



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/37/214
5 May 1982
ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Thirty-seventh session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to the Palestinian peopleReport of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	5 - 113	3
A. Economic Commission for Western Asia	5 - 9	3
B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ..	10 - 12	5
C. United Nations Industrial Development Organization ..	13 - 20	5
D. United Nations Environment Programme	21 - 24	7
E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	25 - 28	7
F. United Nations Children's Fund	29 - 47	9
G. United Nations Development Programme	48 - 53	11
H. World Food Programme	54	12

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	55 - 63	12
J. International Labour Organisation	64 - 67	15
K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	68 - 71	16
L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	72 - 83	17
M. International Civil Aviation Organization	84	19
N. World Health Organization	85 - 96	19
O. World Bank	97 - 98	21
P. Universal Postal Union	99 - 101	21
Q. International Telecommunication Union	102 - 103	22
R. World Intellectual Property Organization	104 - 109	23
S. International Fund for Agricultural Development	110 - 111	23
T. International Atomic Energy Agency	112 - 113	24

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Economic and Social Council invited the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts in identifying the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people. It also requested the agencies and organizations to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization with a view to establishing and implementing concrete projects to ensure the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people.
2. The Council, in its resolution 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, reiterated its earlier resolution and requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports to the Council on the matter.
3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 36/70 of 4 December 1981, urged the appropriate agencies, organizations, organs and programmes of the United Nations system to take the necessary steps in consultation and co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, for the full implementation of resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on assistance to the Palestinian people; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Council, on the progress made in the implementation of Assembly resolution 36/70.
4. The present report contains information received from organizations on action taken by them in implementation of the above resolutions. Information received from other organizations at a later date will be issued as an addendum.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM ORGANS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Economic Commission for Western Asia

[Original: English]

5. Pursuant to its resolution 86 (VII) on the major study entitled "The economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people", the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) signed a contract with TEAM International in April 1981 to complete the study. ECWA has been closely monitoring the work of Team International on the study and has extended assistance to TEAM in certain areas of vital importance. The study is expected to be completed in August 1982. In the first phase of the study a conceptual framework was developed, and review, survey and field-work groups were formed. Linkages between the field work (e.g., preparation of country profiles) and research work were also established. For the purpose of facilitating the various phases of the study, different research centres, including Palestinian research institutes, in ECWA countries were contacted.

/...

6. So far, three major aspects of the study have been completed: (a) the analysis of demographic characteristics of Palestinians in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied territories; (b) the development of methodology relating to the economy of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and (c) the analysis of the characteristics of Palestinian institutions providing a variety of social and economic services to the Palestinian community in Lebanon. Also, preparations have been made for extensive field work in areas of education, health, business enterprises and the living conditions of Palestinian women and youth, and their participation in the development process in various communities of the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Kuwait. Alternative interview forms have been designed, in consultation with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, for the purpose of pre-testing the random sample of Palestinian households. Work is also in progress on the bibliography of Palestine, Palestinians and their socio-economic problems. The bulk of the work relating to the study is expected to be completed by April 1982 and a follow-up report on the study will be submitted to ECWA at its ninth session.

7. The ECWA secretariat has taken a number of steps towards the completion of the project entitled "Census of the Palestinian Arab people" in pursuance of ECWA resolution 28 (III). In the implementation of the resolution, co-operation and consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) continued through the Palestine National Fund and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. However, since allocations from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) are becoming exhausted and owing to difficulties in obtaining data from countries of the region through normal channels, ECWA and the PLO gave consideration to a number of alternative arrangements. A final agreement was reached early in 1982, according to which the PLO would implement the project through the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, while ECWA would be called upon to provide technical advisory service. A follow-up report on this project will be submitted to ECWA at its ninth session.

8. In connection with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/110 on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories, ECWA provided substantive services in respect of the visit of the interregional adviser from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat who visited the ECWA region in August 1981 to seek information related to Palestinian national resources. ECWA also assisted in data collection for this purpose.

9. Furthermore, pursuant to recommendation 13 of the ECWA regional meeting on human settlements, finance and management, which was sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), ECWA, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (AL-Ain, United Arab Emirates, 25-29 November 1979) ECWA completed, in March 1981, a study dealing specifically with the social and economic dimensions of housing and human settlements problems in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]

10. The activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in this regard are essentially undertaken pursuant to resolution 109 (V) of 1 June 1979, adopted at the fifth session of the Conference. By this resolution, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was requested, within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to initiate studies, within the competence of UNCTAD, as regards those people and countries still living under colonial domination or foreign occupation, among which it specified the people of Palestine. The studies were to be undertaken in collaboration with the respective national liberation movements recognized by regional intergovernmental organizations.

11. A report was prepared, with the assistance of consultants, on assistance to the Palestinian people (TD/B/870). The report sought to provide a background review of the economic conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories; to identify the main economic problems facing the Palestinian people, and to formulate suggestions regarding a programme of action designed to overcome the problems in question. The report was submitted to and discussed by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of the twenty-third session, held from 28 September to 12 October 1981. 1/

12. On that occasion, the Trade and Development Board adopted by vote, resolution 239 (XXIII) by which, inter alia, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was requested within the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to prepare a comprehensive and in-depth survey of the state of the economy of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as an elaborate analysis of the potentials for its development in the various sectors, and to formulate proposals for alternative development strategies in collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The resolution further invited the United Nations Development Programme to make available to UNCTAD additional resources, with a view to achieving the objectives in question.

C. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

[Original: English]

13. The mandates which, until February 1981, had been given to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for the improvement of the condition of the Palestinian people and the efforts undertaken by the organization to that date are described in the report on the subject submitted by the Executive Director to the Industrial Development Board at its fifteenth session in May 1981 (see ID/B/255, paras. 1-9).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/36/15), part three, paras. 252-302.

14. The Board, at its fifteenth session, inter alia, took note with appreciation of the participation of Palestinian trainees in group training programmes organized by UNIDO and sought expansion of such activities. The Board urged the UNIDO secretariat to intensify its efforts and take all possible measures to increase technical assistance to the Palestinian people and sought a further progress report from the Executive Director on technical assistance to the Palestinian people including proposals on ways and means of expanding the programme, to be submitted to the Board at its sixteenth session. 2/

Participation in group training programmes

15. Palestinian candidates were invited to participate in the UNIDO group training programmes for 1981. As a result, one candidate attended the in-plant group training programme in the field of petrochemical industry held in Romania, from 6 April to 28 May 1981.

16. The list of UNIDO group training programmes for 1982 has been provided to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinian candidates will again be invited to participate in these programmes.

Access to the West Bank and Gaza Strip

17. The Secretary-General has been informed by UNIDO that the Government of Israel has not given its concurrence with regard to access to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to enable UNIDO to implement the remaining six projects approved by the Board, (see ID/B/255, paras. 1 and 5) namely:

- (a) A survey of manufacturing industry in the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
- (b) Feasibility study for a cement plant in the West Bank;
- (c) Feasibility study for a canning plant for citrus fruits;
- (d) Assistance to the plastics industry;
- (e) Assistance to the pharmaceutical industry;
- (f) Assistance to small-scale industries and workshops.

New projects

18. As requested by the Board, the UNIDO secretariat is actively involved in identifying new projects which may be implemented to assist the Palestinian people. In this connection, contacts are maintained with the PLO and it is expected that, as a result, some Arab countries may act as host to group training programmes for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

19. UNIDO secured the co-operation of the Polish Central Union of Work Co-operatives in the organization of group training programmes for the Palestinians in Poland. The list of training possibilities prepared by the Polish Central Union of Work Co-operatives is under consideration by the PLO. The first group training programme - dealing with food processing - will be held in Poland in the latter part of 1982. It will last from 8 to 10 weeks and will have 20 participants.

2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 16 (A/36/16), paras. 310, 312 and 313.

20. Discussions are being held with the Bulgarian and Indian authorities on similar group training programmes which may take place early in 1983.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]

21. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has prepared a draft project proposal entitled "Training course for Environmental Health Officers on Problems of Water Supply, Sanitation and Health for the Palestinian People".

22. The project proposal was sent to UNDP at United Nations Headquarters in July 1981 to be considered for implementation by UNDP, with financial support from UNEP, in the framework of the Special Task Force that has been set up by UNDP to co-ordinate programmes and projects of various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies. UNEP arranged for a World Health Organization (WHO) consultant to visit several Arab countries and draft the curriculum for the Training course. UNDP informed UNEP, however, that the Israeli military authorities have not yet approved implementation of the project.

23. UNEP was also informed by the Permanent Representative of Israel to UNEP that his Government was of the view that the UNEP proposal seemed to duplicate two UNDP-executed projects covering health manpower development and the strengthening of health institutions and suggested that UNEP might wish to consult with UNDP on the matter.

24. UNEP is at present taking action in the light of these comments to redraft the proposal and will send the revised version to UNDP for consideration and action in taking up the proposal with the Israeli authorities.

E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

[Original: English]

25. Following the adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session of resolution 34/133 of 14 December 1979 on assistance to the Palestinian people, which was similar to General Assembly resolution 36/70, officials of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) met with the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the Centre in Nairobi to consult with him on the implications of the resolution. Subsequently, the Executive Director wrote to the Palestine Liberation Organization requesting its views and advice on how best the Centre could provide assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of human settlements. Since then, the Centre has been in contact with the Permanent Observer on several occasions regarding this matter. The Permanent Observer has informed the Centre that he conveyed the communication from the Centre to the Headquarters of his organization in Damascus and that he would inform the Centre as soon as a response was received.

/...

26. While waiting for the response of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and without prejudice to any specific future projects, the Centre explored a number of possible activities in connection with assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of human settlements. For example, the Centre plans to organize a course on management and public housing programmes, including sites and services, for countries in the Middle East and North Africa, which could include the participation of suitably qualified Palestinians. The Centre is also consulting with a number of universities and specialized institutes with a view to placement of qualified Palestinians for training in these institutions in selected human settlement fields. Another possibility is the participation, through assistance provided by the Centre, of suitably qualified Palestinian candidates in the various training programmes, workshops and study tours organized by the Centre under its 1982-1983 work programme.

27. At the second regular session of 1981 of the Economic and Social Council, during the deliberations of the agenda item entitled "International co-operation in the field of human settlements", the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization requested the Centre "to assist the housing co-operative societies in the occupied territories". As the occupying authorities have requested that the United Nations Development Programme should serve as the sole executing agency for United Nations projects on assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, this request was forwarded by the Centre to the Administrator of UNDP for consideration an possible inclusion in the UNDP programme of assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of human settlements. The Administrator was also informed that should UNDP require any technical assistance, the expertise and experience of the Centre in this field would be at his disposal.

28. The General Assembly may, in this regard, wish to note that the extent to which the Centre could provide direct technical assistance to the Palestinian people within the occupied territories is very much limited by the above-mentioned position of the occupying authorities regarding the execution of United Nations projects on assistance to the Palestinian people within those territories. The Centre, however, has been informed by UNDP that at least one of the human settlements projects, "Training in Housing", which had originally been identified for implementation in the occupied territories, with the assistance of the Centre, is at present being implemented in the area by UNDP. The project concept includes provision for fellowships and training in the West Bank and Gaza to enhance knowledge and expertise in housing and habitat at the university level, and to broaden managerial, planning and operating techniques of municipalities, as well as to develop skills in the areas of housing co-operatives, construction, design, planning and engineering. A second project, "Housing Fund", has also been approved by the UNDP Governing Council and will be implemented upon approval by the Government of Israel. The project would provide expert services for advice on establishing a fund for long-term assistance to housing activities in the West Bank and Gaza.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]

29. During the past year the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided assistance to Palestinian mothers and children in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the West Bank and Gaza as part of programmes approved by the UNICEF Executive Board at its 1980 session.

Jordan

30. The UNICEF Executive Board in 1980 approved a commitment from general resources of \$420,000 covering the fields of health, non-formal education and family welfare services.

31. The health programme for mothers and children in camps is being implemented through UNRWA. During 1981 UNICEF assistance enabled UNRWA to extend its immunization campaigns; approximately 20,000 children were vaccinated against communicable diseases. Upgrading of preventive health care services enabled the health centres run by UNRWA to reach a greater number of mothers and children. UNICEF provided resources for the training of 120 health workers in various refugee camps. Instructional material and audio-visual aids were produced to support the health education campaign in refugee camps.

32. In the field of non-formal education, the upgrading of rehabilitation centres in Al-Baqaa and Al-Jofeh refugee camps provided facilities for more women to receive training in income-generating skills.

33. Under the family welfare programme new day-care centres and kindergartens were established in Al-Baqaa, Wahdat and Muzha refugee camps and 41 kindergarten workers and supervisors were trained.

34. During 1981 \$65,700 were expended on the programmes.

Lebanon

35. In 1980 the UNICEF Executive Board approved a commitment of \$675,000 from general resources. The programme is aimed at upgrading and developing health, education, and social welfare services. The preventive health measures for women and children in camps are being implemented through UNRWA.

36. With UNICEF support two new maternal and child health centres have been established and 10 existing centres improved. These centres now serve as focal points for camp health committees, environmental sanitation, health and literacy education, home visiting and vaccination campaigns. The immunization campaign, serving approximately 25,000 children and pregnant women, was continued during 1981, resulting in a reduction in the number of diphtheria cases and an estimated drop in children's communicable diseases. A new nursing school in Saida has been

/...

provided with basic equipment and transport, and support has continued for nursing schools at Tyre and Beirut. Two maternity and children's hospitals at Beirut have been provided with basic equipment and transport. Training has been provided to various categories of health workers and volunteers.

37. In the field of non-formal education, UNICEF provided support for the establishment of a new pre-vocational training programme and the improvement of four others. Assistance was also provided to enable 23 trainees to receive intensive training in basic life skills. Equipment was also given to a producers' co-operative centre, which serves as a prototype for possible replication in other camp areas.

38. Social welfare services were strengthened through the establishment of a new kindergarten in South Lebanon, with continuing support to nine existing kindergartens. Assistance was provided for the training of 48 kindergarten teachers.

39. During 1981 \$166,200 were expended on programmes for Palestinian mothers and children in Lebanon.

Syrian Arab Republic

40. In 1980 the UNICEF Executive Board approved a commitment of \$255,000 from general resources for a programme covering health, non-formal education and social welfare.

41. Under the health programme, assistance was provided in 1981 to UNRWA enabling 25,000 children to be vaccinated through UNRWA health centres against communicable diseases.

42. Assistance was provided during the year to a vocational training institute for girls, enabling 100 girls to receive skill training for income-generating activities.

43. Improvements were made in two residential care institutions, serving 100 children, and facilities in kindergartens were upgraded in Homs, Lattakia, Khan Dannon, and Khan el-Sheikh, thereby improving day-care services for 600 children in refugee camps.

44. During 1981 UNICEF expended \$31,100 on these activities.

West Bank and Gaza

45. The UNICEF Executive Board at its 1980 session approved a commitment of \$495,000 from general resources for assistance aimed at improving health, education and social welfare services for Palestinian mothers and children in the West Bank and Gaza.

46. In addition to support for the training of kindergarten teachers, furniture and equipment was provided in 1981 for 76 kindergartens in the West Bank and Gaza

together with musical instruments and other supplies for the El Alaiya School in the West Bank which provides academic and vocational training for blind children.

47. During 1981 UNICEF expended \$219,100 on the programme.

G. United Nations Development Programme

[Original: English]

48. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to finance regional activities which have benefitted the Palestinian people either directly or indirectly. For instance, the Institute of Education at Amman, which was jointly created by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has continued to receive assistance from UNDP. In order to bring this project to a more advanced level, a formulation phase for innovative approaches in education was processed and approved in 1981. The total cost of the project to UNDP has reached \$2.9 million.

49. A second example of indirect benefit for Palestinian trainees and scholars is represented by the Regional Institute for Training and Research in Statistics at Baghdad and the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. Both of these Institutes, which continue to receive UNDP assistance, provide training and research facilities for Palestinian students and scholars. The total cost of the projects by the end of 1981 had amounted to \$2.3 million.

50. During the period under review UNDP continued to give special emphasis to the implementation of Governing Council decision 79/18 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people. As will be recalled, the decision was adopted as a result of various resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the subject. The Governing Council decision authorized the Administrator to draw up to \$3.5 million from the UNDP Programme Reserve for the design and implementation of 18 projects, 17 of which were to be carried out in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and one in the Syrian Arab Republic.

51. The Administrator also continued to supervise personally all aspects of project planning and implementation through the work of a Senior Adviser who has held extensive consultations regarding project implementation with Governments directly concerned and with representatives of the Palestinian people. For each project in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under implementation, the UNDP Office for Projects Execution has obtained the services of highly qualified international consultants, approved by all parties concerned, to advise on project design and work plans, and each project plan has required the personal approval of the Administrator prior to implementation. In the light of experience gained in actual project operations, the Governing Council, at its twenty-eighth session, in June 1981, authorized the Administrator to increase, where necessary, the notional amount of expenditures for individual projects, keeping within the over-all allocation of \$3.5 million (Governing Council decision 81/13).

/...

52. By the end of 1981, 11 of the 17 projects approved by the Governing Council located in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were under implementation by UNDP or prepared for implementation and some had largely been completed. Implementation of one project ("Strengthening and Development of the Moussa Alami Project"), however, has not begun pending determination by UNDP on how assistance might most effectively be utilized. Consultations regarding the remaining five projects located in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are still continuing. Project formulation carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations had also begun for the project located in the Syrian Arab Republic.

53. It is expected that, if all projects currently under implementation or prepared for implementation are carried out, the \$3.5 million Programme Reserve allocation will be exhausted. No funds, other than those made available by the Governing Council from the Programme Reserve, have as yet been contributed for the implementation of projects. Proposals regarding the feasibility of continuing activity by UNDP in this area will be presented by the Administrator to the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session in June 1982.

H. World Food Programme

[Original: English]

54. The Secretary-General has been informed that since no request for assistance to Palestinian people was submitted to the World Food Programme in 1981, the Programme has nothing to report for this particular period.

I. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

[Original: English]

55. Since May 1950, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing education, health and relief services according to eligibility for Palestine refugees ^{3/} and their descendants registered for assistance, who numbered 1,902,843 at 31 December 1981.

56. Although there has been no census of Palestinians, the registered refugees are believed to be more than half the total Palestinian population living in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which constitute the Agency's area of operations. Consequently,

^{3/} Palestine refugees (by UNRWA definition for operations purposes) are persons whose normal residence was Palestine for a minimum of two years preceding the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948 and who, as a result of this conflict, lost both their homes and their means of livelihood. To be eligible for UNRWA assistance, refugees (and their direct descendants) must be (a) registered with UNRWA; (b) living in the area of UNRWA operations; and (c) in need.

UNRWA is a major provider of education, health and welfare services to the Palestinian people. These services have evolved over the years in direct response to the needs of the refugees and the Agency's financial ability to meet them. By the end of 1981, about \$2.0 billion had been expended by UNRWA on assistance to Palestine refugees. The education services were operated in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the health services in co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO).

57. The regular programmes are fully described in the annual reports of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA. An account of the programme in 1981 is contained in the report covering the period from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981. 4/ In brief, in the 1980/81 school year, over 321,000 children received elementary and preparatory (lower secondary) education in 635 UNRWA schools; 8,901 pupils were assisted with their secondary education at local government or private schools; 5/ some 4,900 trainees followed vocational or teacher-training courses at eight UNRWA centres; 365 students were awarded scholarships for university study; modest programmes of pre-school, youth and women's activities and adult craft-training were conducted; and professional in-service training was provided for medical and education personnel. Medical services were available to about 1.6 million refugees and supplementary feeding for such vulnerable groups as young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. In the camps, UNRWA provided environmental sanitation and assistance with repairs to housing of families in special need. Rations of flour, rice, sugar and oil were distributed to about 824,000 refugees; 6/ and special hardship assistance was given to the most needy families. The total cost of financing the services in 1981 was \$180.7 million. The programmes were carried out by 16,722 employees, mostly teachers, all but a handful of whom are themselves Palestine refugees, under the direction of 106 international staff. 7/

58. The prime determinant of the Agency's ability to meet the needs of the refugees is the level of its financial resources. Given the funds, there are many projects which the Agency would implement to enhance the opportunities for refugees to become self-supporting, to improve the quality of services and to cater for the

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/36/13).

5/ In Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic; elsewhere, all refugee pupils, enrolled in government secondary schools receive their education free of charge.

6/ The basic ration provided the equivalent of about 800 calories per recipient per day.

7/ The total number of approved international staff posts is 121, of which 21 (including one post reimbursable by the Japanese Government) are loaned by UNESCO to provide technical guidance to the education programme, 5 by WHO to provide technical guidance to the health programme, 88 financed from the United Nations budget and 7 financed by UNRWA itself.

special needs of those with particular handicaps. Unfortunately, as the Agency has pointed out repeatedly over the years, income is insufficient to maintain even the minimum services at the established levels. In 1981, the Agency's income fell short by \$48.6 million of the budget of \$238.7 million. A related problem is that the level of income is not known sufficiently far in advance to permit smooth planning.

59. Nevertheless, within those constraints, a limited number of improvements were possible, of a nature to enhance the efficiency with which services met refugees' needs or to enrich an existing programme. The information given below, though not exhaustive, illustrates the work carried out by UNRWA.

60. In 1981, expenditure on the education programme increased by 4 per cent over 1980, from \$100.1 million to \$104.5 million, accounting for 57.8 per cent of total expenditure. The major item of additional outlay was on the school education programme, which expands each year to cater for the growing school population. In 1980/81, the new intake included over 7,000 pupils more than in 1979/80 and some 200 additional teachers were appointed. Most UNRWA school buildings are operated on a double-shift basis to cope with the numbers of pupils. Some of the buildings urgently require replacement. During 1981 \$0.75 million were allocated to construct 40 additional class-rooms and specialist units to avoid triple-shifting. Three significant developments which began in 1980 in the education programme continued to be implemented successfully in the 1980/81 school year. The first was the production of a consolidated biennial work plan for the school years 1980/81-1981/82. The second was the implementation of organizational changes in the fields and headquarters education offices, which included the strengthening of the professional aspects of the UNRWA education system by setting up Education Development Units in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and an Education Development Centre in the West Bank. The third was the Agency's take-over from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) of the pre-school centres in the Gaza Strip, previously run for UNRWA by AFSC. In the vocational training programme, a contribution from the OPEC Fund continued and enabled UNRWA to enlarge four vocational training centres and provide a wider range of courses.

61. Health services accounted for \$31.4 million or 17.4 per cent of total expenditure, an increase of 1.6 per cent over 1980. The quality of the medical and dental services provided at the health centres is under continuing review. Specialist clinics treat tuberculosis, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, dermatological and rheumatic complaints and eye diseases. An additional number of small clinical laboratories attached to health units were equipped to perform bio-chemical tests previously referred to central laboratories. Special attention was focused on the level of nutrition among infants and young children and their mothers. In response to the high prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases among small children, particularly in summer time, the Agency has, since March 1979, participated in the Gaza Strip in the development of a WHO-assisted project for the implementation of early oral rehydration therapy. In camp sanitation, because of financial difficulties the Agency participated to a limited extent only in self-help projects carried out by the refugees to construct drains and pathways in camps throughout the area of operations, to connect sewage systems to local networks, and to continue the provision of private water connections and latrines

to those families still without them. The schemes were undertaken with the co-operation of the local municipal and governmental authorities and, in Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

62. The third category of service, the relief programme, involved expenditure in 1981 of \$36.4 million, compared with \$44.1 million in 1980, accounting for 20.1 per cent of the total expenditure. The assistance provided by the relief programme comprises essentially a basic ration of food commodities received as contributions in kind, with very limited shelter and welfare assistance. The latter is concentrated on the sector of the refugee population which is the most needy: widows, orphans, the aged, the physically and mentally handicapped etc. This category of refugees, known as "special hardship cases", has been provided with extra rations in Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since 1978. In 1981 the programme began to be extended to Lebanon. By the end of 1981, some 39,000 persons were benefiting from extra rations.

63. Again in 1981, Agency operations in Lebanon suffered extensively from local disturbances and Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon, which caused considerable damage to refugee shelters as well as some Agency installations.

J. International Labour Organisation

[Original: English]

64. After consultations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a nominee was awarded a fellowship to attend the Training Methodology course at the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training at Turin, from 2 to 27 February 1981. A fellowship was awarded to the Dean of the Polytechnic Institute of Hebron who attended the Management of Vocational Training Institutions course, from 26 April to 4 July 1981, and two other fellowships were awarded to senior faculty members of the Polytechnic who both attended the On-the-Job Training Methods and Management course, from 20 September to 12 December 1981, at the Turin Centre. Equipment, in the form of teaching aids worth about \$10,000, is at present being sent to Turin from the suppliers and it will shortly be shipped to the Polytechnic Institute.

65. As in the preceding three years, the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) assigned a mission in March 1981, consisting of three ILO officials, to go to Israel and the occupied Arab territories to examine on the spot the situation of the Arab workers. The mission's working documents included all information which had earlier been supplied, at the Director-General's request, by the Governments of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab Labour Organisation and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The mission, which visited several parts of Israel and the occupied Arab territories, held meetings with, inter alia, the municipal authorities, including the Mayors of Bethlehem, Nablus and Gaza, with trade union leaders from the West Bank, and with Israeli and Arab officials of the labour and other administrative services. The mission collected information on the economic and social situation in the occupied Arab territories on the promotion of equal opportunity and treatment in working

conditions of Arab workers, including wages and social benefits, on the access to training facilities by Arab workers and, in particular, on the freedom to establish trade unions and the effective exercise of trade union rights.

66. In this report, which was published as an appendix to the report of the Director-General submitted to the International Labour Conference at its sixty-seventh session in 1981, the mission endeavoured to describe the salient features of the situation of workers living in a state of continuing occupation, as far as the matter is within the competence of the ILO, and to make recommendations for improving it.

67. The ILO collaborated in 1979 with UNDP and other specialized agencies in the identification of projects for providing assistance to the Palestinian people. Several projects falling within the fields of competence of the ILO were selected for implementation, and it is hoped that ILO experts, in their individual capacity as advisers, will be assigned to UNDP projects in the West Bank and Gaza areas. Finally, arrangements are being made between UNDP and the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training (Turin), to implement a technical co-operation project, in the occupied Arab territories, in the field of vocational training for technicians in the building sector.

K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[Original: English]

68. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) participated, early in 1979, in an inter-agency task force to identify projects for the benefit of the Palestinian people. As a result, in June of that year the UNDP Governing Council approved 18 projects which had been identified for a total UNDP contribution of \$3.5 million. Of these projects, four are in agriculture and involved FAO in their identification. The projects are (a) Specialized Training Programmes in Agricultural Development (fellowships and study tours costing \$200,000); (b) Strengthening and Development of Moussa Alami Farm (feasibility study of development potential costing \$6,000); (c) Consultants for the Establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture in the West Bank or Gaza (\$50,000); and (d) Agricultural Training Centres for Palestinian Farmers (\$200,000).

69. FAO is currently involved only in the execution of the last-mentioned project (PAL/79/010). FAO participated in the pre-formulation mission for this project in December 1981. In January 1982, FAO fielded a consultant to prepare the project document. It is envisaged that project activities will begin in March 1982 for a duration of two years. Costs are now estimated at around \$250,000.

70. Under the Technical Co-operation Programme, a new project for the compilation and tabulation of agricultural data in the West Bank and Gaza areas was approved in February 1981 in the amount of \$30,000. Another project, for specialized training in agricultural development (approved in 1978), received an additional allocation of \$67,500 in 1981 and was split into two sub-projects in order to provide for necessary additional language training. A third project, designed to provide

assistance in agricultural planning, was approved in 1981 in the amount of \$21,000. This will be implemented shortly.

71. The Palestine Liberation Organization, in its capacity as representative of the Palestinian people, was invited to attend the following meetings: fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (Rome, 21-25 April 1981); FAO/UNDP Workshop on the Improved Utilization of Feed Resources for Sheep Fattening in the Near East (Amman, Jordan, 25-29 April 1981); Workshop on Strengthening Agricultural Marketing Training in the Near East and North Africa (Rome, 1-5 June 1981); seventy-ninth session of the Council (Rome, 22 June-2 July 1981); seventh session of the Near East Plant Protection Commission (Rome, 31 August-4 September 1981); twelfth session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East (Rome, 7-11 September 1981); twenty-first session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 7-25 November 1981).

L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

72. The following information is intended to complete and update the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people, submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (A/36/305, dated 9 June 1981).

73. General Assembly resolution 36/70 of 4 December 1981 is to be brought to the attention of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its one hundred and fourteenth session (5-28 May 1982).

Co-operation with UNDP

74. UNESCO took note of General Assembly resolution 36/70, in paragraph 4 of which, the Assembly requested UNDP to undertake direct execution of the projects in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, in co-ordination with the relevant local Palestinian organization and bodies; and took note also of the report of the Co-ordinator concerning the status and prospects of the programme at the end of 1981.

75. UNESCO further took note of paragraph 5 of the above-mentioned resolution requesting that UNDP assistance to Palestinian people in the Arab host countries should be rendered through the specialized agencies and expresses once again its readiness to co-operate fully with UNDP in the implementation of any projects within its field of competence.

Assistance through UNRWA

76. As foreseen in the approved programme and budget for 1981-1983 the agreement between UNESCO and UNRWA has been extended to enable UNESCO to continue to assume technical responsibilities for the education programme for Palestine refugees. For

/...

this programme 20 professional posts, including that of the director, are provided, as well as educational supplies and equipment.

Assistance to Palestinians under the regular programme, including the participation programme and special accounts for fellowships

77. Twenty fellowships have so far been granted under the regular programme, 1981-1983, and nine under the participation programme. At the request of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) assistance was granted to the General Union of the Palestine Writers and Journalists for the reprinting of Palestine writers' works. Furthermore a choice of poems from the poet Mahmoud Darwish is being translated and will be edited in the UNESCO collection of representative works.

Higher education for Palestinians

78. UNESCO has extended its co-operation to the Secretary-General to study ways and means of establishing at Jerusalem a University of Arts and Science to cater for the needs of Palestine refugees in the area, under the aegis of the United Nations. A senior United Nations official who has been requested to gather data relevant to the study, visited UNESCO to hold consultations with the Assistant Director-General for Education. The UNESCO feasibility study on the Palestine university and relevant documents concerning the preservation of Jerusalem and educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories were put at its disposal. UNESCO will continue its co-operation with the Secretary-General for the preparation, if necessary, of a feasibility study for establishing the university.

79. UNESCO is also continuing efforts, as requested in resolution 1/06, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-first session, to carry out the project of the Palestine Open University and is in contact with the parties concerned with this project.

Educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories and the protection of cultural property in Jerusalem

80. In pursuance of resolution 14.1, adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-first session, in which the Director-General was invited to keep a permanent watch on Israel's implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Board relating to educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to send for this purpose such missions as he may deem appropriate, the Director-General is submitting a report on the action taken by him to the Executive Board at its one hundred and fourteenth session.

81. In pursuance of decision 5.5.1, adopted by the Executive Board at its one hundred and thirteenth session, in which the Director-General was invited "to undertake a study of the situation of all the cultural property located in Jerusalem and of the dangers to which it is exposed", the Director-General is also submitting a report on the action taken by him.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

82. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed at the headquarters of UNESCO on 9 December 1981. The group of representatives of the Arab States to UNESCO organized the ceremony in which a representative of the Director-General, the Secretary-General of ALECSO, the Chairmen of the Group of 77 and the Group of Non-Aligned Countries, those of different regional groups as well as the doyen of the Arab Diplomatic Corps in France and the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization participated.

83. Poems from the poet Mahmoud Darwish were recited by him in Arabic, and a translation into French was read during the ceremony.

M. International Civil Aviation Organization

[Original: English]

84. As indicated in previous contributions, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is willing to co-operate, within its mandate, with ECWA and UNDP on the implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on assistance to the Palestinian people. In accordance with resolution A22-6 of the Assembly of ICAO, the Palestine Liberation Organization is entitled to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the Assembly and other international conferences convened under the auspices of ICAO and in the regional meetings dealing with its territories.

N. World Health Organization

[Original: English]

85. During the past year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has continued its assistance to the Palestinian people in conformity with the relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions.

86. Assistance has been provided directly to the populations in the West Bank and Gaza in a number of different ways.

87. In the field of maternal and child health a consultant visited the West Bank in January and April 1981 to study data collected in the malnutrition clinics in order to identify risk factors predicting malnutrition in children, which could be applied in health practice subsequently. In order to extend similar studies, such as the identification of risk factors in women, especially during pregnancy and childbirth, it is proposed that a visit of a WHO staff member take place very shortly. WHO has also provided assistance for the design of nutrition surveys of hardship cases in refugees. In some communities tetanus neonatorum is quite common and a control programme is being supported with the provision of 185,000 doses of tetanus toxoid as well as jet injectors, 100,000 disposable syringes and a

financial grant. A longitudinal study on breast feeding, which has been carried out in Gaza, is being assisted in its analysis in order to bring out the interrelations between this practice and the health and growth of children. A medical officer from Gaza has been awarded a fellowship for six months to study the management and treatment of prematures and neonates.

88. Continued assistance is extended to the diarrhoeal disease control programme which was initiated some time ago. A mixer for local production of oral rehydration salts (with financial support every year) has been provided. Studies on effects of mass oral rehydration therapy on mortality due to diarrhoea have also been supported. The preliminary results show a reduction in hospital admission of diarrhoea cases by 35 per cent and in mortality due to diarrhoea by 49 per cent. In order to give further impetus to this programme, special short training programmes on oral rehydration have been organized in two batches for 10 medical officers from two hospitals in Gaza.

89. Collaboration is continuing in these territories with the Expanded Programme of Immunization and a high level technical mission visited the area in April 1981 to review the progress of the polio control programme. Several measures have been recommended aiming at a further reduction in polio comparable to the levels existing in developed countries. To ensure smooth implementation of the programmes in these areas, the WHO has continued to provide several vaccines. These include 125,000 doses of measles vaccine in 1981 as well as a financial contribution for polio vaccine and for BCG.

90. Following recommendations made by a WHO staff member who visited the territories in previous years, training of staff in different areas of the field of mental health (psychiatry, social community psychiatry, psychiatric nursing etc.) is being continued. During 1981, three candidates from the West Bank and one from Gaza were awarded short- or long-term fellowships for training in the above areas. The placement of four more candidates is in process.

91. In order to appraise the situation with regard to oral health in the territories, two staff members from WHO have just initiated an extended study, with a view to evolving appropriate programmes of control and prevention.

92. Technical advice has been extended to a programme of leishmaniasis control in Jericho and it is proposed to provide consultant services shortly in this respect.

93. In addition to the specific WHO-supported projects referred to above, technical backing has also been extended to inter-agency missions visiting the areas, in particular to the UNDP mission in health manpower development and strengthening of health institutes.

94. The Special Committee of Experts appointed to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories carried out a further mission in April 1981. The Committee made a number of recommendations which could be implemented with WHO assistance, such as epidemiological studies of viral hepatitis, leishmaniasis and other major communicable diseases, a study of morbidity from mental disorders through the establishment by WHO of a pilot

research zone and the provision of more fellowships. As indicated above, some of these recommendations have already been initiated and others are under consideration.

95. As in the past, WHO has provided direct assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization in the form of grants for payment of salary differentials for health staff employed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society as well as for supplies and equipment. In addition, special emergency financial aid was provided for medical supplies to help affected Palestinians in Lebanon as a result of the air raids during 1981.

96. WHO collaborates closely with UNRWA and has continued to second a number of staff members to the UNRWA health services.

O. World Bank

[Original: English]

97. The World Bank's Articles of Agreement require that loans be made to, or be guaranteed by member Governments. As indicated in previous communications on this subject, World Bank lending has been directed increasingly to the needs of the poorest member countries, focusing, in particular, on the most disadvantaged population groups; hence, improvement in the economic well-being of the Palestinian people is a matter of obvious concern to the Bank. However, it is important to point out that because projects supported by the Bank or the International Development Association entail substantial financial commitments on the part of the borrowing Governments, and can only be undertaken at their request, decisions concerning the benefits to particular population groups from such projects must be made in the first instance by the Governments themselves.

98. Some of the projects which the Bank has helped to finance in member countries in which Palestinian people reside have in fact benefited Palestinians, although the extent of these benefits would be difficult to quantify. For example, living conditions have been improved in urban areas, including areas in which Palestinian people are concentrated. The Bank Group is ready, in consultation with and at the request of member Governments concerned, to help prepare and finance development projects which meet the usual Bank Group criteria, and which would particularly benefit the Palestinian people.

P. Universal Postal Union

[Original: French]

99. As in 1979 and 1980, Universal Postal Union (UPU) assistance in 1981, concerned training activities for two members of the Palestinian people. Thus, the two scholarships granted in 1979 by the UPU Executive Council were extended in 1981, and the value was increased in order to enable two Palestinians to receive long-term training (1979-1983) at the Arab Higher Postal Institute (AHPI), Damascus.

/...

100. In addition, UPU participated in the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, for which a ceremony was held on 30 November 1981 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

101. UPU remains prepared to undertake the execution of the project for training five other members of the Palestinian people whenever financial resources are released for that purpose (see E/1979/61).

Q. International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]

102. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) enjoys observer status at conferences and meetings of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and has participated in the work of ITU when matters of concern to the Palestinian people were on the agenda of those meetings.

103. The following comments on recent technical co-operation activities of ITU in which Palestinian nationals have participated may be noted:

(a) As a technical specialized agency, ITU does not at present have any regular budget for technical assistance projects; therefore any project concerning the issue in question has to be financed through UNDP technical assistance programmes or trust funds;

(b) ITU keeps in continuous contact with PLO representatives at Geneva, in order to discuss their needs in the telecommunication field and also to invite them to participate in training seminars held within the framework of the MEDARABTEL project (Middle East and Mediterranean Telecommunication network project);

(c) Under the above training programme, two Palestinian engineers were invited to participate in the Traffic Engineering Seminar held in Turkey in 1980; another two attended the Tariffs Seminar which took place in Malta in 1981. They were also invited to participate in the Regional Maintenance Seminar held at Khartoum in March 1982. To facilitate their participation, fellowships have been provided in each case under UNDP financing;

(d) ITU has also contributed towards the training of Palestinian engineers at different training centres in the Arab region through projects executed by ITU under UNDP financing or trust funds from Arab administrations interested in this question. Many Palestinians act as instructors in several of the Arab Telecommunication Training Centres.

R. World Intellectual Property Organization

[Original: English]

104. The Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has drawn the attention of the governing bodies of WIPO, at their sessions in November 1981, to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

105. Under the 1981 WIPO Training Programme, two fellowships were awarded, one in the field of industrial property and the other in the field of copyright, to fellows selected from a group of four candidatures submitted by UNRWA.

106. An invitation to propose candidates for the 1982 WIPO Training Programme in the fields of copyright and industrial property was sent to the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization at Geneva and to the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Secretary of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

107. The Director-General of WIPO was represented at the meeting held at the Palais des Nations at Geneva on 30 November 1981, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

108. It should be recalled that the International Bureau of WIPO has informed the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization that it remains at his disposal for further discussions concerning the establishment and implementation of concrete projects to ensure the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, and that it looks forward to continued co-operation with the PLO.

109. The International Bureau of WIPO has kept the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia informed of its activities for the benefit of the Palestinian people and welcomes any suggestions concerning co-ordination of efforts, as mentioned in paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII).

S. International Fund for Agricultural Development

[Original: English]

110. Under this Agreement, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is restricted by its mandate to financing agricultural development projects in its developing member States. Projects and programmes are approved by the Executive Board of IFAD in response to requests of developing member States.

111. Consequently, IFAD, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has noted with due interest and concern General Assembly resolution 36/70 which, inter alia, is addressed to relevant agencies of the United Nations system.

/...

T. International Atomic Energy Agency

[Original: English]

112. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has taken note of General Assembly resolution 36/70, in particular paragraph 2 thereof containing recommendations to the relevant agencies, organizations, organs and programmes of the United Nations system.

113. With regard to the information requested from IAEA for the preparation of the report, IAEA has informed the Secretary-General that, owing to the highly technical and specialized nature of IAEA and its programmes which are all related only to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the kind of help that IAEA could give would not be relevant to the primary needs of the Palestinian people.
