



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/445 *and Corr. 1*
17 September 1980
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Thirty-fifth session
Item 64 (b) of the provisional agenda*

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

Assistance to Dominica

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/19 of 9 November 1979, expressing deep concern at the magnitude of the damage caused in Dominica by hurricanes "David" and "Fredric", endorsed the resolution adopted on 19 October 1979 by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America 1/ and urged Governments of Member States and international organizations to provide with the utmost urgency the assistance envisaged in that resolution for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of Dominica. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly informed during the next two years of the results achieved in the implementation of resolution 34/19.
2. It may be recalled that hurricanes "David" and "Fredric" struck Dominica at the end of August and the beginning of September 1979, causing widespread devastation. Forty persons were killed and approximately 4,500 were injured. Extensive damage was caused to the vital agricultural sector. The banana crop, constituting over 58 per cent of exports, was completely wiped out. The coconut and citrus crops, representing 20 per cent of the exports, were extensively damaged. The manufacturing sector came to a halt because of widespread damage to equipment, stock and supplies and damage to industry was estimated to be in excess of \$2 million. Further, about 13 per cent of all structures in the affected areas, including most of the houses, were totally destroyed. As a consequence, two thirds of the population was left without shelter. Roads and bridges were washed away and power and telephone lines were cut. The devastation caused by the hurricanes exacerbated an already difficult economic situation resulting from the outbreak of leaf spot disease in late 1978 damaging the banana crops, and the

* A/35/150.

1/ E/CEPAL/G.1105, sect. IV, resolution 418 (PLEN. 13).

civil unrest imposing a heavy burden on deteriorating public finances. The gross domestic product is estimated to have dropped by 17 per cent from the already low level of 1978, thus seriously reducing the per capita gross national product of \$459.

3. The present economic situation of Dominica, an island country of 750 square kilometres and a population of about 78,000, continues to be serious. The urgent and pressing demands for relief and rehabilitation coincided with the erosion of the revenue base, including decline in export earnings. The country suffered a budget deficit of nearly \$8 million for the fiscal year 1979-1980 - three times the figure of the preceding fiscal year. The Government again faces a substantial extraordinary deficit for 1980-1981. Further, receipts from exports in 1979 were reduced by half and the deficit on current account of the balance of payments is estimated to have increased from \$6 million to \$8 million.

4. The international community promptly responded to Dominica's urgent needs and provided relief assistance in the form of special grants and other assistance to the Government and public capital funds for project financing. Most of the budget deficit, as well as the deficit in the balance of payments on current account, was covered by extraordinary assistance from bilateral and multilateral sources in the form of emergency aid.

5. The need for international assistance remains important and urgent. Rehabilitation of the agricultural sector, particularly banana cultivation, reconstruction of the manufacturing sector and restoration of the infrastructure, including housing, water supply and electricity, can be undertaken only with the help of the international community on a continuing basis and for some years to come.

6. Resolution 34/19, together with an appeal for assistance, was brought to the attention of a number of Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system as well as regional and interregional organizations and international financial institutions. Annexed to the present report are excerpts from the replies received on assistance provided to Dominica. Several Member States have provided assistance on a bilateral basis but details have not been communicated to the Secretary-General.

ANNEX

Excerpts of replies received concerning assistance to Dominica

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES	1	3
Brazil	1	3
II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	2 - 25	3
A. United Nations	2 - 15	3
1. Economic Commission for Latin America	2 - 3	3
2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	4 - 5	3
3. United Nations Industrial Development Organization	6	3
4. United Nations Children's Fund	7 - 8	3
5. United Nations Development Programme	9 - 11	4
6. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	12	4
7. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	13	4
8. United Nations Fund for Population Activities	14	4
9. United Nations Institute for Training and Research	15	4
B. Specialized agencies	16 - 25	5
1. International Labour Organisation	16 - 17	5
2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	18	5
3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	19 - 20	5
4. World Bank	21	5
5. Universal Postal Union	22	6
6. World Meteorological Organization	23	6
7. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization	24	6

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
8. International Fund for Agricultural Development	25	6
III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	26 - 32	6
1. Organization of American States	26 - 29	6
2. Caribbean Development Bank	30	7
3. The OPEC Fund	31	7
4. Commission of the European Communities	32	7

I. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

Brazil

1. The Brazilian Government has transmitted to the Dominican authorities its willingness to offer technical co-operation to be specified by them.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. United Nations

1. Economic Commission for Latin America

2. Belize opened a relief fund to aid victims of the hurricanes in December 1979 and the money collected was transferred to the Government of Dominica.
3. St. Kitts-Nevis gave gifts of food and clothing. School children and elderly people were allowed to reside in the country during Dominica's rehabilitation.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

4. A UNDP/UNCTAD Interregional Adviser on Shipping and Ports visited Dominica in 1979 to formulate its requirements in maritime transport which were included in the UNDP-financed project "Regional Shipping in the Caribbean".
5. Dominica will be invited to attend the Workshop on Trade and Technology Policies in the Pharmaceutical Sector, to be held in 1980.

3. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

6. UNIDO will send a preparatory mission, at a cost of \$5,000 to be financed by UNDP, to assist in the establishment of a multipurpose agro-processing plant.

4. United Nations Children's Fund

7. During 1979, UNICEF assisted the Government in a water supply and sanitation programme in the rural areas. Supplies and equipment such as pipes, hand-pumps and storage tanks, were provided for the construction of water supply systems. UNICEF also released \$25,000 from the emergency reserve fund to air-freight emergency supplies.
8. UNICEF, with WHO/PAHO technical support, will provide funds for the repair of three health centres and eight clinics, supplementary equipment, teaching aids and teaching grants. It will also provide funds for the repair of two primary schools and the provision of school furniture.

/...

5. United Nations Development Programme

9. For the 1977-1981 period, Dominica has been allocated the sum of \$850,000 from the Caribbean Undistributed Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) and a further sum of \$627,000 as an independence bonus. These amounts have been used to provide assistance in socio-economic development and planning, co-operative training, livestock development and the establishment of agro-industries.

10. Following hurricane "David", UNDP provided a further sum of \$270,000 from its Programme Reserve for the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort. The existing Socio-Economic Development and Planning Project (DMI/78/002) was also expanded to provide assistance in physical planning, the provision of health services, port reconstruction and the restoration of the public records system which had been destroyed by the hurricane.

11. Apart from specific national projects, Dominica benefits from multi-island projects financed by UNDP from the \$8,560,000 earmarked for this purpose under the Caribbean Undistributed IPF, many of which have provided assistance in conjunction with government reconstruction efforts. The country is also likely to benefit from the activities of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development, which has been created in order to mobilize additional resources for the Caribbean region.

6. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

12. For details of the assistance provided to Dominica, see the report of the Secretary-General (A/35/228, paras. 80-85).

7. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

13. UNCHS, as an Associate Agency, is participating in UNDP project DMI/76/002, and has provided the services of a housing advisor and an architect at a cost of \$21,200.

8. United Nations Fund for Population Activities

14. Population education in family economics for the organized sector and strengthening of family planning services	Prior to 1980: \$389,000 1980-1983: \$173,000 <u>Total:</u> \$562,000
---	---

9. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

15. A nominee of Dominica participated in a Swiss-funded training course on Multilateral Diplomacy and International Co-operation organized by UNITAR,

from 14 April to 17 July 1980, for a group of 15 senior government officials from the Eastern Caribbean and Belize.

B. Specialized agencies

1. International Labour Organisation

16. ILO has undertaken a mission to prepare a project proposal in the area of reconstruction and rebuilding. Assistance from vocational training project, based in neighbouring Saint Lucia, (UNDP-financed) was also provided on an urgent basis for the reorganization of Dominica's public works equipment and repair undertakings.

17. ILO is also assisting, under UNDP financing amounting to \$148,100, in the establishment of a co-operative training unit.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

18. The FAO Office for Special Relief Operations assisted Dominica with an emergency project for the rehabilitation of agricultural and forestry sectors financed by the FAO Technical Co-operation Programme (\$113,000). Another project was undertaken for the rehabilitation of the fishing fleet.

3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

19. In October 1979, the Director-General launched an appeal to the international community for assistance to Dominica. UNESCO also allocated \$50,000 for emergency educational assistance.

20. A consultant to advise on curriculum development was sent in January 1980. A further mission was scheduled for February 1980 to obtain information on the damaged school buildings and to identify areas where UNESCO could provide assistance to their rebuilding programme.

4. World Bank

21. The World Bank assistance to the smaller Caribbean Commonwealth countries has been largely channelled through the Caribbean Development Bank. In fiscal year 1980, the Bank approved \$30 million (including a \$7 million IDA credit) for relending to these countries in sectors which will make a maximum contribution to the economic development of the region.

5. Universal Postal Union

22. Two missions of UPU-financed consultants visited Dominica in 1979. One, lasting two months, dealt with the general organization of the postal administration and the organization of the philatelic service; the other, lasting three weeks, sought primarily to inform the authorities of the whole range of UPU activities and to strengthen collaboration between Dominica and the Union.

6. World Meteorological Organization

23. WMO is implementing, or has implemented in the past year, projects under its own Voluntary Co-operation Programme for assisting the Meteorological services in a number of countries, including Dominica.

7. Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization

24. IMCO is collaborating in a project with UNCTAD in the Caribbean subregion entitled "Regional co-operation in the development of shipping, including support for small vessels and schooners". The countries likely to benefit from this project include Dominica.

8. International Fund for Agricultural Development

25. Dominica became a member of IFAD on 15 January 1980. IFAD has assisted the Government in identifying a food crop rehabilitation project which is under consideration for financing.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. Organization of American States

26. On 5 September 1979, the Permanent Council of the organization approved a resolution entitled "Assistance to Dominica and the Dominican Republic". The Permanent Council also authorized the use of \$1 million for the affected countries through the Inter-American Emergency Relief Fund (FONDEM).

27. Immediately after hurricane "David", the Secretariat contacted the Government of Dominica for providing technical assistance for the reconstruction effort. Further, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES), at its ministerial level meeting in September 1979, approved reprogramming of the technical assistance projects in the economic and social areas for 1979 and 1980-1981 in order to meet the emergency requirements. The Permanent Executive Committee of CIES was also authorized to mobilize additional aid both within the region and outside.

28. FONDEM, as the first relief operation, sent canned milk, followed by additional resources altogether valued at \$400,000 - in part utilized to meet the expenses of a field hospital and medical supplies.

29. The General Secretariat sent a mission to Dominica in December 1979 to, inter alia, assist the Government in determining priority technical assistance and training projects which might constitute a National Technical Co-operation Programme to be included in the programme budget for 1980. A second mission visited the country in March 1980 for identification of projects for rural-urban development.

2. Caribbean Development Bank

30. A banana rehabilitation project has been approved and the following other projects are in an advanced stage of planning:

- (a) Banana Boxing Plant Reconstruction;
- (b) Rehabilitation of Citrus Packing Plant and Provision of Agricultural Inputs;
- (c) Reconstruction of deep water port.

3. The OPEC Fund

31. Balance-of-payments support, amounting to \$500,000, has been provided in 1980 from OPEC Fund's Lending Operations. Dominica will also benefit from the project "Caribbean Regional Food Plan" financed from the Fund's Technical Assistance Programme.

4. Commission of the European Communities

32. As a part of commitments under the fourth EDF at 29 February 1980, Dominica has been allocated European Units of Account (EUA) 2.3 million as a grant, EUA 2.5 million as Stabex and EUA 3.3 million as exceptional aid. Further, an amount of EUA 3.3 million was granted in cash in 1979-1980 as relief aid and 1,450 tonnes of cereals and 100 tonnes of butteroil were supplied in 1979 as emergency food aid.
