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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
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REPORT ON UNHCR ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN 1977 - 1978  
AND PROPOSED VOLUNTARY FUNDS PROGRAMME  
AND BUDGET FOR 1979

ADDENDUM 2



Introduction

1. Since the issuance of Addendum no. 1 to document A/AC.96/553 the requirements in connection with the new refugee situation in Northern Latin America have been identified in more detail.

2. In the following table the revised needs within the General Programmes are summarized for approval by the Executive Committee; they amount to a total increase of \$ 600.000 in 1978 and \$ 380.000 in 1979. Taking into account the targets submitted to the Committee in the Table following paragraph 5 of document A/AC.96/553/Add.1 the revised target for 1978 would be \$ 41,750.000 and the target for 1979 would be \$ 87,880.000. These figures include \$ 2 million for the Emergency Fund.

Targets/Countries	Revised 1978 (in thousands of US dollars)	1979 (in thousands of US dollars)
Targets of General Programmes as per document A/AC.96/553/Add.1	41,150.0	87,500.0
Additional allocations proposed:	600.0	350.0
Northern Latin America		
Reserve	-	30.0
New targets of General Programmes	41,750.0	87,880.0

### Northern Latin America

3. Since the issuance of the report on UNHCR assistance activities in 1977-78, recent developments in Nicaragua have created new refugee problems in Central America. In the wake of these events, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of the Red Cross Societies jointly launched an appeal for assistance to the persons affected in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua. However, the proceeds of this appeal are intended mainly for assistance within Nicaragua, and only limited funds were made available for emergency measures of assistance to refugees in the neighbouring countries. The UNHCR Regional Representative for this area closely followed, since its inception, the evolution of the situation in the region, in particular the influx of Nicaraguans in the neighbouring countries. This is why UNHCR having received appeals from the Governments, and in close consultation with the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, as well as with other local and international voluntary agencies, has elaborated a tentative programme for assistance to these persons.

### Emergency Relief

4. Following the influx of about 10,000 persons in Honduras, in particular in the southern districts of Choluteca and Triunfo, the Government of Honduras has requested immediate assistance from UNHCR in order to help the Honduran Red Cross which at the request of the Government co-ordinates the immediate relief. A programme has been elaborated, estimated at about \$ 240,000, consisting mainly of basic food requirement (in addition to the food aid given by the World Food Programme), medicines, clothing, cooking utensils and sleeping mats. Towards this Programme, the High Commissioner allocated immediately from his Emergency Fund an amount of \$ 150,000 to the Honduran Government. It is expected that the balance will be financed to the extent necessary, by ICRC and the League of the Red Cross Societies.

5. In Panama, the Government, following the influx of about 220 refugees, had already spent \$ 75,000 for care and maintenance, and requested a UNHCR contribution of \$ 50,000 towards the needs of this group during the next three months.

### Temporary shelter

6. In addition to the above-mentioned emergency measures, the Honduran Government has requested the assistance of UNHCR for the building of temporary shelter which would be located in three different places and could accommodate a total of approximately 10,000 persons. A mission from UNHCR Headquarters sent to Honduras in September, has estimated in co-operation with the local authorities and the representatives of ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies, that an amount of approximately \$ 800,000 would be needed for the erection of economical temporary accommodation towards which, for the time being, no other sources are available. The Honduran Red Cross is expected to act as implementing agency with the technical support of the League of the Red Cross Societies. The first phase of this project, for the accommodation of 5,000 persons will start in October 1978.

7. Although the influx of refugees from Nicaragua in Costa Rica is of less magnitude, a number of refugees have crossed the border in the north-western region, especially in the vicinity of Peñas Blancas and La Cruz, and they are in need of assistance. Therefore, the Government of San José has requested a UNHCR contribution for the financing of three temporary centres, one near the border and the other two in the south of the country. The assistance referred is estimated at about \$ 100,000.

#### Conclusions

8. In view of the above, it is proposed that an allocation of \$ 600,000 be included in the 1978 General Programme for Northern Latin America. Taking into account the uncertainties of the situation, the above-mentioned programme measures may not be fully completed before the end of 1978. It is therefore suggested that the Executive Committee authorize the High Commissioner to use any uncommitted balance of this allocation, if need be, in 1979. To continue this assistance in 1979, an allocation of \$ 350,000 is requested.

9. The above allocations include provisions for the programme support amounting to \$ 20,000 in 1978 and \$ 45,000 in 1979 to temporarily strengthen the Regional Office for Northern Latin America by a programme officer (P.3 from November 1978 to September 1979) as well as to cover additional cost such as travel, communications, and other general office expenses.