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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS  
FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR IRAQ\*

<u>Programme period</u>	<u>Actual resources programmed</u>	<u>\$</u>
January 1987-December 1991	IPF for 1987-1991	9 118 000
	Other resources programmed	293 158
	Total	9 411 158

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\* Detailed listings of projects and other related data prepared as part of the country programming exercise are available on request. These listings include (a) ongoing projects; (b) proposed projects; (c) distribution of resources by objective; (d) planned activities of operational funds and programmes under the authority of the Administrator; and (e) distribution of new country programme by sector.

## I. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

### A. Current economic trends

1. The fourth country programme has been prepared against a difficult economic background. Nevertheless, the Government is determined to sustain the momentum for economic and social development within the limits of the evolving financial situation in spite of the unprecedented strain caused by the conflict in the Gulf region on the one hand, and declining or erratic oil prices on the other.

2. Pressures generated by the prevailing circumstances have been further compounded by the decline in oil prices since 1981, resulting in a significant decrease in gross domestic product (GDP), large deficits in trade balances and an increase in external borrowings by the Government.

3. The short supply of labour and trained manpower, which has all along been a major constraint on the economy at all levels, has been further aggravated by the prevailing situation.

4. The migration of labour from rural to urban areas and the growing demand for imported foodstuffs are other important factors which have had a critical bearing on the orientation of the national development strategy.

5. The Government has taken concerted measures to cope with these challenges by further rationalizing consumption, rescheduling imports, halting or slowing down low priority capital investments, rescheduling payments of principal and interest on foreign loans and paying off other debts with oil deliveries, and through rigorous control in the allocation of foreign exchange. These measures have not been allowed to interfere, however, with the import of essential consumer goods and raw materials or spare parts for agricultural, industrial and construction equipment.

6. The impact of these actions has been reinforced by additional credits and guarantees for the purchase of food and other basic commodities; by an increase in crude oil exports through the successful completion of the pipeline projects; and by an increased supply of foodstuffs to the domestic market thanks to ample rains in the northern wheat and barley belt and the encouragement of private sector trade in the direct sale of farm commodities to the public.

7. The outlook and the pace of development will indeed be influenced by the state of the oil market and progress towards peace in the Gulf area. The economy is, however, expected to be greatly served by the completion of ongoing irrigation and drainage projects, water supply schemes, projects aimed at the strengthening of the industrial and the transport and communications sectors, the development of solar energy and the rapid expansion of staff training and health facilities.

### B. National development strategies

8. The emphasis during the National Development Plan 1986-1990 will not only be on the reconstruction of the infrastructure and reorientation of the economy back

to peace-time needs, but concerted efforts will be made for further development of the physical and human resources of the country.

9. While investment in the oil sector will remain a priority, diversification away from dependence on oil and towards agricultural self-sufficiency and a more secure industrial base will be other major concerns of the Government during the next five years.

10. To increase agricultural production the overall strategy for the agriculture sector includes:

(a) The attainment of self-sufficiency in the production of food and non-food agricultural commodities;

(b) Diversification of the economic base for rural development and realization of higher incomes and levels of living for the rural population;

(c) The reduction of migration from rural areas to urban centres. The Government has already made considerable investments in irrigation, land reclamation and flood control projects, and many new projects are under active consideration.

11. Successive national development plans have given high priority to the development of industry in order to achieve a diversified and balanced growth. Accordingly, the Government has made considerable investments during the last several years in manufacturing industries. Currently, the sector which is dominated by the public enterprises accounts for 12 per cent of the labour force.

12. The Government objectives for the industrial sector are to: (a) achieve higher productivity of labour; (b) maximize production of manufactured goods; (c) develop products already manufactured under licence and adapt them to specific local conditions; (d) use modern manufacturing methods, technologies and equipment which allow economical production with available manpower; and (e) use proper maintenance methods, produce high quality goods at reasonable cost, and promote vocational education and training to overcome shortages of qualified staff and skilled labour.

13. The Government is also making large investments in the physical infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, power generation and transmission, drinking water supplies, sewerage, health, education and housing facilities, in order to improve the physical well-being of both the urban and rural populations as well as to provide support structures for the productive sectors.

14. The improvement of public health services is another major concern of the Government. Attention is being directed at both the preventive as well as the curative aspects of the medical services. Intensive training of trainers, public health and senior medical officers in managerial processes and skills, both inside and outside the health sector as well as in proper hospital administration and supervision is to be developed and widely utilized.

15. The Government is also giving high priority to the development of systematic monitoring and improvement of the nutritional standards of the population, with special emphasis on the evaluation of the quality and safety of foods used for daily consumption. This is manifest in the establishment of a nutritional research institute, which is currently being assisted under a technical assistance project financed by UNDP.

#### C. Technical co-operation priorities

16. The broad framework within which the Government is seeking technical assistance from UNDP for the period 1987-1991 includes improving the operational performance of State organizations and establishments, enlarging the availability of trained technical and managerial staff for the various sectors, and promoting scientific research and the adaptation of high technology on a selective basis.

17. The projects to be included in the fourth country programme are expected to assist national development efforts to:

(a) Enhance agricultural output;

(b) Secure further improvements in the operation of selected industrial enterprises and the promotion of standardization and quality control of all industrial products;

(c) Strengthen research and training facilities to take advantage of the new and renewable sources of energy, remote sensing, laser technology, and advanced computer applications;

(d) Further expand trained manpower in various segments of the economy, with special emphasis during the next few years on training programmes for the care and protection of the handicapped and the disabled population;

(e) Achieve fuller integration of women in the development process and widen employment opportunities for them in all economic and social vocations; and

(f) Improve health and nutritional standards of the people.

The projects carried forward from the third country programme also fall within these general guidelines.

#### D. Aid co-ordination arrangements

18. A committee for technical assistance, comprising representatives of various Government ministries and departments, is responsible for the screening of technical assistance proposals originating from all sectors. As UNDP is the prime source of technical assistance for Iraq, the committee ensures that UNDP assistance is consistent with the development plans and priorities of the Government. Close collaboration is maintained with agencies of the United Nations system represented in Baghdad.

## II. THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

### A. Assessment of previous country programme

19. The illustrative indicative planning figure (IPF) for the third country programme was established at \$15 million, which was subsequently reduced to \$8.25 million or 55 per cent of the original figure, because of a shortfall in total voluntary contributions to UNDP. With a carry-over of \$1.985 million from the previous cycle, a total of \$10.235 million was available for effective programming. It is estimated that approximately \$9.367 million in technical assistance, including savings from the second country programme, will have been committed out of the IPF resources by the end of 1986. Consistent with the assurances given to the UNDP Governing Council when submitting the third country programme, the Government has tried to cover part of the shortfall in the IPF, in an amount of \$1,957,000 through cost-sharing. In addition, the Government allocated \$29 million to funds-in-trust projects executed in co-operation with several United Nations agencies to sustain the development momentum during the same period.

20. A total of 13 projects were carried over from the previous country programme, of which 2 received additional allocations under the third cycle; 12 new projects were approved between 1982 and 1986, of which 8 are expected to be carried over to the fourth cycle.

21. A joint review of the third country programme was carried out in February 1986. The programme included projects encompassing several segments of the economy, including agriculture, forestry and rural development; industry; transport and communications; meteorology; computer applications; health and nutrition; manpower planning and vocational training and public administration. The impact of individual projects was carefully assessed.

22. The Government feels that several projects, particularly those dealing with management development, public administration and vocational training have contributed significantly to the development of human resources generally and to the upgrading of staff skills in the respective sectors in particular. Projects in support of the Specialized Institute for Engineering Industries and Glassmaking, as well as for tourism development have had a promising start and should make a significant contribution to the future growth of these enterprises.

23. The impact of UNDP assistance in the field of agriculture to date has, however, not been very promising, partly because of the complex linkages within this sector and partly because of operational difficulties faced by the executing agencies and the co-operating departments of the Government. As this sector is of utmost importance to the economy as a whole, the Government is determined to investigate and correct any shortcomings on its part.

24. Although no conscious effort was made to link the third country programme with the assistance to be received from the UNDP regional programme and regular programme of United Nations agencies, Iraq nevertheless benefited from these programmes during 1982-1986. The country has received assistance from the UNDP regional programme in the field of food security, industry, transports,

communication and the strengthening of technological capabilities and human resource development. Under the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNDTCD) interregional advisory services, it has received assistance in the fields of irrigation, mining, computers, public finance and statistics. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) also assisted the Government in strengthening the collection and analysis of data relating to population.

25. In the design and implementation of new projects during the fourth cycle the lessons drawn from the assessment of the third country programme will be kept in view, particularly in regard to the modalities of execution of individual projects and to the problems associated with the clearance and recruitment of expatriate experts of various categories, as well as in regard to linkages with the UNDP regional programme and the regular programmes of other United Nations agencies.

#### B. New programme proposal

26. In addition to continuing the projects carried forward from the third country programme, UNDP assistance during the period 1987-1991 will be sought to further expand training facilities and to strengthen national institutions and enterprises in areas identified in paragraph 16 above. The Government intends to supplement UNDP inputs with cost-sharing contributions on a project-by-project basis.

#### Enhancement of agricultural output

27. In the agricultural sector, the Government is anxious to accelerate the adoption of improved crop practices to step up productivity. Accordingly, the Government is requesting UNDP assistance under the fourth country programme for the strengthening of the cereal and vegetable seed certification programme under the responsibility of the State Commission for Applied Agricultural Research. The immediate objective of this project, with an estimated UNDP contribution of about \$500,000 is to expand the production and distribution of quality seeds of superior varieties.

28. In order to increase the volume of trained agricultural manpower, especially female field-workers, UNDP assistance amounting to \$250,000 is being sought for the strengthening of the State Board for Training and Extension, with special reference to the development of the Erbil Training Centre.

29. To improve the irrigation system and reduce desertification in the Rutba, Kisra and Al-Masab Al'am drainage project regions, the Government intends to request UNDP assistance to increase the ground-water resources through artificial recharge by flood water. The approximate amount of the UNDP contribution to this project will be \$600,000.

30. The Government has requested preparatory assistance in the Fahood Pilot Project Area in the Chibayish District of the Ahwar Region. The UNDP contribution will amount to approximately \$192,630 for the investigation of rural development constraints and potential. The strategy for rural development in the pilot project area will focus on specific interventions in general areas of activities,

i.e. fishing; cereals and vegetable production; range management; fodder production and livestock raising; date palm cultivation; wildlife management; artisanal production (reed mats and others); training and extension; and the determination of the appropriate local institutions and organizations through which development information may be channelled.

31. The above programme is expected to be reinforced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through its regular programme as well as by the UNDP regional programme. FAO, which has in the past assisted the Government in agricultural planning, land reclamation, strengthening of extension services marketing and research, is expected to continue to provide short-term consultancies in various fields to help find appropriate solutions to agricultural problems.

#### Industry: standardization and quality control of industrial products

32. In the industrial sector, UNDP is currently assisting the Specialized Institute for Engineering Industries and Glass Industry. UNDP has also provided short-term consultancies under the Special Industrial Services (SIS) programme to industrial units for bricks and tile making, plastic and paints manufacturing, small engineering enterprises, textiles, and the State Electricity Generating Organization.

33. To further develop and expand the capabilities of the national staff and facilitate the execution of research programmes, the Government is requesting further UNDP assistance for the Specialized Institute for Engineering Industries. An amount of \$1,300,000 has been reserved for this purpose. UNDP is also expected to continue providing assistance to the glass and ceramic industries through the assignment of three United Nations volunteers, who are helping in solving technical problems faced by these industries and in the training of the national staff.

34. The Government is preparing a request for assistance in the field of standardization and quality control of all products. An amount of about \$250,000 will be reserved for this purpose. The main objectives of this project will be to assist the Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control in the establishment of national standards and procedures for quality control and their application in the industrial sector.

#### Adaptation of high and new technology

35. The Government has included four projects in the fourth country programme for the development of research and the adaptation of high technology. To take advantage of the new and renewable sources of energy, the Government is requesting UNDP assistance to expand the solar radiation measurement network and to study the possibility of establishing solar thermostations to generate electricity in the country. This project will also aim at adopting locally the international techniques used in the field of solar energy thermo-transfer, since there is as yet no such station in the country nor in the region. The UNDP contribution to this activity will be about \$200,000.

36. The Mosul University Remote Sensing Centre was established in 1985. The Centre is charged with transferring remote-sensing technology to Iraq through the

creation of trained staff in the various aspects of remote sensing and technology. The Government is requesting UNDP assistance for the planning and implementation of a training programme, and for the development of the Centre's facilities generally. The UNDP contribution to this project will amount to \$400,000.

37. The Government is also studying possibilities to develop the activities of the Laser Research Unit at the University of Technology in Baghdad. Preliminary assistance will be needed to prepare a project. A total amount of \$200,000 has been reserved for the purpose.

38. The Government intends to improve the efficiency of its administrative apparatus by bringing into use the most up-to-date techniques of computers throughout the public sector. UNDP assistance will be required to develop new courses and redesign the existing courses given by the Institute for Training and Research in Informatic and Electronic Equipment. Approximately \$150,000 will be devoted by UNDP to this project.

#### Development of human resources

39. While staff training is an integral part of all projects for which UNDP assistance has been sought, a number of projects included in the fourth country programme focus more directly on filling this lacuna in several enterprises. At the more general level, the Government aims at increasing employment opportunities and providing training facilities for the whole population to permit fuller participation in the implementation of the plan. For this purpose, the Government is requesting UNDP assistance for establishing supervisory training and strengthening instructor and skill training programmes. The Government has made a provision of about \$250,000 in the present country programme.

40. UNDP is currently providing assistance to the city of Baghdad, to the Ministry of Housing and Construction and to the National Centre for Consultancy and Management Development to improve the skills and capabilities of their staff for the planning, design and supervision of physical infrastructure and public works of various types. These projects are expected to continue during the fourth country programme. In addition, to meet the growing needs for trained and skilled manpower for municipal services in Baghdad and other urban centres in the country, it is proposed to establish a municipal training centre, for which an allocation of \$750,000 has been made in the fourth country programme.

41. The need for training public personnel to face new emerging tasks in planning and development has been emphasized in the successive development plans. For this reason, the Government has requested UNDP to finance an umbrella project for the provision of fellowships and some consultancy services to respond to unexpected needs. The UNDP contribution to this project will amount to approximately \$400,000.

42. The Government has made enormous investments in the last few years in developing hotel and tourism facilities to cater to both foreign and domestic travellers. This has called for a parallel effort to develop the necessary institutional capabilities and train the wide variety of personnel needed. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) gave assistance in the form of a funds-in-trust project in training personnel for hotel and tourism enterprises.



This project was terminated in 1985 and UNDP agreed to provide \$215,000 to continue the training activities until the end of 1986. It is expected that further UNDP assistance will be needed to complete this task during the fourth country programme.

43. The Government places special emphasis on specialized training of co-operative officials with a view to strengthening the co-operative sector and complementing the private and the public sectors. The Government is thus requesting UNDP assistance for the establishment and initial operation of a Centre for Co-operative Education and Training within the General Co-operative Union. The UNDP contribution to this activity will amount to \$200,000.

44. In accordance with its declared intention to provide social care and protection for all its handicapped and disabled people and in particular for the war disabled, the Government will develop training programmes through the Foundation for Technical Institutes of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, for prosthetic/orthotic technicians to ensure that the limbless and other orthopaedically disabled are supplied with the necessary aids and appliances to facilitate their reintegration into active social and economic life. An estimated amount of \$270,300 is allocated to this project for the period 1986-1988. An additional \$20,000 is envisaged to develop new training programmes during 1987-1988.

45. As the number of handicapped persons has increased during the last few years, the demand for rehabilitation services in the medical, social and vocational fields has become more urgent. Being conscious of this need, the Government is requesting UNDP assistance for the strengthening and expansion of vocational rehabilitation services for disabled persons. An estimated amount of \$350,000 will be allocated for this purpose.

#### Integration of women in development

46. Government measures to enhance the level of women's participation in development include expansion of training opportunities for girls and women and the enactment of laws providing special employment and pension benefits. They also include the development of a programme to provide day care to small children of working women. Some 20,000 children in the age-group of up to 4 years are currently receiving day care in centres operated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the General Federation of Iraqi Women, factories and other Government and non-Government entities. The Government has requested UNDP to finance a project amounting to about \$312,600 for the period 1986-1988 to expand the day care facilities. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will contribute an additional \$60,000 to this project.

47. Reference has already been made to the request for UNDP assistance to increase the number of trained female agricultural workers through the development of the Erbil Training Centre under the State Board for Training and Extension.

#### Improvement of health and nutritional standards

48. The improvement of the public health services and nutritional standards are other areas in which the Government intends to continue seeking UNDP assistance

during the 1987-1991 programme cycle. Within their regular programmes, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF will also continue to assist the country during the coming years, especially in immunization and the maternal and child health care programmes in order to reduce infant mortality and morbidity.

49. Most health facilities, mainly hospitals, suffer from poor purchasing and inventory control systems, ineffective clerical services, poor maintenance and repair services, inadequate drug supply, laundry and kitchen problems, in addition to long waiting time for patients, overcrowding, and shortage or poor allocation of human and material resources to the individual department or wards. UNDP assistance is being considered for the intensive training of trainers and imparting of managerial skills to senior public health and medical staff to improve the administration of the health facilities. Approximately \$129,500 will be allocated to these facilities for 1986-1987.

50. The project Food Evaluation (IRQ/84/001) is providing assistance amounting to \$1,275,400 for 1986-1989 to the Nutrition Research Institute. The objectives of this project are to strengthen the capability of the Nutrition Research Institute in (a) the assessment and monitoring of the nutritional status of the Iraqi population; (b) the design, planning and implementation of adequate national nutrition intervention programmes; (c) the identification and implementation of research projects relating to existing nutritional problems; and (d) the evaluation of the quality and safety of foods.

#### C. Unprogrammed reserve

51. Approximately 7 per cent of the funds available under the IPF are being saved for unforeseen activities likely to be identified in the future within the context of the fourth programme objectives as the Government planning exercise progresses.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

<u>A. UNDP-administered sources</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Third cycle IPF balance	868 000	
Fourth cycle IPF	8 250 000	
Subtotal IPF		9 118 000
Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries	-	
Special programme resources	-	
Government cost-sharing	263 158	
Third-party cost-sharing	-	
Operational funds under the authority of the Administrator	-	
UNDP special trust funds	-	
Subtotal, UNDP non-IPF funds		263 158
 <u>B. Other sources</u>		
UNICEF	30 000	
Parallel financing from non-United Nations sources	-	
Subtotal, other sources	-	<u>30 000</u>
 TOTAL ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING		<u><u>9 411 158</u></u>

II. USE OF RESOURCES

Ongoing projects	2 568 952	
New project proposals	6 199 500	
Programmed reserve	-	
Subtotal, programmed resources		8 768 452
Unprogrammed reserve		642 706
 TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES		<u><u>9 411 158</u></u>

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