responsible for planning and supervising water-supply projects in rural areas and to assist with in-service training to enable Niger staff to carry out those tasks.

54. As part of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, UNDP started a drilling project in the Zinder Department in 1981, executed by the United Nations, with UNICEF sharing in the financing. The outcome is awaited.

Exploitation of groundwater (NER/79/006) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to assist the Office of Groundwater (OFEDS) in re-organizing the drilling section and assist the Waterworks Department in strengthening the geophysics team, to sink about 250 wells and equip them with pumps, and to organize at the national level three mobile teams for pump maintenance and repair; (b) to set up a rural leadership and sanitary education programme at community and village level and to carry out a campaign for the protection of aquifers and the construction of latrines.

Exploitation of groundwater (NER/82/010) (new)

Project objective: to continue a drilling programme in the Zinder Department, launched by project NER/79/006 now in progress.

55. In 1976, pursuant to resolutions adopted in 1973 by the Ministers of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UNDP in 1976 approved the Agrometeorology and Applied Hydrology Training and Study Centre (AGRHYMET) programme, consisting of a regional project and national projects in the CILSS countries. The extension of the national project to the Niger will permit the continuation of the activities which could not be completed during the initial expansion phase.

Strengthening of agrometeorological and hydrological services in the Sahel countries (phase II) (NER/82/015) (new)

Project objectives: (a) organization of services within the National Meteorological Department and a fully operational hydrological service under the Department of Water Resources; (b) strengthening of telecommunication and data transmission systems linking the networks with the national centre, and establishment of a system for control, processing, analysis, storage and exchange of data from the networks; (c) transmission of information to users through appropriate programmes; (d) setting up of studies and applied research, at the national level, on the rational utilization of water resources.

C. Development of the Sahelian region

(\$2.7 million programmed)

56. The direct or indirect destruction of plant cover by the population is causing alarming deforestation (problems of timber supply, soil degradation) and a steady retreat of wildlife.

57. Government policy for the forestry and wildlife sector comprises:

(a) Instituting mass action by mobilizing the rural population in integrated projects to protect the soil (with wind breaks and gaos) and to produce firewood and commercial timber;

(b) Giving priority to the most critical areas, such as the outskirts of large towns, agricultural areas with dense populations and the intermediate zone where arable and pastoral lands meet;

(c) Protecting wildlife, concentrating action in areas with a present or future tourist role;

(d) Reorganizing the Water and Forestry Department; determination of priorities, organization, training, resources.

(a) Fauna

58. Wildlife is protected in four reserves.

UNDP co-operation

Preservation of the fauna in the Niamey and Dosso Departments (NER/82/003) (new)

Project objectives: identification of wildlife, fencing-off of sites, control of game diseases and training of staff (game wardens) and tourist guides.

(b) Human settlements

59. Town planning is currently in a consolidation phase. The Government has asked for UNDP assistance in a forward-looking approach to the sector.

60. The Central Human Settlements and Architecture Service has just established a "Human Settlements Division" especially to co-ordinate all human settlements programmes. This Division currently enjoys USAID assistance in defining the elements needed to formulate a national human settlements policy.

UNDP co-operation

Human settlements improvement in the urban environment (NER/81/010) (new)

Project objectives: direct support for the preparation and implementation of urban development programmes and assistance to the Department of Town Planning and Construction (Central Human Settlements and Architecture Service) in order to strengthen its technical capacity.

D. Diversification of the Sahelian economies

(\$5,890,000 programmed)

61. The quest for economic independence will enable the Niger to be a real partner in the necessary interdependence of the world's economies. It is a basic principle of this quest to rely first on one's own strength. The strong growth sectors to be encouraged with this in view are: mining, industry and pre-industrial handicrafts, energy, irrigated agriculture, construction, transport and trade.

(a) Industry

62. The long-term aim is to establish progressively a solid and diversified industrial base capable of maintaining strong growth when uranium reserves are becoming exhausted.

63. Among the options implicit in this policy, the Government gives priority to projects to expand and modernize existing units, researches new projects and promotes trade with neighbouring countries in order to widen markets.

UNDP co-operation

64. A technical assistance project was approved in 1979 to assist the Government in the conception and establishment of an Office to Promote Niger Enterprises (OPEN). This is an integral part of the joint effort by IBRD/IDA and UNDP/UNIDO to promote industry and create jobs in the Niger. The project will last until 1983.

Assistance to the Office to Promote Niger Enterprises (OPEN) (ongoing)

Project objectives: to assist OPEN in identifying bankable projects for financing by the Niger Development Bank, in formulating draft legislation and government programmes aimed at promoting the development of Niger enterprises, and in exploring potential markets, researching new markets and suggesting a range of products which could be manufactured to satisfy the national market and the subregional market of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

65. UNCDF has agreed in principle to finance the equipment for rehabilitating the old brickworks at Niamey. UNDP assistance will help both the old and the new brickworks.

Assistance for the SONICERAM brickworks (NER/81/014) (new)

Project objectives: to ensure maximum utilization of the new brickworks and to institute efficient working methods for maintenance, production operations and personnel training.

66. In the context of making the best use of local raw materials and producing qualified national staff for a future large-scale metallurgical industry, assistance is envisaged for the establishment of a modern demonstration foundry/forge which would offer possibilities of training in the manufacture of various castings, parts and tools and which could serve as a starting point for the growth and expansion of a foundry industry in the Niger.

Establishment of a foundry/forge for production and demonstration purposes
(NER/81/020) (new)

Project objectives: (a) market analysis of current and future demand for castings and studies of available energy sources; (b) study trips for official staff to analyse recent experience in the installation of remote control centres in various developing countries; (c) preparation of a complete engineering plan, followed by the provision and installation of suitable equipment; (d) commissioning and operation of the foundry/forge, with an approximate annual production of 1,500 tonnes of cast iron and 100 tonnes of forged steel and provision of auxiliary services such as a machine shop and of facilities for producing metal frames.

67. UNDP technical assistance has been requested by the Government in order to promote the processing and marketing of the country's minerals in the El-Mecki region.

Assistance for the industrial exploitation of metallic ores (NER/82/008) (new)

Project objectives: to evaluate the quantity and quality of metallic ore resources, including cassiterite, in the El-Mecki region and to determine the best technology from both a technical and an economic point of view for the extraction and processing of tin ore and by-products.

(b) Energy

68. Responsibility for the energy sector is divided among various ministries. This spreading of responsibilities has not favoured a unified approach in the energy field. The Government envisages the creation of a "National Energy Committee" in which all the institutions and enterprises in the energy sector will be represented. This committee's task will be to formulate the country's energy policy and to draft regulations.

69. The Energy Account and UNSO have financed a project carried out by the World Bank aimed at helping the Government to draw up an energy balance sheet.

70. The Government attaches high priority to the construction of a dam at Kandadji in its search for security and independence in the energy field.

UNDP co-operation

71. Two assistance projects have been requested from UNDP. These will also serve as catalysts for obtaining other sources of finance.

Institutional assistance to the Department of Energy to meet industrial needs
(NER/81/016) (new)

Project objectives: (a) to assist the Department of Energy in co-ordinating the production and distribution of energy and to ensure technical and scientific support in defining the studies to be effected; (b) to assist in the synthesis of all data relating to industrial energy needs and in the search for ways and means of satisfying them.

Technical study - the Kandadji dam township (NER/80/006) (new)

Project objectives: to establish a technical institution under the High Commission for the Kandadji Dam to effect a first-phase pegging-out of the site before construction of the dam begins and to draw up a master plan covering the later phases of development.

(c) Transport

72. The Niger's land-locked situation demands that a particular effort should be made in the field of air transport.

UNDP co-operation

73. Although the Niger participates in the African School of Meteorology and Civil Aviation (EAMAC), which is assisted by the UNDP regional programme under project RAF/77/004, the Government has requested limited assistance to solve certain specific problems.

Development of civil aviation (NER/80/005) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to train national personnel so as to ensure the functioning and proper management of civil aviation services and installations, and to improve maintenance equipment; (b) to strengthen the Department of Civil Aviation by assistance to the airport and air transport sectors and to the Air-Niger Company, and to study the possibilities for development of civil aviation in the Niger.

(d) Trade

74. In 1981, the Government established a Department for the trade development project (DPDEC) in order to encourage the expansion and diversification of international trade, stimulate production of non-traditional exportable products and improve import practices, as well as the formalities and physical arrangements for imports and trade promotion. DPDEC is an autonomous department directly responsible to the Ministry of Trade. UNDP assistance is requested to strengthen this Department.

UNDP co-operation

Trade development (phase II) (NER/81/009) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to establish a Niger foreign trade centre designed to support government bodies (mixed-economy companies - SEMs) and the private sector in their foreign-trade-related activities and to strengthen the documentation and information service at national level; (b) to train the future staff for this sector in trade-promotion techniques; (c) to deepen knowledge both of foreign markets for certain selected products and of appropriate marketing strategies, and to rationalize import operations and techniques.

75. In order to control the production and distribution of essential goods, to intervene in sectors considered to be of priority and to provide part of the financial means for development and train the necessary staff, the Government operates about 40 mixed-economy companies and government agencies, which account for the greater part of the country's economic activities in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. UNDP assistance in the training of management staff for this sector dates from 1973. A third phase of assistance is requested by the Government.

Assistance to the Niger's mixed-economy companies (SEMs) and government agencies (phase III) (NER/81/004) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to encourage the managing directors of mixed-economy companies and government agencies to consider afresh the fundamental problems of managing large companies, to improve the training of these managers in the areas of forecasting and managing their human and material resources, and to seek to establish a methodology for analysing enterprises; (b) to make possible better communications and permanent co-ordination between the managers of companies and the bodies to which they are responsible so as to harmonize enterprise policies with government objectives.

(e) Tourism

76. Although tourism does not enjoy priority among the objectives of the Plan, it is recognized that it should accompany the development of the country and contribute to its wealth by bringing in foreign currency.

77. The government programme to improve the quality of the hotel and tourist trades' reception infrastructures consists essentially of training or upgrading the work force for the existing hotel trade and for tourism, which is seen as a complementary factor.

UNDP co-operation

Training in the hotel and tourist trades (NER/81/006) (new)

Project objectives: (a) to assist in drawing up and implementing a programme for training or upgrading hotel and tourist trade personnel and in creating the best possible conditions for improving loans for tourist and tourist-type operations.

E. Human resources/training

(\$1,145,000 programmed)

78. Among the options selected for building the future in line with the basic aims of establishing a developing society and seeking economic independence, there are such man-oriented operations as education, training, cultural development and information services.

(a) Education

79. The low school attendance rate and the unsuitability of the instruction given have led the Government to undertake an educational reform.

UNDP co-operation

80. The National Institute for Pedagogical Research and Application (INDRAP) enjoys UNDP assistance. A new phase is requested in order to help INDRAP to undertake actions leading to a reform of the Niger's educational system under the aegis of the National Commission for Educational Reform. In brief, the aim is to establish a new school system in the Niger.

Assistance to INDRAP (phase II) (NER/81/002) (new)

Project objectives: (a) instruction in national languages - the only effective means of combating illiteracy and school absenteeism - and the adoption of one unifying language, without however neglecting the other Niger languages; (b) the defence and revaluation of the cultural heritage and the adaptation of schools to the local environment and to productive labour; (c) the revaluation of manual and technological instruction.

(b) Training

81. The lack of trained staff is a brake on development efforts. The pace of staff training cannot keep up with the growing needs of an economy undergoing rapid and profound changes.

UNDP co-operation

82. In addition to the training component incorporated in each proposed project, UNDP assistance is envisaged to help the Government in its training efforts.

Training fellowships (phase II) (NER/82/017) (new)

Project objectives: to finance various fellowships for training abroad, including training offered under UNDP regional projects.

F. Infrastructure

(Development: policy and planning)
(\$1,488,000 programmed)

83. The public authorities assume moral and political responsibility for leading the nation towards a better existence. It is the State's function to define the nation's economic course. The role of the State is to provide the necessary co-ordination and harmonization of the contributions of all development factors with a view to implementing the aims of the five-year plan.

84. The administration is the main employment sector with 40 per cent of all wage-earners in 1978 (64 per cent if the quasi-public sector is included). The administration's problems are due to: bureaucratic tendencies which hinder adaptation to the accelerated tempo of economic development; civil service regulations, which hamper changes in the administration; the organization of the administration, which is another cause of hold-ups; the lack of a sufficiently broad national apparatus for checking proficiency; and administration buildings, which are often decrepit and always too small for the rapidly increasing manpower.

UNDP co-operation

85. UNDP assistance in this field has entered a new phase which will continue the preliminary work undertaken by the preceding phase.

Assistance to the civil service (phase II) (NER/81/008) (ongoing)

Project objectives: to assist the Ministry of Labour and the Civil Service within the framework of its powers to regulate, manage and train the administration's personnel, as adopted by the five-year economic and social development plan, 1979-1983.

86. Following UNDP's aid for departmental and national planning which resulted in the five-year plan, continuing assistance is envisaged for the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Planning in forecasting, drawing up and monitoring the implementation of development policies at the national level.

Assistance for economic forecasting, programming and training (NER/82/013) (ongoing)

Project objectives: (a) to devise methods, techniques and procedures for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the five-year plan at the macro-economic level and for preparing current policy; (b) to prepare periodic and systematic economic studies which will complement macro-economic forecasts and which are necessary for taking decisions in the most sensitive areas enjoying priority in state economic policy, such as the mining industry and energy; (c) to provide national technicians with the training needed to take charge of the activities required by objectives (a) and (b).

Annex

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Dollars

A. Resources

(a) IPF and other resources

(i) Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986	45 000 000
(ii) Deduct: unprogrammed balance <u>a/</u>	(9 000 000)
(iii) Deduct: level authorized by the 1982 budget - resources provided for 1987	(6 300 000)
(iv) Balance of preceding IPF cycle	<u>(156 000)</u>
Total resources available for programming purposes	<u><u>29 544 000</u></u>

B. Use of resources

(a) Programmed resources

(i) Ongoing projects	9 710 000
(ii) New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme	8 047 000
(iii) Resources earmarked for specific activities and objectives for which projects are to be worked out at a later stage	<u>7 905 000</u>
Subtotal	<u><u>25 662 000</u></u>

(b) Reserve

Total amount programmed plus reserve:	<u><u>3 882 000</u></u>
	<u><u>29 544 000</u></u>

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

C. Financial apportionment of programmed resources by sector

<u>Sector b/</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u>	<u>New projects</u>	<u>Sectoral allocation</u>	<u>Total</u>
02 General development	1 488 000			1 488 000
03 Natural resources	1 061 000	2 473 000	2 100 000	5 634 000
04 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	5 375 000	358 000	4 605 000	10 338 000
05 Industry	385 000	1 931 000	700 000	3 016 000
06 Transport and communications	643 000			643 000
07 International trade	144 000			144 000
09 Human settlements		1 800 000		1 800 000
11 Education		645 000		645 000
12 Employment	614 000		500 000	1 114 000
16 Science and technology		840 000		840 000
Total	<u>9 710 000</u>	<u>8 047 000</u>	<u>7 905 000</u>	<u>25 662 000</u>

b/ According to the ACC classification.

