

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS:
REPORT FOR 1992 - 1993 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES
AND BUDGET FOR 1994

**PART IV. THE AMERICAS:
NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(Submitted by the High Commissioner)



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4.0 OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AMERICAS

4.0.1 The major trends in the refugee situation in the Americas since January 1992 are as follows: continued success through regional peace initiatives and the CIREFCA process in consolidating durable solutions for Central American refugees including, notably, the first organized return of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico in January 1993; a decline in the numbers of Haitian asylum-seekers since mid-January 1993; and steady progress in achieving durable solutions in South America, especially through voluntary repatriation, for Chilean and Surinamese refugees. At the same time, however, the Office has been increasingly concerned at the arrival of asylum-seekers from outside the region, particularly from Africa and the People's Republic of China.

4.0.2 The period from May 1993 to May 1994 will be the fifth and final year of implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action of the May 1989 International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA). Arrangements for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assume the lead-agency role in CIREFCA as of July 1993 were confirmed at a high-level meeting in New York between the relevant Regional Bureaux of UNHCR and UNDP and the Office of the Secretary-General. As part of this arrangement an UNDP staff member has been appointed to head the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit based in San José, Costa Rica. UNHCR continues to provide strong financial and staff support to the Joint Support Unit.

4.0.3 In this transitional phase of the CIREFCA process, UNHCR is especially eager to ensure funding and implementation of the remaining priority CIREFCA projects and to ensure the inclusion of uprooted Central Americans in longer-term development plans and programmes, in line with the stated objectives of the CIREFCA Concerted Plan of Action. As a result, the CIREFCA project package for 1993/1994 is presently being revised with a view to presenting donors with updated financial requirements, revised in keeping with the final phase of the CIREFCA process. UNHCR's component of the overall package for 1993/1994 is currently budgeted at some \$ 40 million.

4.0.4 As part of its support for CIREFCA follow-up activities, UNHCR has increased its financial support for training on international protection, Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), micro-credit and gender-sensitive programming. In addition to UNHCR staff, Governments, NGOs and other United Nations agencies have participated in these activities.

4.0.5 The First Regional Forum on "A Gender Approach to Work with Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women" (FOREFEM) which took place in Guatemala City in February 1992, has had a positive impact on the work of UNHCR and UNDP in Central America, Belize and Mexico. Some concrete results of the FOREFEM initiative include the revision of all 1992 and 1993 programmes in the region to enhance their impact on displaced women; the appointment of a United

Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) consultant within the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit; and the commencement of legal rights training for returnee women in El Salvador. It is expected that the FOREFEM initiative will continue to enhance the participation of women, improve gender-sensitive planning and increase the focus on the needs of uprooted women in the ongoing activities of UNHCR and UNDP in the region throughout 1993 and 1994.

4.0.6 Progress towards durable solutions for Central American refugees has also been supported by cooperation with UNDP in the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE), financed by Italy. In Costa Rica, schools were built and equipped in eleven communities in the Brunca region, benefiting a total of 611 school children. In Guatemala, a project harnessing the effort of various agencies is under way to improve living conditions and self-reliance through income-generating activities for returnees in more than 120 communities, and for 10,000 refugees and displaced persons residing in Guatemala City. The UNHCR component of this project for 1993 covers support for the dissemination and promotion at the regional level of protection and human rights principles, as well as national projects in areas such as education, legal documentation and community services.

4.0.7 After lengthy negotiations, an accord concerning voluntary repatriation was signed between the Guatemalan Government, UNHCR and refugee representatives in October 1992. In order to facilitate collective repatriation movements, a Mediating Group was created, including representatives of the Catholic Church, the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman, the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission and UNHCR. The key provisions of accord include temporary exemption of returnees from military service and civilian "self-defence" militias, access to land, and verification mechanisms. The accord was followed by an agreement concluded on 13 January 1993, outlining the modalities for the first collective return movement. Following the signature of the above agreements, a group of 2,472 Guatemalan refugees repatriated on 20 January 1993 to the Ixcán region in north-eastern Guatemala. A total of 1,719 Guatemalans repatriated individually during 1992.

4.0.8 Despite the individual repatriation of over 1,700 Guatemalan refugees during 1992 and the collective return of nearly 2,500 in January 1993, anticipated large-scale repatriation to Guatemala has not occurred. Political developments in Guatemala during May 1993 prompted many refugees in Mexico who had expressed the intention to repatriate to adopt a "wait and see" attitude. Negotiations among the concerned parties to facilitate the repatriation of refugees continue. UNHCR anticipates that repatriation will gain momentum in the near future and continues to support protection activities and monitor repatriation through four field offices in Guatemala.

4.0.9 The large repatriation movements to El Salvador and Nicaragua recorded during 1991 declined considerably during 1992 and the first three months of 1993. Repatriation to Nicaragua dwindled from 15,024 persons during 1991 to 2,374 in 1992, while only 194 have repatriated during the first three months

of 1993. Similarly, repatriation to El Salvador decreased from 2,469 persons in 1991 and 3,204 in 1992 to only 217 during the first quarter of 1993. Although approximately 30,000 Nicaraguan and 10,000 Salvadorian refugees remain in the region outside their countries of origin, only 2,000 to 3,000 more are expected to repatriate. It is likely that the rest of the Salvadorian and Nicaraguan refugees will remain in countries of asylum, particularly in Belize, Costa Rica and Mexico. Consequently, with the notable exception of repatriation to Guatemala, it is now assumed that major repatriation movements in Central America have been completed.

4.0.10 The decline in voluntary repatriation to El Salvador and Nicaragua has been accompanied by increased support in the region for the economic, social and legal integration of those refugees opting to remain in countries of asylum. In Costa Rica, where some 27,000 Nicaraguans and 5,000 Salvadorians are expected to remain, economic and social integration continues to receive strong support through funds allocated from General Programmes, complemented by activities under Special Programmes. Following the promulgation in November 1992 of an Executive Decree in Costa Rica which allows for the issue of temporary residence permits to Central American refugees opting to remain in the country, legal integration is now under way. It is expected that some 25,000 refugees will be issued residence permits. To date, some 2,700 refugees have already received residence status.

4.0.11 In Mexico important progress has been made towards the self-sufficiency of refugees in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo through implementation of the Multi-Year Programmes. In 1992, a joint European Commission (EC)/UNHCR evaluation mission concluded that the level of self-sufficiency of refugees in Campeche is comparable to that of the local population. The Multi-Year Programmes have been extended into 1993, mainly to complete work in the area of infrastructure.

4.0.12 In Belize the local integration of some 3,800 Salvadorians, 4,800 Guatemalans and 900 refugees of other nationalities was significantly furthered during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993 through implementation of QIPs and other CIREFCA projects. The naturalization of refugees who have resided for ten years in Belize has also begun and it is hoped that the ten-year waiting period might be shortened in the future.

4.0.13 During 1992, the majority of the 2,560 Haitian asylum-seekers who had arrived in Cuba repatriated voluntarily. At the beginning of February 1993, 208 Haitians also repatriated with the assistance of the Cuban Red Cross. The Cuban authorities provided asylum to all Haitians who have arrived and opted to remain in Cuba. A local integration programme for 46 Haitians in Isla de la Juventud is being implemented by the Cuban Government. In the same period, 177 Chileans and 281 Salvadorians repatriated from Cuba.

4.0.14 The overthrow of Haitian President Aristide in September 1991, triggered a dramatic increase in the number of asylum-seekers bound for the

United States of America and various Caribbean countries. Negotiations for a political solution to the crisis and monitoring of human rights promoted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) continue.

4.0.15 During the first months of 1992, the US Government continued its policy of interdiction and transferred Haitian asylum-seekers intercepted at sea to its naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Of some 41,000 Haitians interviewed from September 1991 to May 1992, 11,617 were screened-in. In the first quarter of 1992 a UNHCR mission to Guantanamo provided technical assistance in camp construction and organized the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of Haitians. A group of 179 HIV-positive Haitians deemed by US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) asylum officers to have satisfied the "well founded fear of persecution" standard were forbidden entry to the United States owing to US restrictions on the entry of persons found to be HIV-positive. Following a second US District Court decision in June 1993, this group was transferred to the US.

4.0.16 Owing to the continuing large-scale influx during 1992, the US Government began implementing a policy of summary return of all Haitian boat people interdicted on the high seas. On a number of occasions the High Commissioner has expressed her concern about this policy.

4.0.17 Large numbers of Haitian asylum-seekers continued to arrive in Cuba, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the British Territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands. From September 1991 until January 1993, an estimated total of 48,115 Haitians left their country in search of asylum.

4.0.18 In anticipation of an expected increase in the number of Haitian asylum-seekers after the US elections, the High Commissioner presented a Comprehensive Plan of Action to Governments in the region in December 1992 to deal with the Haitian refugee crisis. Since the outset of the crisis, UNHCR's fundamental objective has been to ensure observance of the basic international principles of refugee protection, including the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. UNHCR also sought to promote a comprehensive strategy of prevention, protection and solutions in consultation with the countries in the region, the United Nations and the OAS. Furthermore, UNHCR has supported the efforts of a joint UN/OAS civilian mission to monitor human rights in Haiti.

4.0.19 There have been far fewer Haitian asylum-seekers in the region since mid-January 1993. In February 1993, the US authorities began implementing in-country processing in Haiti for those Haitians who consider their life or liberty in jeopardy due to the political situation in their country. UNHCR does not consider this processing as an alternative to the right to seek asylum and is monitoring the situation closely.

4.0.20 In 1992 and the first quarter of 1993 the prospects for durable solutions for refugees in South America continued to be affected by the

persisting deterioration of the economic situation in the region. Furthermore, the interruption of the democratic process in Peru in April 1992 and the continuing conflict within the country, have created a steady movement of internally displaced persons. There were no new refugee flows in the sub-region. While the number of asylum-seekers in most of the sub-region remained low, a significant increase was registered in early 1993 in Brazil, with the arrival of some 800 asylum-seekers of African origin, particularly from Angola and Zaire.

4.0.21 In Northern South America and the Caribbean, the refugee population was estimated at 8,750 persons in 1992, of whom 68 per cent were of African and Haitian origin living in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas, and 12 per cent were of other nationalities in French Guyana and Venezuela. The remaining 20 per cent comprised refugees from neighbouring countries, Eastern Europe or Asian countries, who have sought asylum particularly in Cuba, Colombia and Venezuela.

4.0.22 The voluntary repatriation of Chileans from neighbouring countries, Eastern and Central Europe and Australia increased from 1,015 persons in 1991 to 1,293 during 1992. It is expected that with the further consolidation of democracy and economic stability in Chile, the number of returnees will increase further during 1993, as indicated by the 400 who have repatriated during the first quarter.

4.0.23 The voluntary repatriation of Surinamese in French Guyana which commenced in early 1992 under the Tripartite Agreement between the Governments of France and Suriname, and UNHCR, ended in March 1993. Out of a total of 7,100 Surinamese refugees in French Guyana, 6,500 chose to repatriate under the agreement. The remaining 600 have opted for local integration.

4.0.24 A colloquium of high-level experts was held in May 1993 in Montevideo under the auspices of the Uruguayan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the colloquium, in which 15 experts participated was to identify ways to promote asylum in Latin America within the Cartagena Declaration framework. UNHCR considers it timely to encourage Latin American States to improve implementation of international protection principles in light of the past 20 years of experience in the region. The conclusions of the colloquium are now being studied. The tenth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration will be celebrated in 1994.

4.0.25 The reporting period witnessed a number of asylum-related legislative initiatives in both Canada and the United States, coupled with contacts between Canada, the United States and Mexico and cooperation on immigration and refugee-related issues. A new amendment to the Canadian Immigration Act, Bill C.86, entered into effect in Canada, and four legislative proposals related to asylum procedures have been introduced in the US Congress.

4.0.26 There is growing concern in official circles in both countries that control of illegal immigration must be reinforced and that existing national asylum procedures are being used as a "back door" immigration mechanism by persons with manifestly unfounded refugee claims to refugee status.

4.0.27 In 1992 Canada and the United States continued their traditional policies of providing the largest resettlement quotas for refugees. Over 150,000 cases were processed for resettlement under refugee quotas in Canada and the US during 1992. UNHCR's strategy in these countries as regards resettlement is to encourage both countries to harmonize resettlement priorities and criteria with those of UNHCR.

4.0.28 UNHCR's limited human and financial resources in Canada and the United States have obliged the Office to establish priority areas for action in discharging its responsibility to ensure full application of the basic principles of international protection. Among the priority areas identified are advising the executive and legislative branches and other national authorities on international protection and asylum; providing refugee law and resettlement training to concerned Government officials and NGOs; promoting the incorporation of UNHCR resettlement needs in national admission priorities and procedures; providing country-of-origin information on refugee-producing countries to immigration authorities and concerned Government officials; providing legal, resettlement and repatriation counselling to individual cases of asylum-seekers and refugees; and fostering greater public awareness of major refugee situations worldwide, as part of UNHCR's public awareness campaign to support private-sector fund raising.

4.0.29 UNHCR's human and financial resources have been adjusted during 1992 and 1993 according to the circumstances prevailing in a given country. Consequently, owing to the prospects for large-scale repatriation, UNHCR's presence in Guatemala was reinforced during 1992 and early 1993. In response to the situation in Haiti, a Sub-Office was opened in the Dominican Republic and a presence established in Haiti. Simultaneously, staffing in UNHCR's Branch Office in Washington was increased and short-term missions provided additional support to the UNHCR Regional Office in Caracas.

4.0.30 At the same time, the reduction of UNHCR's presence in Central America which began in 1991 continued during 1992 and 1993. In Honduras, where all but 120 refugees have repatriated or been resettled, only a minimal presence remained after June 1993. Similarly, in Nicaragua, where repatriation movements have been greatly reduced and over 350 QIPs have been implemented, a Liaison Office was established in July 1993. The scaling down of UNHCR's operations is also expected to begin at the end of 1993 in El Salvador, albeit at a slower pace.

Expenditure during 1992 and estimated/projected requirements for 1993 and 1994

4.0.31 In 1992, UNHCR obligations in the Americas totalled \$ 49.8 million, of which \$ 23.7 million were made available from General Programmes and \$ 26.1 million from Special Programmes. The revised estimate for 1993 amounts to \$ 43.7 million: \$ 23.6 million from General Programmes and \$ 20.1 million from Special Programmes. Initial 1994 estimates total \$ 37.3 million, with \$ 19.4 million from General Programmes and \$ 17.9 million from Special Programmes. Further details are provided in Summary Table 2 of document A/AC.96/813.

4.1 BELIZE

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.1.1 At 31 December 1992, Belize hosted a refugee population of 12,903 persons, all of whom were assisted by UNHCR. Approximately 47 per cent of the refugees are Guatemalans, 43 per cent Salvadorians and the remaining ten per cent from various other countries including Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The 12,903 refugees represent approximately six per cent of the total Belizean population. About 90 per cent of the refugees are of rural origin and have spontaneously settled in 66 of the country's 192 villages and towns. Forty-two per cent live in Cayo District, 17 per cent in Orange Walk District, 16 per cent in Belize District and the remaining 25 per cent in Corozal, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. Approximately 30 per cent of the refugees are single persons and the remainder live in family groupings. Households headed by women make up about twelve per cent of the family groupings. Approximately 60 per cent of the refugees are children under 15 years of age.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.1.2 As a result of the cessation of armed conflict in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the number of asylum-seekers arriving in Belize declined from 3,575 in 1992 to only 714 in the first quarter of 1993. During this same period the acceptance rate of asylum-seekers also declined from 14.6 per cent in 1992 to five per cent in the first quarter of 1993. Nevertheless, owing to the abundance of land and the relative stability in Belize, it is projected that some 2,000 Central Americans might arrive seeking asylum or enhanced economic opportunities during 1993.

4.1.3 Several important achievements were recorded by the Refugee Department and UNHCR during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993. Most importantly, the backlog of cases pending refugee status determination, which had reached a peak of over 5,000, was all but eliminated. Furthermore, in September 1992, a programme of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), designed to provide rapid productive and infrastructural support to communities in which refugees have settled, was initiated. A successful public information campaign in the local media was also launched to heighten awareness of refugee issues in Belize. Finally, a United Nations Volunteer working with UNHCR completed a field survey of refugees and immigrants in Belize. This field survey has allowed the Office to gather valuable information on the number, location, needs and status of all Central Americans residing in the country.

4.1.4 The First Regional Forum on "A Gender Approach to Work with Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women" (FOREFEM) (Guatemala City, February 1992) has

had a positive impact on the work of UNHCR in Belize. All 1992 and 1993 projects were revised to incorporate a gender focus with particular emphasis on securing the involvement and inputs of the female beneficiaries. Two projects were specifically designed to promote breast feeding and improve the nutritional status of refugee women and children.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.1.5 Programme objectives in Belize are geared toward the attainment of the complete social, economic and legal integration of those refugees who wish to remain in the country. Voluntary repatriation will also continue to be facilitated, although the number of refugees deciding to return to their countries of origin is not expected to increase significantly above the 219 who repatriated from Belize during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993. Priority will be given to infrastructural and productive activities in refugee-receiving communities, social services designed to improve the nutritional status of women and children, legal training and the continuation of the public information campaign which has proved successful in raising public awareness of refugee issues.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.1.6 The Government's Refugee Department, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is UNHCR's implementing partner for refugee interviewing, processing, documentation and for the provision of social services. The Refugee Department is also responsible for defining refugee policy and coordinating International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) projects. The Refugee Department is represented in the Joint Technical Team which screens QIP micro-project proposals. The provision of material assistance to both asylum-seekers and refugees is carried out by the Belize Council of Churches. Implementation of the QIP programme is the responsibility of the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Several local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Belize Family Life Association, Breast Is Best, Help for Progress, and the National Development Foundation of Belize, implement the remaining CIREFCA projects.

General Programmes

Local Settlement

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.1.7 Food assistance was provided to 2,343 refugees and 5,091 asylum-seekers during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993. Clothes, bedding and cooking utensils were also provided to 119 female heads of families and

19 vulnerable males. Medical treatment costs were covered for some 400 refugees, and 270 refugee children were provided with books, student supplies and uniforms. A successful public information campaign was also initiated in late 1992.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.1.8 The 1993 programme has been designed to strengthen productive activities while limiting the distribution of food and material assistance to asylum-seekers and vulnerable refugees. Additional activities will be undertaken in the areas of public information and training in refugee law and eligibility determination.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.1.9 In 1994 it is expected that refugees will receive increased support from the ongoing QIPs programme and that the number of new arrivals to Belize will continue to decline during the year. Programme priorities in 1994 will continue to focus on productive activities, legal training and public information.

Special Programmes

Other Trust Funds

4.1.10 The cornerstone of the \$ 1.5 million CIREFCA package of projects in Belize is the \$ 1 million QIP programme. Fifty-nine QIP micro-projects designed to provide infrastructural and productive support to communities in which refugees have integrated are scheduled for implementation in all six districts of Belize during 1993. It is expected that even more micro-projects will be implemented through this project in 1994. Micro-credit schemes to support the establishment of family businesses and subsistence farms are also included in the CIREFCA package. Two other projects target refugee women and children by promoting breast feeding and activities to improve their nutritional status.

4.1.11 Through the UNHCR component of the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE) national programme, 460 persons were assisted to regularize their immigration status in Belize. This project was discontinued at the end of 1992.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) **1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments**

4.1.12 In order to promote the local integration of refugees in Belize, three posts were created as of 1 July 1992: one Protection Officer, one secretary, and one driver.

b) **1993 - Revised estimates**

4.1.13 Estimates in 1993 for general operating expenses have been revised upwards due to the need to improve security arrangements.

c) **1994 - Initial estimates**

4.1.14 Present staffing levels have been maintained for 1994 and the initial estimate of expenditure is similar to the revised 1993 estimate.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN BELIZE

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
487.8 a/	—	—	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	—
1,054.2 b/	1,003.8	1,045.3	LOCAL SETTLEMENT Assistance towards local integration for refugees	991.7
57.4	91.2	66.6	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	62.4
1,599.4	1,095.0	1,111.9	Sub-total (1)	1,054.1
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
824.1	705.0	1,513.8	OTHER TRUST FUNDS CIREFCA/PRODERE	1,513.8
122.9	105.0	88.0	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. Junior Professional Officer	88.0
947.0	810.0	1,601.8	Sub-total (2)	1,601.8
2,546.4	1,905.0	2,713.7	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,655.9

a/ of which US\$ 846 incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ of which US\$ 1,060 incurred against Overall Allocation

4.2 CANADA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.2.1 In 1992, a total of 37,720 asylum applications were received in Canada, compared to 30,533 in 1991 and 36,198 in 1990. The recognition rate by Canadian authorities under the 1951 Convention was 57 per cent in 1992, compared to 64 per cent in 1991 and 70 per cent in 1990.

4.2.2 The five main groups of asylum-seekers who arrived during 1992 continued to be Chinese, Iranians, Pakistanis, Somalis, and Sri Lankans.

4.2.3 The Canadian authorities reported that the number of asylum-seekers who had arrived spontaneously during the first quarter of 1993 was 5,943, compared with 9,960 during the same period in 1992; representing a 50 per cent decrease. The recognition rate in the first quarter of 1993 was 56 per cent. Sri Lanka, the countries of the Newly Independent States, Somalia and China topped the list of nationalities of those seeking asylum in Canada.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.2.4 On 1 February 1993, a new amendment to the Canadian Immigration Act, entitled Bill C.86, entered into effect. Intended to streamline asylum procedures by making them more expeditious and cost-effective, it abolished the "credible basis" hearing and instituted an eligibility procedure at the port of entry and inland immigration offices for access to a full hearing. The eligibility procedure is based on the concept of first country of asylum and the availability of protection before asylum-seekers arrive in Canada.

4.2.5 On 9 March 1993, the Canadian Immigration Refugee Board issued guidelines for determining the status of female refugee claimants fearing gender-related persecution. Although Board members are not obliged to follow these guidelines, they must justify such non-application in writing.

4.2.6 The Canadian authorities are in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States of America to return asylum-seekers who cross into Canada via US territory. The MOU is intended to control the irregular movements of asylum-seekers between the two countries. UNHCR has been consulted formally on the MOU by the Canadian authorities.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.2.7 Legal and resettlement counselling for asylum-seekers and refugees in Canada, as well as refugee law training for Government immigration officials

and non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, will continue to be the main priorities for UNHCR local settlement projects in Canada during 1993 and 1994. It is expected that UNHCR's advisory role in eligibility determination and refugee law training to immigration officials will be institutionalized and strengthened with the adoption of Bill C.86.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.2.8 During 1992, UNHCR continued to implement its local settlement project through the Canadian NGO, CARE. Three Regional Legal Advisers, a Resettlement Coordinator and a Resettlement Counsellor, together with three support staff, were employed under this project to assist in providing legal, resettlement and repatriation counselling to asylum-seekers and refugees contacting the Branch Office in Ottawa. Moreover, voluntary repatriation applicants approved by UNHCR for repatriation assistance continued to be assisted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through its New York office.

General Programmes

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.2.9 During 1992, the UNHCR Branch Office in Ottawa, in close cooperation with the IOM office in New York, assisted the repatriation of a total of 62 persons. This included 29 persons who repatriated to Chile, 26 to South Africa, five to Uganda and two to El Salvador. The cost of repatriation of this limited group was charged to an overall project managed by UNHCR Headquarters.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.2.10 During the first quarter of 1993, the Branch Office assisted the repatriation of a total of 28 refugees; 22 to Chile and six to South Africa.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.2.11 Under similar arrangements with IOM, UNHCR will continue repatriation assistance to refugees contacting the Branch Office in 1994.

Local Settlement

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.2.12 During 1992 UNHCR continued to finance legal and resettlement counselling for asylum-seekers and refugees under its General Programmes and to facilitate the identification of private sponsorship for resettlement cases referred by UNHCR Headquarters.

4.2.13 The quota for Government-assisted refugees accepted for resettlement in Canada in 1992 was 13,000 places, out of which 8,000 were allocated and the remainder comprised a management reserve. During 1992, the Canadian Government sponsored the resettlement of 5,841 refugees. This included 1,691 from Latin America, 1,653 from South-East Asia, 1,459 from the Middle East, 911 from Africa, and 127 from Eastern Europe. There is no formal quota for the resettlement in Canada of privately sponsored refugees. Available statistics indicate that a total of 6,969 refugees were resettled under private sponsorship in Canada during the period leading up to 10 August 1992. UNHCR assisted in the resettlement of 646 refugees in 1992, including 111 persons accepted under the women-at-risk programme and six persons under the programme for the disabled.

4.2.14 In 1992 over 2,000 refugees and 1,200 asylum-seekers received direct individual counselling from the Branch Office. Staff also participated as resource persons in refugee law training for Government immigration officials and NGO staff, organizing and conducting a total of 13 training courses in refugee law and resettlement.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.2.15 For 1993 the Canadian Government has allocated 7,500 Government-sponsored places for the resettlement of refugees. Moreover, the Government has maintained its policy of accepting for resettlement an unlimited number of refugees for whom private sponsorship can be arranged. The UNHCR Branch Office role of identifying private sponsors for resettlement cases presented by Headquarters is most valuable in view of the diminishing resettlement quotas in traditional resettlement countries and the growing number of refugees for whom it has been determined that resettlement is the only viable solution.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.2.16 In 1994 UNHCR proposes to continue financing its legal and resettlement counselling activities under this project, as they are considered core functions of UNHCR's protection mandate. The budget in 1994 includes the salaries of two Legal Counsellors, two Resettlement Counsellors and two support staff. It also covers office rental, running costs and other administrative expenses.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.2.17 Expenditure in 1992 slightly exceeded revised estimates due to higher common staff costs. The over-expenditure was funded by transfers between appropriations.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.2.18 Following the adoption of Bill C.86, UNHCR established a new post of refugee law training officer as of mid-1993 to train immigration officers throughout Canada. As this activity will require substantial travel the 1993 budget has been revised accordingly.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.2.19 In 1994 expenditure is expected to increase by approximately ten per cent due to the continuation of this training activity. The post of refugee law training officer has been budgeted for a twelve-month period, compared to six months in 1993.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN CANADA

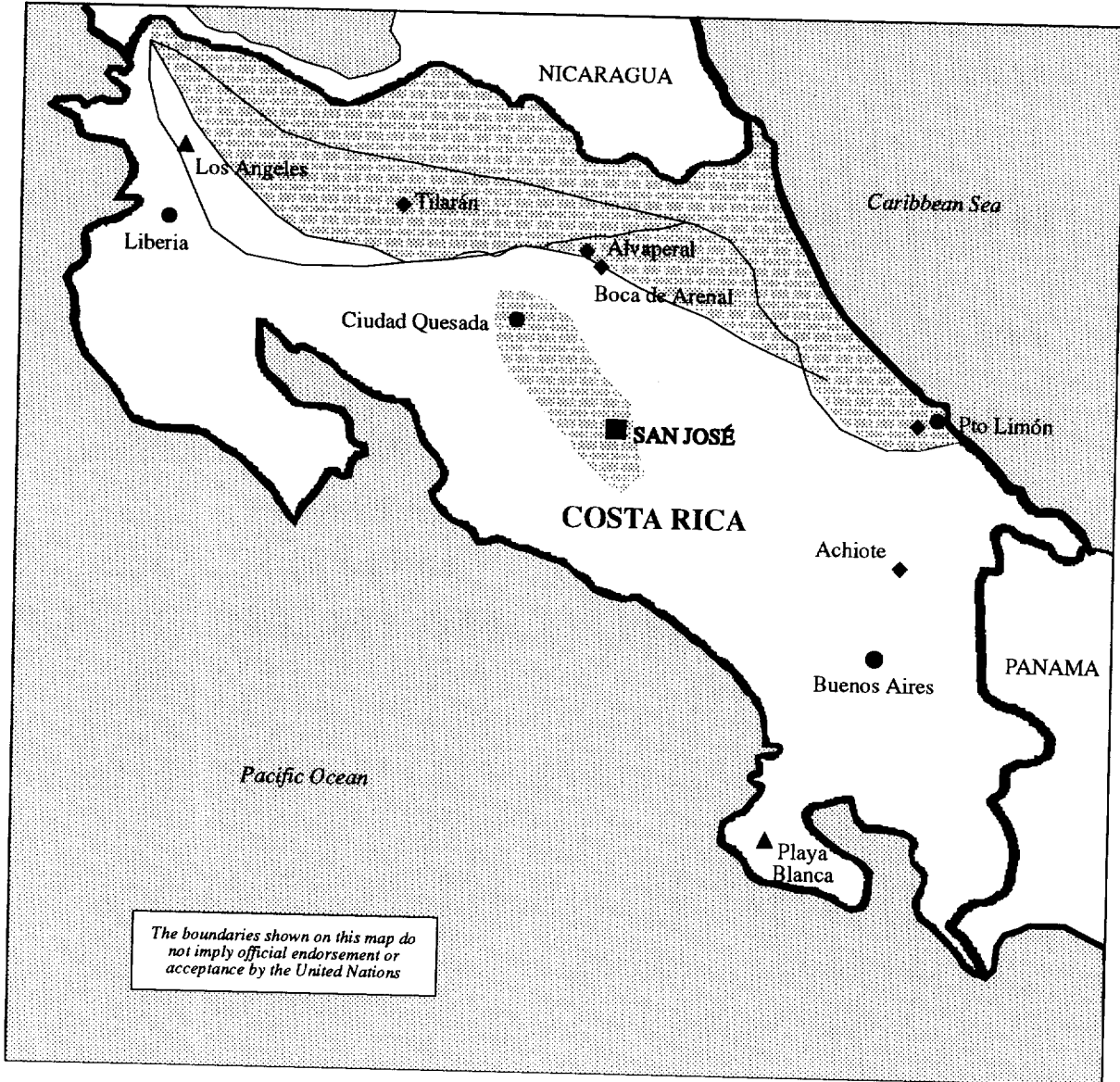
(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
5.0 a/	—	—	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	—
25.7 a/	—	—	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	—
420.3	430.8	473.5	LOCAL SETTLEMENT Legal assistance and counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly cases with special needs	546.9
538.9	476.0	556.3	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	569.3
989.9	906.8	1,029.8	Sub-total (1)	1,116.2
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
1.2	—	—	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	0.0
1.2	—	—	Sub-total (2)	—
991.1	906.8	1,029.8	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	1,116.2

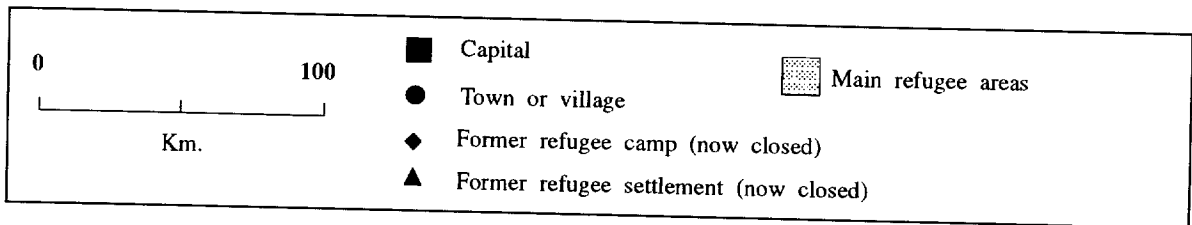
a/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

COSTA RICA

Area	50,700 sq. km.
Estimated Population	3,100,000 (1992)
Population density	61.1 per sq. km. (approx.)
Rainy season	May-November



The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations



4.3 COSTA RICA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.3.1 According to the Costa Rican Department of Migration, there are approximately 34,000 refugees in Costa Rica, 81 per cent of whom are Nicaraguans, 16 per cent Salvadorians and three per cent other nationalities. Approximately 41 per cent of the refugees are female and 59 per cent are male. Forty-three per cent are below 18 years of age. Refugees in Costa Rica live dispersed throughout the country, 80 per cent of whom are in the Central Valley and Huetar Norte regions. The number of refugees assisted by UNHCR in Costa Rica stood at 15,200 at the end of 1992, 60 per cent in urban areas and 40 per cent in the countryside. The remaining 18,800 unassisted refugees are considered to have integrated locally but lack naturalization or residence permits.

4.3.2 Refugees living in urban areas typically work as manual labourers or are self-employed in small income-generating activities. Most of those living in rural areas are subsistence farmers who supplement their incomes through seasonal labour on coffee and sugar plantations and livestock farms. Because repatriation to Nicaragua has declined significantly, statistics on the number of refugees have remained relatively stable since December 1992.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter of 1993)

4.3.3 The number of refugees declined by 2,782 from 1 January 1992 to 31 March 1993. A total of 2,561 were assisted by UNHCR to repatriate. The remaining 221 refugees have been removed from registry files owing to spontaneous repatriation, naturalization or death. The decline in the number of refugees voluntarily repatriating from Costa Rica from 12,024 in 1991 to only 2,561 during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993 has led both the Government and UNHCR to conclude that major repatriation movements from Costa Rica are no longer likely. The focus of the Government's and UNHCR's strategy has consequently shifted from voluntary repatriation to increased support of local integration during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993.

4.3.4 The promulgation of Executive Decree 21721-G in November 1992 represented a significant step towards the attainment of complete social, economic and legal integration of those refugees wishing to remain in Costa Rica. The decree, valid for one year, allows Central American refugees to opt to change their status from that of refugees to temporary residents. It is expected that some 25,000 refugees will receive residence permits through this exemplary measure. In 1992, procedures to naturalize refugees were also

strengthened, leading to the naturalization of some 400 refugees in Costa Rica during 1992 and the first three months of 1993. The continued support of the international community for International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) projects in Costa Rica has promoted the economic integration of approximately 23,000 refugees during this period, with another 10,000 benefiting directly from UNHCR assistance. With the intensification of legal integration activities, it is expected that all but 2,500 refugees will be economically, socially and legally integrated by the end of 1993.

4.3.5 The First Regional Forum on "A Gender Approach to Work with Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women" (FOREFEM) which took place in Guatemala City in February 1992 greatly enhanced UNHCR's awareness of the specific protection and assistance problems facing displaced women. In Costa Rica all 1992 and 1993 projects have been revised to incorporate a gender focus, particularly to enhance the involvement of women beneficiaries in all sectors of the projects.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.3.6 Despite the reduced demand for voluntary repatriation the two-pronged strategy of facilitating both voluntary repatriation and local integration will continue during 1993. Principal programme objectives include the repatriation of 1,315 refugees, the issuance of residence permits to 25,000 refugees, continued infrastructural support for basic services and the attainment of self-sufficiency for 8,000 additional refugees during 1993. Since the Executive Decree allowing refugees to obtain residence permits expires at the end of 1993, priority is presently being given to legal activities and the dissemination of information related to residency procedures. Activities related to the FOREFEM process will ensure that programmes benefit women equitably, with projects being refined to enhance the gender-based approach.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.3.7 The Directorate for Refugee Protection and Assistance (DIGEPARE), a Government body attached to the Costa Rican Presidency, is responsible for defining refugee policy and coordinating refugee assistance in Costa Rica. A local non-governmental organization (NGO) "Asesores y Consultores Internacionales", and an international NGO, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), are responsible for the implementation of all assistance activities in the country. "Asesores y Consultores Internacionales" carries out repatriation and legal activities, and the IRC is responsible for all assistance and income-generating activities. At the end of 1993 all programme activities will be consolidated and taken over by "Asesores y Consultores Internacionales".

General Programmes

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.3.8 The number of repatriations from Costa Rica during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, 2,561, was far below the original planning figure of 6,500. Through 31 March 1993, only 187 refugees repatriated from Costa Rica and estimated beneficiaries have now been further reduced to 1,315 for the year. During 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, refugees repatriated from Costa Rica to Nicaragua (1,971), El Salvador (551), Chile (37) Guatemala (one) and Peru (one), and assistance covered local and international transport, basic food, domestic needs and documentation formalities.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.3.9 During the first three months of 1993, a total of 187 refugees repatriated to Nicaragua (119), El Salvador (58), Chile (nine) and Peru (one). Revised estimates are now based on the assumption that only 1,315 refugees will repatriate from Costa Rica during the year, rather than the 3,065 originally foreseen.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.3.10 As it is assumed that only 1,060 refugees will repatriate from Costa Rica during 1994, principally to Nicaragua and El Salvador, a voluntary repatriation allocation is not required for Costa Rica. Repatriation activities will instead be covered under the regional allocation, combining repatriation activities from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Local Settlement

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.3.11 As foreseen under the 1992 programme, the decentralization of activities implemented by IRC allowed for more direct support to refugees dispersed throughout the country through the extension of housing and credit schemes and the intensification of infrastructural projects to lessen the financial burden of education, health and day-care services. A total of 64 refugee families received credit to support productive activities and to construct housing during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993. Fifteen health posts and 64 aqueducts were also constructed through the programme during this same period.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.3.12 Revised needs for 1993 cover new legal activities to support the issuance of some 25,000 residence permits to those refugees opting to remain in Costa Rica. UNHCR will also support a UNDP/Government of Costa Rica initiative to establish a data bank containing basic information on the most impoverished persons in the country to be utilized by the various line ministries in better targeting activities benefiting this population, which includes many refugees.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.3.13 The proposed allocation for 1994 is significantly lower than the 1993 revised allocation, owing to the assumptions that there will be only 500 new arrivals in 1994 and economic self-sufficiency will be achieved in 1993 for all but 2,000 refugees. The total planning figure for 1994 has therefore been reduced to 2,500 persons. Programme priorities will include documentation, support to income-generation projects, the distribution of material assistance to new arrivals and vulnerable cases, and activities in support of legal integration.

4.3.14 The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1993 and the proposed 1994 local settlement allocations (in US dollars) is as follows:

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Revised 1993</u>	<u>Initial 1994</u>
Transport	91,860	76,730	0
Domestic needs	61,230	48,975	212,272
Health	80,350	72,975	0
Community services	152,040	146,485	22,464
Education	11,490	12,605	8,696
Income generation	220,700	262,515	138,241
Legal assistance	169,440	502,680	61,583
Agency op. support	224,090	258,335	176,644
Project personnel	208,400	235,800	227,100
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total</u>	\$ 1,219,600	\$ 1,617,100	\$ 847,000

Special Programmes

Returnee programme

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.3.15 The voluntary repatriation of 1,852 refugees from Costa Rica to Nicaragua during 1992 was carried out within the framework of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV). All other repatriation movements from Costa Rica were covered under General Programmes. As the CIAV programme ended at the end of 1992, all repatriation activities are now under the General Programmes as detailed above.

Education Account

4.3.16 The 1992 allocation covered the post-secondary education of seven Nicaraguan refugees, one Peruvian and one Salvadorian. One student was female and the rest were males. The 1993 allocation covers the post-secondary education of ten refugee students, whose continuing studies will be covered in 1994.

Other Trust Funds

4.3.17 An ambitious package of CIREFCA projects designed to support local integration covers a wide variety of activities including infrastructural support to national health, education and day-care services, credit for housing and productive activities and training. During 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, 26 schools, one large clinic and five day-care centres were constructed in Costa Rica through CIREFCA projects. Eighty-six families received credit for income-generating micro projects and 187 families for housing during this same period. Another 1,186 refugees participated in training courses during the last 15 months. All CIREFCA projects implemented by UNHCR in Costa Rica are scheduled for completion by the end of 1993.

4.3.18 Through the UNHCR sub-programme of the PRODERE national programme, twelve schools were constructed in the Brunca region and support was provided to the Department of Migration to clear the backlog of cases pending refugee status determination. UNHCR's component of the PRODERE sub-programme was completed on schedule at the end of 1992.

4.3.19 Eight refugee students continued to be assisted in pursuing their university studies in Costa Rica through the German Refugee Academic Initiative (DAFI).

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.3.20 Higher than expected common staff costs resulted in a slight over-expenditure which was funded by a transfer between appropriations.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.3.21 As offices in Central America are scaled down, the Regional Office in Costa Rica is expected to assume additional responsibilities in order to ensure continuity, appropriate support, and an orderly transfer of activities in the region. Revised estimates for 1993 are therefore slightly higher than the initial 1993 estimates, but are actually lower than expenditure in 1992 due to the fact that a post was eliminated at the end of January 1993 and another post is to be discontinued at the end of September 1993.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.3.22 A similar situation is expected in 1994. Total budgets for PSA and PPE under General Programmes, as well as PPE under Special Programmes result in an initial 1994 budget slightly lower than the overall revised 1993 estimate.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN COSTA RICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
250.3 a/	400.0	300.0	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION Travel and related costs	—
1,718.2 b/	1,219.6	1,617.1	LOCAL SETTLEMENT Multi-sectoral assistance towards local integration for refugees and legal assistance	847.0
705.6	729.8	847.5	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	948.5
2,674.1	2,349.4	2,764.6	Sub-total (1)	1,795.5
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
10.3	17.8	11.4	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 10 university scholarships	11.4
—	—	—	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	—
2,895.0	1,420.0	1,942.0	CIREFCA/PRODERE	347.5
686.4	—	400.0	Local settlement	—
301.3	—	—	NICARAGUAN REPATRIATION	—
166.1	134.0	59.6	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. Junior Professional Officer	59.6
4,059.1	1,571.8	2,413.0	Sub-total (2)	418.5
6,733.2	3,921.2	5,177.6	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,214.0

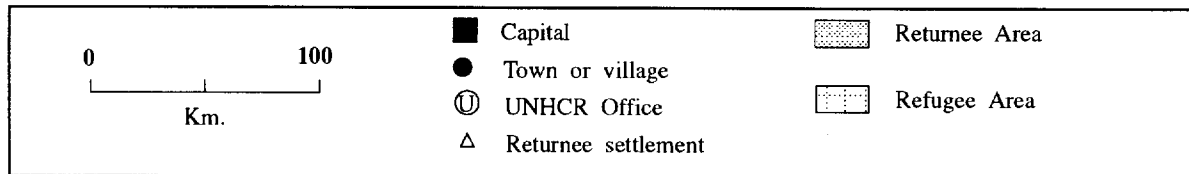
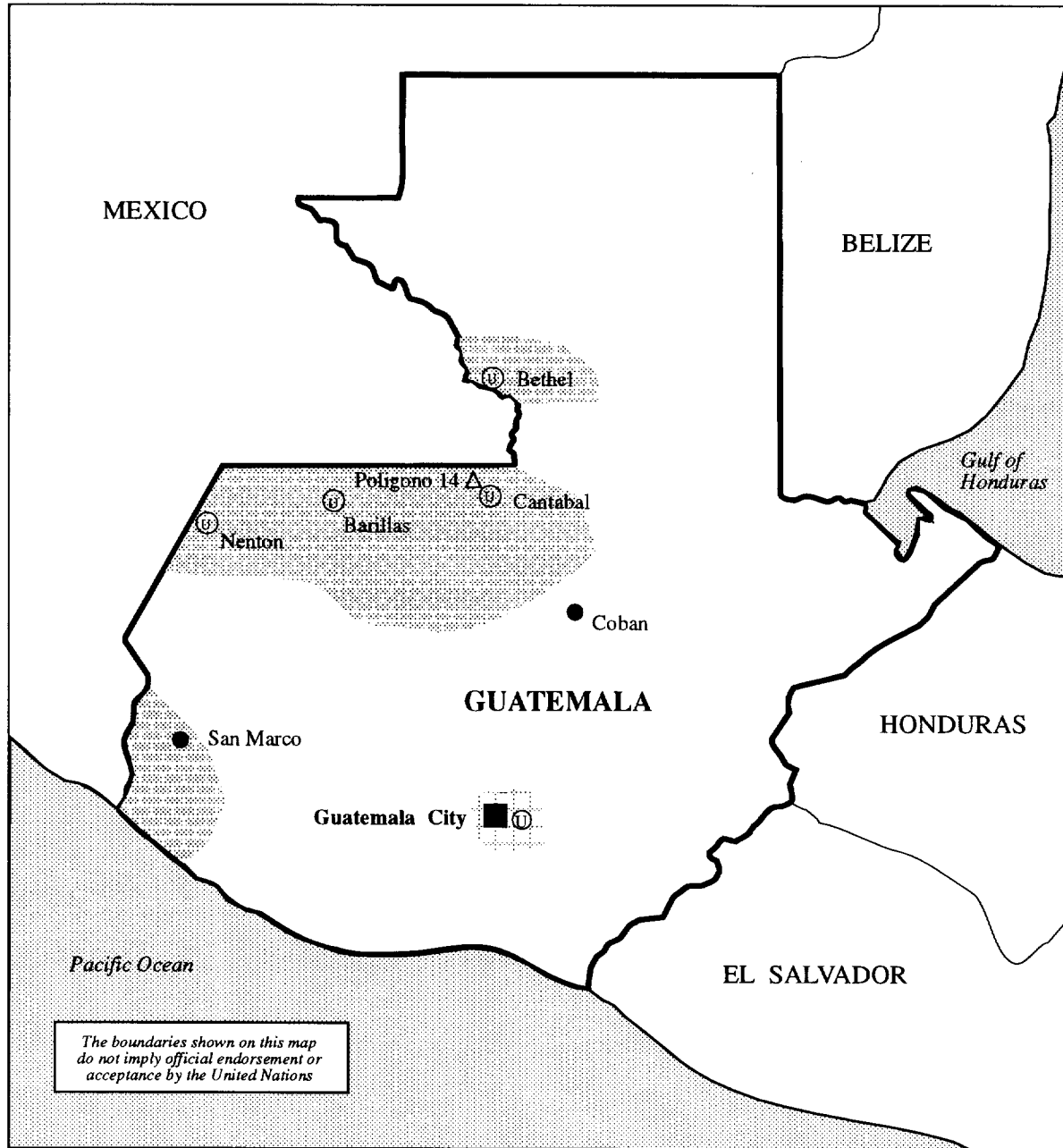
a/ of which US\$ 1,647 incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ of which US\$ 3,141 incurred against Overall Allocation

GUATEMALA

Area
 Estimated Population
 Population density
 Rainy season

108,900 sq. km.
 9,740,000 (1992)
 89.44 per sq. km. (approx.)
 April - October



4.4 GUATEMALA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.4.1 At 31 December 1992, the number of recognized refugees in Guatemala stood at 4,776, comprising 2,426 Salvadorians, 2,262 Nicaraguans, 35 Hondurans and 53 from other countries. Some 1,250 refugees received legal assistance and some 650 were provided minimal short-term material assistance (168 persons), primary education (77 persons), or medical care (405 medical persons). The majority of refugees in Guatemala are of urban background and live in areas surrounding the capital.

4.4.2 Under a Special Programme, UNHCR provides material assistance for one year and reintegration assistance through Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to 1,719 returnees who voluntarily repatriated mainly from Mexico during 1992, as well as the 3,112 persons who returned in the first quarter of 1993. Some 500 returnees who repatriated from Honduras to Yalpemech in previous years are also benefiting from QIPs. The returnees are almost entirely of indigenous origin, from six different ethnic groups in the Department of Huehuetenango and, to a lesser extent, from the Departments of Quiché and Petén. These returnees are mainly engaged in agriculture and possess limited education. However, some of them have acquired basic education and additional skills during their stay in refugee camps in Mexico. The composition of the returnee population by age and gender is as follows: 36 per cent men and women in roughly equal proportions and 64 per cent children.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.4.3 After lengthy and complex negotiations, an accord was signed between the representatives of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, the "Permanent Commissions", and the Guatemalan Government. UNHCR facilitated the dialogue between the two parties through its membership in the Mediating Group, which also includes the Bishop's Conference, the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman, and the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission in Mexico. The International Consultative and Support Group (GRICAR), comprised of representatives of the Governments of Canada, France, Mexico and Sweden, a representative of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), played an important role in the negotiations as observer in the Mediating Group.

4.4.4 Under the terms of this accord, which grants formal guarantees regarding repatriation, and a related agreement of 12 January 1993, which sets out the modalities for return, 2,472 Guatemalan refugees participated in the first collective, organized repatriation on 20 January 1993. They were accompanied by UNHCR staff, local churches, non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) and international observers, and the movement received wide media coverage. Rather than taking the most direct route, the group travelled along the Pan-American Highway, through Guatemala City. The group settled in "Poligono 14" in the Ixcán region, where a portion, some 250 families, have now settled permanently, building a community and preparing their plots. Due to the scarcity of arable land, the remaining 180 families will stay only temporarily in "Poligono 14", moving to other areas as soon as suitable land is identified.

4.4.5 In April 1993, the second funding appeal for the Guatemala Plan of Action was launched to cover a phased reintegration assistance programme for some 15,000 returnees, whose repatriation is expected to take place during 1993.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.4.6 Priority will be given to facilitating the collective and individual voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Guatemalans. To this end, returnees will receive basic provisions to cover immediate requirements during the initial and rehabilitation phases. This assistance is complemented by QIPs which are intended to benefit returnees and their communities, as well as displaced persons, with the aim of hastening reconciliation, consolidating return, and bridging the gap between emergency relief and development aid.

4.4.7 As voluntary repatriation is continuing at a steady pace, the planned reduction of assistance to refugees remains on course.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.4.8 The NGOs Food for the Hungry and "Asociación para el Desarrollo Comunitario" (ADESCO) provided material assistance to needy refugees in Guatemala, while the legal firm "Bufete Abularach" provided legal assistance under the supervision of UNHCR. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) facilitated international air transport for the repatriation from Guatemala of refugees. Governmental agencies are not involved in the implementation of assistance activities for refugees.

4.4.9 The UNHCR repatriation and reintegration project for Guatemalan returnees was mainly implemented by the Guatemalan Commission for Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (CEAR). UNHCR entered into an agreement with the "Centre Canadien d'Etudes et Coopération Internationale" (CECI), an international NGO which administers QIPs by subcontracting various international and local NGOs, church agencies and community-level organizations to implement micro-projects for the rehabilitation of areas settled by returnees which are likely to receive other returnees.

4.4.10 At the request of the Guatemalan Government, UNHCR made other arrangements for activities normally implemented by CEAR. Through

sub-agreements with the "Conferencia de Religiosos de Guatemala" (CONFREGUA), "Médecins du Monde" (MDM), "Vétérinaires du Monde" (VSF), "Médecins sans Frontières" (Switzerland) (MSF-S), "Médecins sans Frontières" (France) (MSF-F), and other agencies as needed, services such as lodging, food, transport, and medical and veterinary care were provided to the group of returnees and their livestock in the first collective repatriation movement during January 1993.

4.4.11 In exceptional cases, UNHCR implements activities directly, such as additional assistance with in-country transport for the first collective return and the creation of an emergency stockpile of tents.

4.4.12 A World Food Programme (WFP) project for returnees did not commence in 1992 due to uncertainty over the dates of repatriation and number of returnees. An agreement was reached towards the end of 1992, whereby WFP provides three months of food assistance through its refugee programme in Chiapas, Mexico, and a further nine months of food assistance in Guatemala. In addition, WFP is expected to provide at least another three months of food items to needy returnees.

General Programmes

Care and Maintenance

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.4.13 Refugees in Guatemala received minimal care and maintenance assistance for a maximum three-month period. During 1992, some 1,250 refugees received assistance in the form of legal counselling, health, and education, which was complemented by aid through NGOs. Due to the small numbers involved, as of 1993 material assistance to the remaining needy refugees is covered under the repatriation project.

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.4.14 During this period, the pace of voluntary repatriation declined somewhat. This trend may be attributed to the difficult economic situation in Nicaragua, the continuing peace process in El Salvador during 1992 and the de facto local integration of some refugees.

4.4.15 To commence the returnee programme in 1993, an amount of \$ 593,294 was made available from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation in

preparation for the first collective return of January 1993. When increased donor response to the second funding appeal of April 1993 for the Guatemala Plan of Action is reviewed the allocation will be reimbursed to the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation to support future voluntary repatriation efforts.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.4.16 As of 1993, the limited care and maintenance assistance provided to refugees in Guatemala is included under this project. The project will assist some 300 refugees in the areas of domestic needs, health care, education and legal counselling and cover logistical and legal support for some 300 who wish to repatriate voluntarily from Guatemala.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.4.17 In 1994, the project will continue to benefit some 600 refugees and returnees.

Special Programmes

Returnee Programme

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) project implementation

4.4.18 The collective, organized repatriation from Mexico of relatively large groups of refugees did not take place during 1992 due to the protracted nature of negotiations between the "Permanent Commissions" and the Guatemalan Government regarding the conditions for repatriation. The accords, which were finally signed on 8 October 1992, inter alia, provided for sixty-day notice prior to repatriation movements. The scope and magnitude of the assistance programme was affected by the lengthy period of uncertainty regarding the commencement date for collective repatriations, the number of returnees and their destination.

4.4.19 During 1992, a total of 1,719 repatriating Guatemalan refugees were assisted with food, lodging, medical treatment, documentation and individual or family basic reintegration packages. The returnees were also transported from reception centres in Guatemala to their final destinations. To facilitate their reintegration in Huehuetenango, several QIPs, including water projects and the establishment of a livestock centre, were implemented by NGOs and local church organizations. A QIP water project was also implemented in Alta Verapaz to benefit a community with a high proportion of returnees who had returned in 1991 from Honduras. At the end of 1992, preparations for the erection of temporary shelter were also undertaken in "Poligono 14" in Ixcán at the chosen destination of the first group of collective returnees with the assistance of Guatemalan refugees visiting from Mexico.

4.4.20 In January 1993, some 2,472 persons returned to "Poligono 14" in the first collective return movement. A further 647 persons repatriated individually during the first quarter of 1993.

4.4.21 The situation of those who repatriated during 1992 and 1993 was monitored closely as a result of increased UNHCR presence in four field offices opened during the course of 1992. Surveys of returnee villages were initiated to identify community-level QIPs to promote reintegration. The project also facilitated refugee visits from Mexico to identify land and prepare their repatriation, as well as for refugee representatives to negotiate return modalities with the Guatemalan Government.

4.4.22 International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) projects presented by the Government of Guatemala have been partially financed by UNHCR, as they support reintegration through activities such as the credit scheme for land purchase funded by the Government National Peace Fund (FONAPAZ). Regular meetings were held with UN agencies to lay the basis for coordinated action among Government bodies, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental and bilateral and agencies in areas with large uprooted populations. CIREFCA mechanisms and support structures have also contributed to coordination.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.4.23 The planning figure for repatriation during 1993 is 15,000. This figure was confirmed in principle by the Permanent Commissions in their plan for repatriations between the months of May and December 1993.

4.4.24 The programme will continue to facilitate reintegration through material assistance and the implementation of QIPs. During 1993, QIPs will comprise a wide range of micro-projects in the sectors of transport, water supply, domestic needs, sanitation, health and nutrition, shelter and infrastructure, education, crop production, livestock, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and income-generation. Several QIPs are specifically geared for women, such as specialized training as veterinary promoters, credits for small-scale, income-generating activities, vocational training, and vegetable gardening.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.4.25 In 1994, some 10,000 Guatemalan refugees are expected to return from Mexico. A higher number of QIPs will be implemented during 1994 than in 1993, owing to an increased number of beneficiaries and to improved implementation mechanisms between UNHCR, UNDP, the Government and NGOs.

Other Trust Funds

4.4.26 In 1993, a PRODERE project is covering activities in the areas of social work, education, legal assistance and the promotion of human rights, with the objective of facilitating the reintegration of uprooted populations. Beneficiaries include returnees throughout Guatemala, as well as refugees located mainly in urban centres.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) **1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments**

4.4.27 During 1992, staffing levels and corresponding expenditure increased substantially in preparation for the collective repatriation of large groups of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico. In the second half of 1992, UNHCR established four field offices in returnee areas to assist in voluntary repatriation and supported reintegration activities, which have accelerated following the first collective return to Guatemala in January 1993.

b) **1993 - Revised estimates**

4.4.28 Estimates for 1993 have been revised upwards due to the extension of several posts in 1993 and consequent increased requirements in areas such as travel and communications for the planned repatriation of 15,000 refugees.

c) **1994 - Initial estimates**

4.4.29 In 1994 the level of expenditure is expected to be similar to the revised 1993 estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN GUATEMALA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

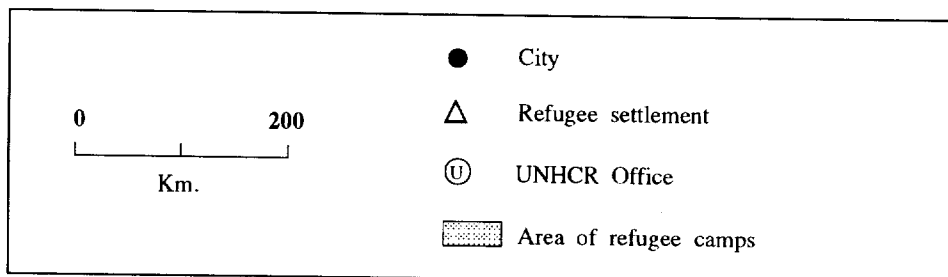
1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
208.4	162.4	—	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	—
76.8	122.7	691.1 b/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION Travel and related costs for refugees voluntarily repatriated from the region	104.2
2.8 a/	—	—	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	—
1.4 a/	—	—	RESETTLEMENT	—
26.9	28.8	—	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	—
316.3	313.9	691.1	Sub-total (1)	104.2
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
2,588.4	9,783.9	5,763.7	OTHER TRUST FUNDS REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	7,275.6
—	320.0	—	CIREFCA/PRODERE	—
155.4	51.0	115.0	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. Junior Professional Officer	115.0
2,743.8	10,154.9	5,878.7	Sub-total (2)	7,390.6
3,060.1	10,468.8	6,569.8	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	7,494.8

a/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ of which US\$ 593,294 allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

MEXICO

Area	1,970,000 sq. km.
Estimated population	89,540,000 (1992)
Population density	14.45 per sq. km. (approx.)
Rainy season	May - August



4.5 MEXICO

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.5.1 At the end of 1992, there were some 55,000 refugees in Mexico, most of them of Guatemalan origin. UNHCR provided assistance to some 44,800 refugees located in camps and settlements and some 5,300 residing in urban areas. An additional 754 unassisted Guatemalans in the Marquez de Comillas area in the State of Chiapas are recognized as refugees.

4.5.2 The assisted refugee population is composed of 36 per cent men and women, in roughly equal proportions, and 64 per cent children. The Guatemalan refugees are mainly of indigenous descent, belonging to six different ethnic groups. Almost all of these refugees are of a rural background and are engaged in agricultural production.

4.5.3 Approximately 19,000 Guatemalan refugees live in rural settlements in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo and have obtained self-sufficiency due to the implementation of Multi-Year Programmes (1989-1992).

4.5.4 Some 25,800 Guatemalan refugees are living in 128 camps dispersed in the State of Chiapas. These refugees, whose living conditions may be considered rather precarious, are being assisted through a care and maintenance project complemented by special projects emphasizing income-generating activities and training.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.5.5 The Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, through their representative body, the "Permanent Commissions", expressed continued interest in collective and organized repatriation. To this end, discussions commenced between the Guatemalan authorities and the refugees in Mexico through the Mediating Group, comprising representatives of the Catholic Church, the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman, the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission and UNHCR. On 8 October 1992, after long, complex negotiations, an agreement was signed between the Guatemalan Government and the Permanent Commissions regarding collective return movements. It contains seven key provisions covering, inter alia, access to land and the exemption of returnees for a period of three years from service in the military and in "self-defence" groups. On the basis of this agreement and a related agreement concluded on 12 January 1993, outlining the modalities for the first collective return, the first group of 2,472 Guatemalan refugees repatriated to the Ixcán region in north-eastern Guatemala on 20 January 1993. During the reporting period, efforts were continued to facilitate visits of refugees to Guatemala to identify land and obtain credits

for land purchase. The Guatemalan authorities also visited camps in Mexico to exchange information on issues related to repatriation.

4.5.6 Given the large number of externally displaced persons and unrecognized refugees in Mexico, estimated at 340,000 during the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) in 1989, emphasis continues to be laid on the promotion and dissemination of refugee law and on procedures for the determination of refugee status. According to the Mexican authorities, the above figure includes some 100,000 Central American migrants transiting through Mexican territory.

4.5.7 In October 1992, article 89 of the revised General Population Law was enacted, which sets forth the procedures for the granting of refugee status. This article does not establish precise eligibility criteria, but instead gives the Ministry of the Interior ("Secretaría de Gobernación") the competence to decide who qualifies for refugee status. It also gives the Ministry the right to cease refugee status with one month's notice.

4.5.8 Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that, in accordance with an agreement between UNHCR and the Mexican authorities, all urban refugees registered with UNHCR in Mexico City will be granted refugee status throughout 1993. So far, the practice has generally been to provide them with work permits. Likewise, UNHCR and the Mexican authorities have signed an agreement which allows all refugees in settlements in Chiapas to obtain refugee status under the revised legislation.

4.5.9 Registration of births of refugee children was carried out during 1992 for all refugee children in Campeche and Quintana Roo and is expected to be completed in Chiapas in 1993. Registration is extremely important as it will have the effect of allowing refugee children who opt to stay in the country to claim Mexican citizenship.

4.5.10 A significant number of aliens, including numerous refugees, are scattered throughout Mexico City and some of the neighbouring Mexican States. Some 3,500 persons have requested legal protection or assistance from UNHCR. Urban poverty, coupled with precarious legal status, seriously hamper their chances of integration.

4.5.11 The special needs of refugee women are addressed in the care and maintenance and local integration programmes through supplementary feeding, provision of appropriate domestic items, and income-generating projects in the areas of horticulture and animal husbandry. Special training programmes for Guatemalan women continue to be implemented in Campeche, Chiapas, and Quintana Roo.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.5.12 UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Guatemalan refugees. As in previous years, particularly in the State of Chiapas, UNHCR will provide basic assistance to needy refugees, pending the identification of durable solutions. Particular emphasis will be given to income-generating and reforestation programmes, as well as to the health sector. It is also expected that assistance provided to refugees in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo will be further reduced, reflecting the level of self-sufficiency achieved through the implementation of the Multi-Year Programmes. This might be achieved through the involvement of other international agencies and Mexican institutions that share UNHCR's interest in a micro-regional focus which is expected to strengthen integration possibilities by spreading the benefits of the programmes to neighbouring Mexican communities.

4.5.13 In 1992, a second "secure settlement" ("asiento seguro"), Gracias a Dios, was established in the State of Chiapas, benefiting some 220 Guatemalan refugee families through improved living conditions and community services.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.5.14 As in previous years, the "Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a los Refugiados" (COMAR) is UNHCR's principal operational partner for programmes benefiting Guatemalan refugees in rural areas. COMAR coordinates its works with relevant Government institutions both at the federal and state levels. UNHCR's relatively small assistance programme for urban refugees is being implemented through the "Servicio de Representación Profesional y Técnica" (SERTEC). In the State of Chiapas, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) "Capacitación y Desarrollo Comunitario" (CADECO), "Promoción de Servicios Comunitarios" (PROSECO), and "Centro de Investigación y Acción para la Mujer" (CIAM) implement health, training and voluntary repatriation programmes.

4.5.15 In accordance with the CIREFCA objectives for Mexico, additional quadripartite meetings were held between UNHCR, COMAR, NGOs, and refugee representatives to establish coordination mechanisms with NGOs and enhance refugee participation in both planning and implementation of assistance activities and voluntary repatriation.

4.5.16 In 1992, the World Food Programme (WFP) contributed 4,603.1 metric tonnes of basic food items for Guatemalan refugees. Most of the WFP-resourced food, 4,021.3 metric tons, benefited refugees in Chiapas. The remainder was distributed to vulnerable refugees in Campeche and Quintana Roo, as well as to needy refugee families claiming food losses due to heavy rains and to those families postponing voluntary repatriation.

General Programmes

Care and Maintenance

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.5.17 During this period, regular repair and maintenance was carried out to improve access to the camps in Chiapas. Following the recommendations of an assessment mission by UNHCR's Programme and Technical Support Section (PTSS) in June 1992, significant improvements were made in the supply of potable water in the Nueva Libertad and Gracias a Dios settlements. Preventive measures were taken against cholera, such as the construction of family latrines and the distribution of cleaning supplies. An overall improvement in health was achieved through training programmes; the establishment of permanent teams of health promoters, midwives and a technical team; more systematic identification and coverage of pregnant women; improved hygienic conditions during birth; the promotion of maternal health; and the absence of epidemics. This improvement was reflected in a drop in the mortality rate.

4.5.18 In Chiapas, 4,845 children were enrolled in the 1992-1993 primary education cycle in refugee camps and were supported by 148 refugee promoters, while 310 attended primary level classes in Mexican schools. A total of 231 pupils were enrolled in the 1992-1993 secondary education cycle. Each pupil received a package of classroom supplies and textbooks. Under the overall guidance of Mexican teachers, 363 persons received literacy training from refugee educational promoters. On the initiative of refugee women through their organization, "Mamá Maquín", four workshops were convened in which 48 women were trained as literacy workers and literacy classes were held for some 600 women. In Chiapas, some 700 children aged five to seven years attended pre-school classes monitored by 100 refugee promoters.

4.5.19 As in previous years, needy urban refugees, mainly in Mexico City, have been assisted through legal counselling, the provision of domestic needs, health care, and scholarships for primary and lower secondary education and vocational training through SERTEC.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.5.20 In Chiapas, needy Guatemalan refugees, particularly women and children, are supplied with basic domestic needs, such as blankets, water buckets, clothing and shoes.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.5.21 During 1994 similar assistance will be provided. The number of beneficiaries is expected to decline as a result of voluntary repatriation.

4.5.22 The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1993 and proposed 1994 care and maintenance allocations is as follows (in US dollars):

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Initial 1993</u>	<u>Revised 1993</u>	<u>Initial 1994</u>
Food	88,22	13,200	10,800
Transport	0	228,000	219,100
Domestic needs	168,820	350,000	256,900
Water	17,330	12,100	1,300
Sanitation	21,940	48,800	57,000
Health	102,630	174,900	169,300
Shelter	3,270	4,500	4,500
Community services	60,400	82,500	85,100
Education	310,820	601,200	605,700
Legal assistance	126,700	222,200	174,400
Agency op. support	312,270	358,300	359,600
Project personnel	106,400	131,300	122,400
Total	\$ 1,318,800	\$ 2,227,000	\$ 2,066,100

Voluntary Repatriation

a) **1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation**

4.5.23 During 1992, assistance was provided to repatriate 268 refugees, mainly urban Salvadorians. During the first quarter of 1993, 90 urban refugees were assisted to repatriate.

4.5.24 To start the repatriation programme in 1993, an amount of \$ 281,706 was made available from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation in preparation for the first collective repatriation of Guatemalan refugee. Once increased donor response is secured for the second funding appeal of April 1993 for the Guatemala Plan of Action, the allocation will be reimbursed to the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation to support future voluntary repatriation efforts.

b) **1993 programme implementation**

4.5.25 In 1993, it is anticipated that 500 urban refugees, primarily Salvadorians, will be assisted to repatriate. Assistance will consist of logistic and legal support for voluntary repatriation.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.5.26 Projections for 1994 are similar to 1993. A caseload of some 500 urban refugees is expected to receive assistance in voluntary repatriation, and Salvadorians are expected to continue to represent the largest group within this total.

Local Settlement

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.5.27 Activities in settlements in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo focused on the consolidation of the integration of Guatemalan refugees. A WFP mission and a joint European Commission (EC)/UNHCR evaluation mission to Campeche both concluded in 1992 that the objectives of the Multi-Year Programme (1989-1992) had been met. The evaluations show that the level of self-sufficiency achieved by Guatemalan refugees in Campeche goes beyond mere survival and in some sectors is comparable or even better than that of the surrounding Mexican population.

4.5.28 It is worth noting that one of the main findings of the EC/UNHCR evaluation mission was that the Multi-Year Programmes had facilitated the local integration of refugees without impeding voluntary repatriation, thus obviating the apparent contradiction between local integration and repatriation. Indeed, a group of 1,024 persons from Quintana Roo repatriated in the first collective return movement in January 1993.

4.5.29 A PTSS water expert recommended in June 1992 the improvement of water systems in settlements in both states to the standards set by national line ministries as a condition for the transfer of responsibilities to Mexican authorities and refugee communities. This transfer of responsibility for services and activities to refugees and state entities did not take place in 1992 as foreseen but, according to a statement of the former Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, will only be possible once a significant number of Guatemalan refugees (15,000) have repatriated.

4.5.30 During the 1991-1992 school cycle, 3,420 pupils were enrolled in primary school in both States, and were supported by 134 refugee education promoters. The initial enrollment figure for primary education during 1992-1993 is 3,594, with 135 refugee education promoters. During the 1991-1992 cycle, some 581 children enrolled in pre-school classes and were supported by 21 refugee education promoters. The 1992-1993 pre-school cycle is being attended by 607 children taught by 27 refugee education promoters.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.5.31 In 1993 some improvements to water-supply systems will be carried out in Campeche and Quintana Roo. Irrigation systems in Campeche will require repair and extension in order to prevent crop losses, such as those which occurred in September 1992.

4.5.32 Special attention will continue to be paid to women through supplementary feeding programmes for pregnant women and implementation of activities in the areas of crop production, animal husbandry and income generation.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.5.33 It is anticipated that substantive progress in the transfer of responsibilities from UNHCR to Mexican authorities and refugee communities will be achieved in 1994. The project will continue, on a reduced scale, to support refugee efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. With the expected decrease in the beneficiary population owing to repatriation, and in view of the similarity of activities, the Campeche and Quintana Roo programmes will be consolidated into one single project.

4.5.34 The sectoral breakdown for the initial and revised 1993 and proposed 1994 local settlement allocations is as follows (in US dollars):

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Initial 1993*</u>	<u>Revised 1993</u>	<u>Initial 1994</u>
Food	5,700	4,000	7,700
Transport	76,700	126,600	92,300
Water	487,900	499,600	242,100
Sanitation	2,300	2,300	2,300
Health	31,300	29,300	27,700
Shelter	6,500	118,700	25,800
Education	271,100	261,100	213,900
Crop production	0	289,300	180,000
Livestock	0	47,100	47,100
Income-generation	367,900	7,400	33,200
Legal Assistance	0	22,600	0
Agency Op. support	427,200	540,000	451,700
Project Personnel	791,50	824,600	830,800
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 2,468,100</u>	<u>\$ 2,772,600</u>	<u>\$ 2,154,600</u>

*takes into account increases approved by the Executive Committee in December 1992.

Resettlement

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.5.35 In 1992, only a minor appropriation was maintained for resettlement due to the limited number of cases.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.5.36 As foreseen, the requirements for resettlement are being met from a Headquarters-administered project as of 1993.

Special Programmes

Returnee Programme

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.5.37 During 1992, 1,709 Guatemalans repatriated voluntarily on an individual basis. Following the agreement between refugee representatives and the Guatemalan Government of 8 October 1992 a first group of 2,472 refugees repatriated in January 1993. With an additional 647 Guatemalans who returned on an individual basis, the total figure for voluntary repatriation during the first quarter of 1993 came to 3,119.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.5.38 Based on UNHCR planning figures, confirmed by the plan of operations for voluntary repatriation movements as submitted by the Permanent Commissions, some 15,000 Guatemalans are expected to repatriate voluntarily during 1993. The operation will be coordinated by UNHCR in collaboration with COMAR, with the support of other Mexican authorities and NGOs, such as the Mexican Red Cross. Allocations will cover individual and collective repatriation as well as preparation, coordination and information activities, lodging and food in transit centres in Mexico, and protection and assistance during the journey to reception centres in Guatemala.

4.5.39 During the assembly and transport phase, special attention is given to refugee women, children, and vulnerable groups through assistance provided by several NGOs, coordinated by CIAM. Refugee women will be trained to provide necessary medical attention, and personal hygiene items will be distributed to these beneficiaries. As mentioned above, an allocation was made from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation to cover expenditure related to the first collective return, pending donor response to the second funding appeal of April 1993.

b) 1994 programme proposals

4.5.40 It is anticipated that some 10,000 Guatemalans will opt to repatriate voluntarily in 1994. The total planning budget of \$ 2,369,400 will provide for the same type of assistance as in 1993.

Education Account

4.5.41 The 1993 appropriation covers scholarship assistance for 70 students. The proposed appropriation for 1994 will provide scholarships for the 50 students expected to qualify for this assistance.

Other Trust Funds

4.5.42 With the objective of improving the living conditions of Guatemalan refugees in Chiapas, activities aimed at promoting income-generation through community works projects such as reforestation and the maintenance of irrigation systems were carried out under a special project. This project also supports refugee initiatives in the area of small-scale economic activities, such as agricultural production, commercial and productive enterprises, and the raising of livestock and fish. With the support of the EC, a project was initiated in 1993 to provide adequate medical care to dispersed refugee camps in Chiapas, including training of the refugee population in community health and sanitation. Another project in Chiapas, also funded by the EC, addresses the needs of Guatemalan refugee women. The project, implemented and in part supported by Mexican NGOs and the organization of Guatemalan refugee women, "Mamá Maquín", provides training to enable women to organize and participate more actively in the community. This, in turn, is expected to increase the impact of other projects incorporating women into economic activities.

4.5.43 In Campeche, the EC-funded training project, which was initiated in 1991, continued during 1992 and will be completed in 1993. The objective of the project is to prepare Guatemalan refugees to assume responsibilities in several sectors involving activities such as the operation and maintenance of vehicles and infrastructure, and also includes literacy and health training. In Quintana Roo, a similar project was initiated at the end of 1992 and will continue in 1993 with funds provided by the Finnish Government. In 1994, a new project with funds from the German Government will address women's needs, emphasizing vocational training.

4.5.44 In 1992-1993, a survey of Salvadorians in Mexico was carried out with the support of the Development Project for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE). Preliminary findings indicate that the majority of these refugees will not opt for voluntary repatriation, despite the improving situation in El Salvador, but may instead request UNHCR support to regularize their status in Mexico.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.5.45 Staffing increased by five posts from 1992 to the first quarter of 1993. Unforeseen expenditure for radio equipment for the voluntary repatriation of Guatemalans from Mexico resulted in an over-expenditure of some \$150,000. The over-expenditure in Special Programmes was met through an increase in the allocation of funds available under the Guatemala repatriation programme.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.5.46 Revised estimates for 1993 are higher than initial estimates primarily due to an upward revision in the salary scale for General Service staff and the post adjustment multiplier for Professional staff. Non-staff costs are expected to remain at levels similar to 1992 expenditure and have been budgeted accordingly.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.5.47 A slight reduction in initial 1994 budget estimates compared to revised 1993 estimates is due to the scheduled discontinuation of an Associate Agronomist post in Campeche at the end of 1993.

4.5.48 Several posts have been extended until the end of 1994; however, once the voluntary repatriation of Guatemalans gains momentum, it will be possible to reduce posts and expenditure further.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN MEXICO

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
2,372.8 a/	1,318.8	2,227.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE Assistance to Guatemalan refugees in the State of Chiapas and to urban refugees in Mexico City	2,066.1
225.1	260.1	540.1 c/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION Travel and related costs for refugees voluntarily repatriated from Mexico	275.0
4,148.6 b/	2,468.1	2,772.6	LOCAL SETTLEMENT Assistance towards self-sufficiency for Guatemalans in the States of Campeche and Quintana Roo	2,154.6
5.7	—	—	RESETTLEMENT	—
1,030.0	1,080.4	1,261.2	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	1,249.0
7,782.2	5,127.4	6,800.9	Sub-total (1)	5,744.7
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
53.8	92.0	50.0	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 50 university scholarships	38.2
—	2,200.0	3,000.1	OTHER TRUST FUNDS REPATRIATION/RETURNEE PROGRAMME	2,369.4
1,817.0	2,641.0	2,885.0	CIREFCA/PRODERE	3,419.0
260.3	183.0	154.0	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. Junior Professional Officer	154.0
2,131.1	5,116.0	6,089.1	Sub-total (2)	5,980.6
9,913.3	10,243.4	12,890.0	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	11,725.3

a/ of which US\$ 756 incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ of which US\$ 18,677 incurred against Overall Allocation

c/ of which US\$ 281,706 allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

4.6 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.6.1 Asylum-seekers arriving in the United States of America may file for asylum with the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) (Asylum Officers) and/or the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) (Immigration Judges/Board of Immigration Appeals). It is not useful to merge the statistics of the two agencies because some asylum-seekers apply to both offices during a given year. Both INS and EOIR statistics refer to "cases", which may be individuals or families.

4.6.2 Statistics of the INS and EOIR for US 1992 fiscal year (FY) (1 October 1991 to 30 September 1992) compared to FY 1991 and FY 1990 are as follows:

	<u>INS</u>	<u>EOIR</u>
Number of asylum cases filed in FY 1992	103,964	13,025
Number of asylum cases filed in FY 1991	56,310	16,179
Number of asylum cases filed in FY 1990	73,637	23,727

4.6.3 Out of the total of 103,964 asylum cases submitted to the INS in 1992, an estimated 50,000 asylum applications were de novo Salvadorian and Guatemalan applications which were filed as a result of the settlement of the American Baptist Churches (ABC) litigation, which required the authorities to reinterview and reconsider a substantial number of asylum claims from nationals of those countries. The ABC litigation provided that all Salvadorians who were in the US as of 19 September 1990 and all Guatemalans who were in the US as of 1 October 1990 would not be deported until they had received an opportunity to obtain an eligibility interview with an INS Asylum Officer under the new asylum programmes.

4.6.4 In FY 1992, the recognition rate under the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees, as incorporated in the US Refugee Act of 1980, for asylum applications presented before the INS, averaged 37.6 per cent, compared to 33.6 per cent in 1991 and 14.7 per cent in 1990, while the recognition rate for asylum applications filed before the EOIR in 1992 was 22.7 per cent, compared to 21.2 per cent in 1991 and 20.4 per cent in 1990. According to the INS, the four main groups granted asylum in the USA in 1992 were from China, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and the Newly Independent States.

4.6.5 Moreover, following the overthrow of Haiti's democratically elected Government on 30 September 1991, the US Coast Guard intercepted some 41,000 Haitian boat people on the high seas between November 1991 and May 1992. The

Haitians were taken to camps which had been established at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for their care and maintenance and for a preliminary refugee status eligibility screening. A total of 10,736 Haitians satisfied the "credible fear of return" standard. They were later moved to US territory to continue processing of their asylum claims, with the exception of those persons statutorily excluded from admission because of medical conditions (notably HIV) or prior criminal offences. Most of the remaining Haitians were returned to Haiti, with the exception of a very small number which were accepted for resettlement in other countries in the region.

4.6.6 Following the adoption of the Chinese Student Protection Act (Pub. L. 102-404) in 1992, approximately 80,000 Chinese nationals, many of them students permitted to remain and work in the US pursuant to Executive Order 12711 of April 1990, may apply for permanent resident status during a twelve-month period beginning on 1 July 1993.

4.6.7 In addition, six countries have been designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). These countries, followed by the number of TPS recipients from each as of January 1993, are: Bosnia and Herzegovina (168 persons), El Salvador (184,923), Kuwait (269), Lebanon (8,122), Liberia (4,828) and Somalia (333). The designation of Kuwait has lapsed. El Salvador was expressly designated by the US Congress in the text of the legislation, while the others were designated by the Attorney-General (1990 Immigration Act).

4.6.8 The TPS Programme for nationals of El Salvador expired on 30 June 1992. Rather than extending TPS for Salvadorians after expiration of the initial designation, the INS granted eligible Salvadorians a less formal type of temporary protection known as Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) (57 Fed. Reg. 28700, 17 June 1992). This measure operates to postpone enforcement of deportation for one year. Eligible Salvadorians are also authorized to work under DED.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

Haiti

4.6.9 In May 1992, the US President issued Executive Order 12807 (the Kennebunkport Order), authorizing the summary return of Haitian boat people to their country of origin. The Order stated that US international obligations under the 1967 Protocol do not extend to persons located outside the territory of the United States. Pursuant to the Order, the US Coast Guard immediately began intercepting and summarily returning Haitian boat people without any refugee screening.

4.6.10 During the first quarter of 1992, UNHCR maintained a presence at Guantanamo to monitor the protection situation first-hand of Haitian boat people intercepted at sea and transferred to Guantanamo Bay. The presence also

provided technical assistance in camp construction as well as organizing voluntary repatriation and transfers of rejected cases to third countries such as Honduras, Suriname and Venezuela.

4.6.11 In January 1993, in an effort to prevent an exodus of Haitian boat people, those intercepted by the US Coast Guard were sent back to Haiti and informed that they could contact the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince if they wished to obtain asylum in the US, through in-country processing in Haiti. UNHCR met with high-level US officials to express concern at this policy and stress the need to safeguard international principles of refugee protection. The US authorities introduced in-country processing of those Haitians who feel that their life or liberty might be in danger as a result of the overthrow of the elected government in Haiti.

4.6.12 At 24 April 1993, the US Embassy in Port-au-Prince had received a total of 16,236 applications for in-country processing of asylum claims. The INS adjudicated 4,372 cases and approved 292 (730 persons); 175 cases (394 persons) have departed for the USA.

HIV Cases

4.6.13 During the reporting period, there were 233 HIV-positive Haitians at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo who had been deemed by INS asylum officers to have a "well-founded fear of persecution" but who were statutorily excluded from admission to the US because of their HIV-positive condition.

4.6.14 In March 1993, following a US District Court decision, the US authorities agreed to transfer 54 Haitians from Guantanamo to the US to provide them with proper medical treatment. The remaining 179 HIV-positive Haitians were later transferred to the US following a second US District Court decision in June 1993.

US draft legislative bills on asylum-seekers and refugees

4.6.15 During the reporting period, four legislative proposals that implicate or affect access to the US asylum procedure were introduced in the US Congress. These bills are the Immigration Preinspection Act of 1992 (H.R. 1153), the Exclusion and Asylum Reform Amendments Act of 1993 (H.R. 1355), the Port of Entry Inspections Improvement Act of 1993 (S. 460) and the Asylum Reform Act of 1993 (H.R. 1679). UNHCR is in the process of reviewing these draft bills.

Detention

4.6.16 In April 1992, the US administration promulgated new INS detention procedures. Accordingly, a new programme known as the INS Asylum Pre-Screening Programme was initiated with a view to reducing significantly the number of refugees and asylum-seekers who are being held in detention

while their asylum claims are adjudicated. Under the new programme, asylum-seekers undergo pre-screening interviews and are paroled from detention if they are found to have a credible claim to asylum.

Cooperation on immigration issues

4.6.17 During the reporting period, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the USA began to explore opportunities for cooperation on immigration issues in general and refugee status determination in particular. They held two meetings to discuss mutual collaboration. The Governments of Canada and the US have prepared a draft Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the examination of the refugee status claims of third country nationals. The draft agreement sets out rules for determining which of the two countries shall have responsibility for adjudicating asylum claims based on the country that is considered the country of first arrival.

Training

4.6.18 During the reporting period, a total of 25 refugee law training courses were conducted for INS asylum officers, trial attorneys and other INS personnel, EOIR immigration judges, Department of State Foreign Service officers and other staff, US Army personnel, university students (post-graduate law students) and NGO staff. Moreover, UNHCR legal staff were called upon to teach a comprehensive seminar on refugee law and immigration to law students at the University of Minnesota Law School during the 1992-1993 academic year.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.6.19 In view of the large number of asylum-seekers in the United States, the physical size of the country and the diversity of the protection problems, the Branch Office, in consultation with Headquarters, has over the years identified several priority areas for promoting refugee protection principles. These include providing legal, resettlement and voluntary repatriation counselling to asylum-seekers and refugees in the USA; identifying private sponsors for resettlement cases presented by UNHCR Headquarters for refugees in third countries seeking to be resettled in the US on protection grounds; and providing refugee law and resettlement training to INS officials and NGO staff. The project also finances the work of USA for UNHCR, an NGO, to enhance the general public's awareness of UNHCR's humanitarian role and facilitate private-sector fund raising.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.6.20 In 1992, UNHCR continued to implement its local settlement project through two NGOs, namely the Church World Service and USA for UNHCR. Two Legal Counsellors, two Resettlement Counsellors and two support staff carry out legal and resettlement counselling, and assist in identifying suitable

refugee support groups who are prepared to sponsor refugees on resettlement, especially handicapped refugees. USA for UNHCR assists in raising the general public's awareness of UNHCR's humanitarian work. This component of the project is scheduled to end by December 1993, in the expectation that USA for UNHCR will be self-financing by 1994.

General Programmes

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.6.21 During 1992, the UNHCR Branch Office in Washington DC, in close cooperation with the IOM Office in New York, facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 146 refugees, compared to 46 in 1991. The repatriations were carried out under a project administered at UNHCR Headquarters covering the repatriation of refugees from various countries. Repatriation took place mainly to Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia and South Africa.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.6.22 During the first quarter of 1993, a total of 17 refugees, mainly from Chile, Ethiopia and Lao People's Democratic Republic, have been assisted to repatriate. It is expected that a negotiated settlement in Haiti could result in an increase in repatriation.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.6.23 During 1994, it is expected that UNHCR staff will continue this important activity in close cooperation with IOM. Moreover, it is also expected that the number of refugees seeking repatriation to their country of origin (namely Guatemalans, Haitians, and Salvadorians) will increase.

Local Settlement

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.6.24 During the reporting period, the UNHCR Branch Office in Washington continued to provide legal and resettlement counselling to asylum-seekers and refugees and to facilitate the identification of private sponsorship for resettlement cases referred by Headquarters. During this period, over 961 refugees received direct individual counselling from UNHCR legal and resettlement staff. This is in addition to the group of 1,863 mainly resettlement cases which are in the process of being finalized. Legal staff

have also played a major role in promoting social, legal and repatriation counselling to Haitian boat people picked up at sea by the US Coast Guard and transferred to Guantanamo Bay for status determination. One legal staff member was stationed in Guantanamo on mission for some four months. In addition, staff played a substantive role in planning and coordinating UNHCR refugee law and resettlement training for INS and NGO staff.

4.6.25 The project also financed the activities of USA for UNHCR, an NGO committee established in 1992.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.6.26 Under the 1993 local settlement project, UNHCR continues to finance two Legal Counsellors, two Resettlement Counsellors and two support staff. UNHCR has also agreed to extend its financial support to the activities of USA for UNHCR in 1993 to give it sufficient time to consolidate its activities. USA for UNHCR is expected to be self-financing by 1994.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.6.27 In 1994, UNHCR is expected to continue financing its legal and resettlement counselling activities under this project. The preliminary 1994 budget includes the salaries of two Legal Counsellors, two Resettlement Counsellors and two support staff.

Resettlement

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.6.28 During this period, the resettlement staff, following an in-depth review of their activities, shifted the focus of their work from individual cases towards more policy-oriented activities in order to support UNHCR's overall resettlement objectives in the US, and thus benefit a larger number of refugees for whom resettlement on protection grounds is needed. Resettlement staff played a major role in incorporating UNHCR resettlement needs in US admission priorities and procedures and in liaising with concerned US authorities to streamline all resettlement procedures and speed up the resettlement process in a number of processing stations worldwide. They also worked with relevant congressional staff, NGOs and Government agencies to influence legislative and procedural changes designed to increase flexibility and access to US refugee admission; provided resettlement counselling to individual cases of refugees seeking assistance to resettle their families in the US; and identified sponsors for the resettlement of refugees who are handicapped or victims of torture. In 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, resettlement staff assisted in over 1,200 resettlement cases, including 116 cases of refugees at risk, 28 family reunifications, 45 unaccompanied minors and 986 privately sponsored cases.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.6.29 For FY 1993, the US Government has allocated 132,000 resettlement places. UNHCR hopes this quota will accommodate a substantial number of its annual resettlement needs, especially for the resettlement caseload from the Middle East, as well as some cases of refugees who are handicapped or victims of torture.

c) 1994 programme proposal

4.6.30 UNHCR plans to continue financing this resettlement programme under its proposed budget for 1994. It is expected that the US resettlement quota for FY 1994 (starting 1 October 1993) will remain substantial. In view of the increase in the number of refugees for whom UNHCR resettlement will represent the only viable solution, the quota established by the USA for 1994 will be important.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.6.31 Expenditure in the United States exceeded the revised 1992 estimate due to higher travel and general operating expenses related to the situation in Haiti and to increased public information activities. The over-expenditure was funded by a transfer between appropriations.

4.6.32 In January 1993 an Emergency Fund allocation was made to cover temporary assistance, consultant fees, travel, and general operating expenses associated with the Plan of Action for Haitian Asylum-Seekers.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.6.33 Although a Senior Liaison Officer post in New York will be discontinued at the end of August 1993, two external relations posts have been created in Washington DC effective 1 July 1993. The two posts of an officer and a secretary will focus on private-sector fund raising, legislative developments in the USA, and relations with NGOs. Provisions for increased communications, travel and limited purchases of non-expendable property have also been included in the revised budget.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.6.34 It is hoped that the situation in Haiti will improve. The 1994 estimates are therefore lower than the revised 1993 estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
-	-	147.5	EMERGENCY FUND	-
24.7 a/	-	-	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	-
740.5 b/	526.1	773.9	LOCAL SETTLEMENT Couselling and legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers towards local integration	681.4
74.7	109.3	213.1	RESETTLEMENT Project personnel and related costs	295.1
896.8	777.0	1,030.1	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN. See Annexes I and II	1,044.8
1,736.7	1,412.4	2,164.6	Sub-total (1)	2,021.3
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
95.9	-	85.2	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Liaison Officer	-
95.9	-	85.2	Sub-total (2)	-
1,832.6	1,412.4	2,249.8	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,021.3

a/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ of which US\$ 1,143 incurred against Overall Allocation

4.7 OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

This chapter covers UNHCR activities in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

General Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.7.1 At 31 December 1992 there were 1,007 refugees in Panama, 5,842 in Nicaragua, 141 in Honduras and 167 in El Salvador. Most of the refugees are of Central American origin with the notable exception of 48 Haitians in Honduras and 248 refugees of various other nationalities in Panama. Most of the Central American refugees in Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras are engaged in agricultural activities, while in Panama most of the refugees live in or around the capital, where they seek employment as manual labourers or other work paid by the hour. The 48 Haitians in Honduras have a different labour profile, as most are of urban origin with experience in handicrafts, music and fishing. Women represent about 35 per cent of the refugee population in these countries, while children represent about 45 per cent of the total.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.7.2 The signing of the Chapultepec Peace Accord by the "Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional" (FMLN) and the Government of El Salvador in January 1992 stimulated the repatriation of 3,204 refugees to El Salvador during the year, a substantial increase over the 2,469 who repatriated during 1991. Repatriation statistics during the first quarter of 1993, however, appear to confirm the assumption that major repatriation movements to El Salvador are no longer likely to take place, as only 217 Salvadorian refugees repatriated during this period.

4.7.3 Of the 250 Haitian asylum-seekers relocated to Honduras in October 1991, all but 48 repatriated voluntarily to Haiti by the end of the first quarter of 1993. A total of twelve Salvadorian refugees resettled from Honduras to Belize and 15 to Australia during this period. Only 141 refugees remained in Honduras at 31 December 1992; 48 were Haitian, 77 Salvadorian and 16 Nicaraguan. Due to the small number of refugees remaining, UNHCR reduced its presence in the country during 1992 and will have only a National Officer and minimal support staff after June 1993.

4.7.4 As with repatriation to El Salvador, large return movements to Nicaragua are no longer likely. A total of 2,374 Nicaraguans repatriated in 1992, a significant reduction from 15,024 in 1991. In the first quarter of 1993 only 194 Nicaraguans repatriated. Given the decline in repatriation movements to Nicaragua and the termination of both Quick Impact Projects

(QIPs) and rehabilitation programmes by the end of June 1993, UNHCR's presence was scaled down to a Liaison Office as of 1 July 1993.

4.7.5 Following the First Regional Forum on "A Gender Approach to Work with Refugee, Returnee and Displaced Women" (FOREFEM) which took place in Guatemala City in February 1992, projects in the region have been revised to enhance their impact on refugee, returnee and other displaced women. In El Salvador, several new activities targeting returnee women, such as human rights training and micro-projects in the sectors of agriculture, livestock and income-generation, have also been introduced.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.7.6 In Nicaragua and El Salvador, UNHCR continues to focus on the reintegration of returnee populations. In both countries, however, local settlement of refugees remains a concern, especially in Nicaragua where economic difficulties present considerable obstacles to self-sufficiency. In Panama, it appears likely that new arrivals of asylum-seekers will continue at the present rate of about 15 persons per month. While small in number, these new arrivals require substantial assistance for Spanish-language instruction, housing and subsistence allowances pending status determination. In Honduras, material assistance to Salvadorian and Nicaraguan refugees is scheduled for termination by 30 June 1993. The phasing out of the provision of material assistance to the remaining 48 Haitians in Honduras is also planned for September 1993.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.7.7 UNHCR's main counterparts in Nicaragua are the National Refugee Office (DNR) at the Institute of Social Security and Welfare (INSSBI) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The Government of Nicaragua's National Reconstruction and Reconciliation Programme (PRRN) began to assume responsibility for implementation and overall management of the QIP programme in March 1993, while the IRC began phasing out its operations. The National Refugee Commission (CONARE) is the Government body responsible for refugee affairs in Honduras. Implementing partners are the Evangelical Development and National Emergency Committee (CEDEN) for the remaining Salvadorians and the Honduran Red Cross (CRH) for the Haitians. In Panama, the National Office for Refugees (ONPAR), located within the Ministry of Government and Justice, implements all UNHCR activities. In El Salvador, the Salvadorian Association of Integrated Support (ASAI) serves as UNHCR's main counterpart for assistance activities. Documentation activities are carried out by the Salvadorian Institute for Municipal Development (ISDEM).

General Programmes

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.7.8 Voluntary repatriation from El Salvador, Panama and Nicaragua is covered by a regional voluntary repatriation allocation, whereas repatriation of small numbers from Honduras is covered under its local settlement appropriation. During 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, a total of 146 Nicaraguans repatriated from El Salvador; whereas 13 Chileans, 19 Nicaraguans and four Salvadorians repatriated from Panama. During the same period, a total of 542 Salvadorians, ten Guatemalans and eight Hondurans repatriated voluntarily from Nicaragua, as did 1,528 Salvadorians, 105 Haitians and 16 Nicaraguans from Honduras.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.7.9 Major voluntary repatriation movements to El Salvador and Nicaragua are no longer likely and repatriation from all four countries covered in this chapter is expected to decline during 1993. The estimate of beneficiaries in Panama, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua has consequently been revised downwards from 1,790 to 1,500.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.7.10 As voluntary repatriation movements to El Salvador and Nicaragua declined during the last year, the proposed 1994 programme incorporates repatriation from Costa Rica and Honduras, covering all related costs. A total of 1,060 refugees are expected to repatriate from these five countries in 1994.

Local Settlement

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.7.11 The local settlement programme in Panama continued in 1992 and 1993 with an increase of beneficiaries from 800 to 1,000. Principal activities included the provision of credit to establish family-based, small-scale enterprises, the maintenance of a job roster and the provision of basic subsistence allowances to asylum-seekers and vulnerable refugees. In order to facilitate project administration, local settlement activities and voluntary repatriation programmes in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras have been consolidated.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.7.12 Local settlement activities for 1993 will continue to focus on a credit programme and short-term subsistence allowances for asylum-seekers and vulnerable refugees.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.7.13 With the prospect of less restrictive labour regulations and the attainment of self-sufficiency for many refugees in Panama in 1993, the proposed allocation for 1994 has been reduced.

Special Programmes

Other Trust Funds

4.7.14 Several CIREFCA projects are being implemented in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras. The largest of these projects is the QIP programme in Nicaragua, which is scheduled to end at the end of June 1993. Over 340 micro-projects have been implemented in Nicaragua since the QIP programme began in late 1991. A rehabilitation project to provide basic foodstuffs, tools, seeds and housing materials to returnees is also scheduled to be completed by 30 June 1993. Over 72,000 returnees have been assisted through the rehabilitation and QIP programmes in Nicaragua.

4.7.15 Reintegration assistance has also been provided to over 27,000 returnees in El Salvador. Reintegration activities in El Salvador are complemented by two documentation projects designed to restore municipal registries destroyed during the war and to issue identity documents to over 500,000 returnees, internally displaced and other undocumented persons. Through the UNHCR sub-programme of the PRODERE national programme, QIP micro-projects targeting returnee women were initiated in early 1993. Training activities for returnee women have been funded through PRODERE in El Salvador and PRODERE also collaborates with UNHCR in documentation activities.

4.7.16 In Honduras, a Trust Fund project provides community-based support to areas of Western Honduras in which Salvadorian refugees have settled.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.7.17 Expenditure in Central America in 1992 reflected the revised 1992 estimates. Some over-expenditure in common staff costs and travel in Honduras

was compensated by general savings in Nicaragua due to a faster than anticipated winding down of activities.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.7.18 Revised estimates for expenditure in 1993 are lower than initially envisaged. Of 50 posts in the region in 1992, only 25 remained in June 1993. Two more posts will be discontinued at the end of November 1993 and twelve posts will be discontinued as from 31 December 1993.

4.7.19 In Nicaragua, plans for UNHCR to move to UNDP premises have been delayed due to lack of space until the beginning of 1994. The remaining post of National Officer in Nicaragua will continue until the end of 1994.

4.7.20 In Honduras, UNHCR will relocate its office in UNDP premises at the beginning of 1994, when existing staff can be reduced to one National Officer who will follow-up on durable solutions for the residual caseload of Salvadorians, Nicaraguans, and Haitians.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.7.21 During 1994, two posts are scheduled for discontinuation at the end of April, one at the end of June and eight more by the end of 1994. Thus, initial 1994 estimates are considerably lower than the revised 1993 estimates, reflecting a significant reduction in activities in the region.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION
(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994		
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
957.7	74.1	116.2	Honduras	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	70.8
320.8	—	—	Nicaragua	Travel and related costs for refugees	—
101.6	656.1	1,003.1	Other countries	voluntarily repatriated from the region	960.8
320.7 a/	—	—	El Salvador		—
—	—	192.0 c/	Honduras	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	—
202.2	202.2	202.2	Panama	Assistance towards local integration in	165.2
1.0 b/	—	—	Nicaragua	various countries in the region	—
266.8	155.5	170.4	Other countries		261.7
1.3 b/	—	—	Nicaragua	RESETTLEMENT	—
1.2 b/	—	—	El Salvador		—
1.4 b/	—	—	Honduras		—
220.1	153.2	49.6	Honduras	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	—
250.9	117.7	108.8	Nicaragua	See Annexes I and II	22.9
2,645.7	1,358.8	1,842.3		Sub-total (1)	1,481.4
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
6.7	6.7	—	Panama	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	—
2.2	—	—	Honduras	12 university scholarships	—
10,439.3	—	342.8	Nicaragua	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	25.0
3,226.4	2,436.3	2,097.4	El Salvador	QUICK IMPACT PROGRAMME	1797.7
—	200.0	—	El Salvador	Assistance to returnees in El Salvador	—
117.9	314.3	166.0	Honduras	CIREFCA/PRODERE	—
156.9	106.0	161.1	El Salvador	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	161.1
205.9	155.0	64.0	Nicaragua	Junior Professional Officer	64.0
14,155.3	3,218.3	2,831.3		Junior Professional Officer	—
				Sub-total (2)	2,047.8
16,801.0	4,577.1	4,673.6		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	3,529.2

a/ obligation incurred against the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

b/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

c/ allocated from Overall Allocation

4.8 NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Suriname, Venezuela, Jamaica and other Caribbean countries.

General Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.8.1 In Northern South America and the Caribbean, the refugee population at the end of 1992 was estimated at around 8,750. Compared to 1991, the refugee population in Colombia remained virtually unchanged at 478, of whom 281 come from Europe, 86 are Nicaraguans and 60 Chileans. Of the remaining 51, 24 are of Latin American origin and 27 from countries in the Middle East, North Africa and South-East Asia. All refugees in Colombia are of urban origin. During 1992, UNHCR provided assistance to 73 refugees of different nationalities for the legalization of their residence status. There are some 5,092 refugees in Cuba, primarily of urban background; 2,910 are of African origin, 1,075 are Haitians and 1,107 are of Latin American origin, mainly Chileans. In the Dominican Republic, the number of refugees increased from 497 at the end of 1992 to an estimated 1,600 in March 1993, of whom some 1,500 are Haitians mostly of rural background. There are also Cubans, nationals of the former Yugoslavia and a small group from the Islamic Republic of Iran. In 1992 UNHCR provided assistance to 500 Haitian refugees.

4.8.2 In Ecuador, there are 214 refugees, of whom 80 are from Colombia, 30 from Panama, 17 from Peru and 24 from other Latin American countries such as Chile, Cuba, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Of the remaining 63, 23 come from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 13 from the Syrian Arab Republic and 27 are of other nationalities, including eight Vietnamese and nine stateless persons. UNHCR is providing multi-sectoral assistance to 87 refugees of various nationalities. In Venezuela, there are 1,998 refugees, of whom 970 come from Cuba, 152 from Haiti, 604 from Chile and 142 from Nicaragua. The remaining 130 are of 23 different nationalities, including 29 from Poland, 11 from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 16 from El Salvador, 10 from Lithuania and 64 from the former Yugoslavia and countries in Africa and Asia. During 1992, 540 refugees of different nationalities were assisted by UNHCR, the majority receiving local integration assistance. In the Bahamas, Jamaica, and Suriname there are 474 refugees, 374 of whom are Haitians in the Bahamas. Of the remaining 100, there are 46 Haitians and two Sri Lankans in Jamaica and 52 Haitians in Suriname. During 1992 UNHCR provided voluntary repatriation assistance in the Bahamas to 370 Haitians.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.8.3 As during 1991, several countries in the region continued to be affected by instability and severe economic difficulties. Significant movements were observed in the Caribbean region largely due to the situation in Haiti. In Colombia, general instability continued to be the main cause of internal displacement. The peace process that began in Tlaxcala, Mexico, in 1992 between the Government and opposition groups came to an impasse in November which resulted in increased violence.

4.8.4 In the Dominican Republic, the refugee situation has always been linked to the evolving situation of neighbouring Caribbean countries, particularly Haiti. While the overall Haitian refugee population remained steady, some 120 asylum-seekers, primarily from Cuba, arrived during early 1993. With the political situation in Haiti unresolved and in expectation of a potential large-scale exodus of Haitians to neighbouring countries, UNHCR opened an office in Santo Domingo. As most of the refugee population lives on the outskirts of the capital in precarious living conditions, they are dependent on UNHCR assistance.

4.8.5 During 1992, Cuba provided asylum to 3,851 Haitians who left their country as a result of the political crisis and deteriorating economic situation. The majority of the Haitian asylum-seekers (2,560 persons) have repatriated voluntarily. A group of 46 Haitians asked to stay on in Cuba. To facilitate their local integration, they were transferred from the Punta Maisi reception centre to Isla de la Juventud.

4.8.6 The overall refugee population in Ecuador declined slightly due to the voluntary repatriation and local integration of Chileans and Colombians. At the end of 1992, UNHCR assistance to refugees in Santo Domingo de los Colorados and Esmeraldas was no longer deemed necessary as most of the individuals in these areas have opted for local integration or repatriation and are in the process of regularizing their documentation following negotiations between the Governments of Colombia and Ecuador.

4.8.7 The operation for the voluntary repatriation of Surinamese from French Guyana began in early 1992 under the Tripartite Agreement between the Governments of France and Suriname and UNHCR and concluded in early March 1993. Out of 7,100 Surinamese refugees in French Guyana, some 6,500 chose to repatriate under the agreement. The remaining 600 have opted for local integration. The small number of Haitian refugees accepted by the Government of Suriname at the end of 1991 in a spirit of regional solidarity have adapted well and are in the process of integrating locally.

4.8.8 In Venezuela, draft refugee legislation submitted by UNHCR during early 1991 has been reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and returned to UNHCR with comments. Efforts will continue during 1993 to finalize the draft bill and accelerate its adoption.

4.8.9 The influx of Haitian asylum-seekers into neighbouring Caribbean countries remained steady during most of 1992. Large numbers of Haitians continued to arrive in Cuba, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the British territory of the Turks and Caicos Islands due to the continuing violation of human rights, the general atmosphere of intimidation and fear, and the devastating effects of the embargo on the poorer sectors of Haitian society. Since the overthrow of President Aristide on 30 September 1991 to the end of January 1993, it is estimated that 48,115 Haitians have fled their country in search of asylum. In late 1992 UNHCR prepared a Comprehensive Plan of Action to address the root causes of the Haitian situation within the framework of a coordinated regional approach. As part of the plan, UNHCR opened an office in Santo Domingo and established an international presence in Port-au-Prince in early 1993. There have been far fewer Haitian asylum-seekers since early 1993.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.8.10 UNHCR programmes in Northern South America and the Caribbean are covered by the UNHCR Regional Office in Caracas, Venezuela. Programme priorities in the region are to promote adequate asylum policies and observance of basic principles of refugee law, and to provide basic material assistance to needy refugees while appropriate durable solutions are being pursued.

4.8.11 On asylum policy, UNHCR pursued discussions with the Governments of the Bahamas, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and initiated contacts with the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and other Caribbean countries. In Northern South America, UNHCR also pursued negotiations with the Governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela regarding the establishment or improvement of internal refugee legislation.

4.8.12 UNHCR will continue to support the Cuban authorities in providing protection and basic assistance to Haitian asylum-seekers for local integration or pending voluntary repatriation. UNHCR will also maintain its assistance for refugees of different nationalities who decide to return voluntarily.

4.8.13 Emphasis has also been placed on the training of Government officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in basic refugee law principles and the objectives of UNHCR. Nine seminars were organized in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica and Venezuela, with the participation of over twelve Caribbean countries.

4.8.14 Despite financial constraints, UNHCR will continue to provide material assistance to cover immediate and short-term needs, especially for food, health, shelter and domestic requirements. Social and legal counselling for refugees will also continue to be key areas of UNHCR activities in the region.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.8.15 UNHCR activities in the region are implemented with the collaboration of six NGOs that liaise closely with Government authorities.

4.8.16 The operational support sector has been maintained at minimum levels, while at the same time ensuring adequate levels of assistance. In Colombia, assistance is provided in collaboration with the "Secretariado Nacional Pastoral" which provides legal counselling, particularly regarding immigration. In the Dominican Republic, the "Centro de Trabajo Social Dominicano" continues to collaborate with UNHCR for the provision of limited multi-sectoral assistance and legal counselling, especially on asylum. In Ecuador, the "Conferencia Episcopal Ecuatoriana" provides basic multi-sectoral assistance.

4.8.17 In Cuba, assistance to Haitian asylum-seekers is provided through the Cuban Red Cross. A local integration programme for Haitians in Isla de la Juventud is being implemented by the Cuban Government. The voluntary repatriation programme for Haitians is organized by the UNDP/UNHCR local consultant in Cuba.

4.8.18 The provision of assistance to returnees is provided in Suriname by the "Pater Ahlbrinck Stichting" in collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Development, and in Venezuela by the "Conferencia Episcopal Venezolana" and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the local integration of refugees and for voluntary repatriation, respectively.

General Programmes

Care and Maintenance

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.8.19 As foreseen under the 1992 assistance programme, material support and allowances were provided to cover basic food, household appliances, health, shelter and transport. Efforts were made to encourage refugees to become self-sustaining. Assistance was directed at vulnerable groups, hardship cases and new arrivals. However, throughout the region a difficult economic climate and lack of employment opportunities continued to hinder prospects for durable solutions.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.8.20 There are no substantive changes in the form and type of assistance provided in most of the region as compared to 1992. In Cuba, Haitian asylum-seekers are being assisted while awaiting voluntary repatriation, and

local integration assistance is being provided to the 46 Haitians who have decided to remain. In the Dominican Republic care and maintenance assistance is being provided to Haitian refugees under the local settlement appropriation.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.8.21 The proposed allocation for 1994 foresees the provision of basic assistance in the sectors of food, health, shelter and domestic needs at the same level as in 1993. However, emphasis is being placed on the income-generating sector so as to enable individuals or families to establish their own small-scale enterprises and thereby promote self-sufficiency.

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992-1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.8.22 The voluntary repatriation of Chileans from neighbouring countries, Eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and Australia increased from 1,015 during 1991 to 1,293 during 1992. An additional 179 had repatriated as of March 1993.

4.8.23 Voluntary repatriation from Cuba to different countries, mainly to Chile, reached a total of 2,560 in 1992. During the first quarter of 1993, 1,494 persons repatriated, including 1,454 Haitians.

4.8.24 From early 1992 until the end of the first quarter of 1993 an additional 1,458 Haitians repatriated from other countries, including 1,360 from the Bahamas, 22 from the Dominican Republic, and 76 from Jamaica.

4.8.25 In early 1993, funds were made available from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation to establish a presence in Port-au-Prince during the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Haiti.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.8.26 A similar number of refugees is expected to repatriate during the remainder of 1993, particularly Chileans. Similarly, depending on the evolution of events in Haiti, repatriation of some Haitians is expected, in particular from the Dominican Republic.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.8.27 The proposed 1994 allocation for voluntary repatriation will be maintained at a similar level to assist the high number of refugees expected to repatriate, particularly Chileans and Haitians.

Local Settlement

a) **1993 programme implementation**

4.8.28 The 1993 appropriation covering assistance for Haitians in the Dominican Republic, which commenced in 1992 with an allocation from the Emergency Fund, had to be increased substantially to assist a total of 850 refugees, who will receive assistance in the sectors of food, shelter, health services and education.

b) **1994 programme proposals**

4.8.29 In 1994 assistance will continue to be provided to new arrivals in the Dominican Republic. Should the situation in Haiti improve, the number of beneficiaries may decrease.

Emergency Fund

4.8.30 In 1992, an allocation was made from the Emergency Fund to provide initial assistance in the Dominican Republic to new arrivals from Haiti. All new arrivals received an allowance for food, shelter and medical care. These activities have been included under the local settlement project during 1993 and 1994.

Special Programmes

Returnee Programme

a) **1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments**

4.8.31 The voluntary repatriation from French Guyana of Surinamese was initiated in early 1992 under the Tripartite Agreement between the Governments of France and Suriname and UNHCR and concluded in early March 1993. Out of a total of 7,100 Surinamese in French Guyana, 6,500 chose to repatriate under the Agreement. The remaining 600 have opted for local integration. Assistance provided by UNHCR includes internal transport and an initial reintegration package.

b) **1993 programme implementation**

4.8.32 It is expected that all activities for the reintegration of Surinamese returnees will be completed by the end of September 1993. Consequently the UNHCR office in Suriname is scheduled to close by the end of 1993.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments

4.8.33 Given the large number of Haitians seeking asylum in neighbouring Caribbean countries, UNHCR decided at the end of 1992 to establish an international presence in Haiti and to open an office in the Dominican Republic. In Port-au-Prince this involved the creation of two Professional posts and three General Service posts. In Santo Domingo, three Professional and four General Service posts were established. In 1992, expenditure in Haiti was just under \$ 100,000. In the Dominican Republic expenditure slightly exceeded \$ 300,000, of which \$ 177,000 was disbursed for non-expendable property needed for the establishment of the office and the purchase of equipment. In January 1993 an allocation of \$ 443,100 was made from the Emergency Fund for PPE covering the Plan of Action for Haitian asylum-seekers from coordination points in the region.

4.8.34 Following the successful repatriation of some 6,500 refugees to Suriname, the office in French Guyana was closed at the end of March 1993 and the last post was discontinued.

b) 1993 - Revised estimates

4.8.35 Estimates for 1993 were revised to include \$ 470,000 in Haiti and \$ 512,000 in the Dominican Republic for all staff costs and operating expenses. Additional expenditure related to the situation in Haiti has been budgeted for the Regional Office in Venezuela and mainly covers increased travel and temporary assistance.

4.8.36 As reintegration of refugees in Suriname nears completion, UNHCR will close the office in Paramaribo at the end of September 1993, resulting in the discontinuation of a total of four posts in 1993.

c) 1994 - Initial estimates

4.8.37 Initial 1994 estimates are lower for the region in anticipation of an improvement of the situation in Haiti. No continuation of activities funded from the Emergency Fund allocation in 1993 is foreseen. The office in the Dominican Republic will continue to assist new arrivals and will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Haitians. Posts have therefore been extended until the end of 1994. In Venezuela, some budgetary increases are needed to cover the additional responsibilities of the Regional Office for Northern South America and the Caribbean.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1992 AMOUNT OBLIGATED	1993			1994	
	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
				EMERGENCY FUND	
556.1	-	-	Dominican Republic		-
94.7	-	-	Haiti		-
196.2	-	158.9	Venezuela		-
				CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
27.5	30.8	35.4	Colombia	Care and maintenance assistance pending	35.4
726.5	-	252.7 c/	Cuba	identification of durable solutions, legal	50.0
91.0	76.3	78.5	Ecuador	assistance and pensions for elderly refugees	78.5
61.3	58.0	108.9	Venezuela		161.1
15.0	20.0	20.0	Other countries		20.0
				VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	
481.1	90.0	338.4	Other countries	To facilitate voluntary repatriations from	232.4
359.9 a/	-	470.6 a/	Haiti	this region to countries of origin	362.9
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
1.2 b/	-	-	Suriname		-
7.9 b/	-	-	Venezuela		-
9.5 b/	-	-	Colombia		-
16.4 b/	-	1,480.5	Dominican Republic		985.1
				RESETTLEMENT	
6.9 b/	-	-	Colombia		-
7.5 b/	-	-	Haiti		-
				PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	
666.6	672.5	722.2	Venezuela	See Annexes I and II	820.5
3,325.3	947.6	3,666.1		Sub-total (1)	2,745.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
				EDUCATION ACCOUNT	
1.4	2.5	-	Colombia	3 university scholarships	-
9	9.1	17.4	Ecuador	15 university scholarships	17.7
2.6	2.8	-	Venezuela	6 university scholarships	-
3.2	4.6	-	Dominican Republic	5 university scholarships	-
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
1312.7	1326.6	641.7	Suriname	Assistance to returnees	-
101.9	-	150.0	Haiti	Assistance to returnees	-
				PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	
107.1	112.0	37.0	Venezuela	Junior Professional Officer	37.0
15.3	-	65.0	Dominican Republic	Junior Professional Officer	65.0
56.6	-	27.0	Suriname	Junior Professional Officer	27.0
1,609.8	1,457.6	938.1		Sub-total (2)	146.7
4,935.1	2,405.2	4,604.2		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,892.6

a/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

b/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

c/ allocated from Overall Allocation

4.9 SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

General Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

4.9.1 Estimates of the number of refugees in the region went from 18,362 at the end of 1992 to 18,037 in March 1993. Of this number, 2,173 refugees received UNHCR assistance in the form of counselling and durable solutions. This total comprises 354 in Argentina, 311 in Bolivia, 1,022 in Brazil, 128 in Chile, 39 in Paraguay, 267 in Peru and 52 in Uruguay. The majority of the refugee population is composed of Latin Americans, elderly refugees of European origin and a modest but steady number of asylum-seekers from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Central Europe.

4.9.2 While the number of asylum-seekers in most of the region remained low, Brazil experienced a significant increase in early 1993 with the arrival of some 800 asylum-seekers of African origin, mainly from Angola and Zaire. The number of Chilean refugees decreased gradually during this period as a result of voluntary repatriation.

4.9.3 The majority of the refugees in the region are of urban background and generally have at least primary-level education.

Major developments (1992 and first quarter 1993)

4.9.4 Although the consolidation of democracy is progressing in most countries in the region, severe economic difficulties continue to limit opportunities for the implementation of measures aimed at durable solutions. However, humanitarian refugee policies and the determination of all countries in the region to respect the principle of asylum and to accept the local integration of refugees together facilitate the prospects for durable solutions, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay.

4.9.5 Within a framework of respect for human rights, important steps were taken by the Government of Chile to promote national reconciliation. In this context, a law was passed allowing a tax exemption for goods and household supplies belonging to Chilean returnees, thereby reaffirming the Government's commitment to facilitating reintegration.

4.9.6 In Peru, President Fujimori dissolved Congress in April 1992 and announced his intention to reform the political system. General elections

were held in September and a new Congress with constitutional powers was officially installed. Although internal violence continues in Peru, the population seeking asylum in neighbouring countries has remained low, except in Bolivia which registered the arrival of 180 persons in 1992.

Programme objectives and priorities

4.9.7 UNHCR will continue to focus on voluntary repatriation as the preferred durable solution. Assistance covering immediate and short-term needs is being provided in the sectors of health and domestic needs, particularly for vulnerable groups. Income-generating activities, apprenticeship schemes and education grants continue to be implemented at a modest level.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

4.9.8 Implementation of UNHCR's assistance and counselling activities in Southern South America is carried out in collaboration with a network of nine local voluntary organizations, in close liaison with counterpart Government offices.

4.9.9 In Argentina the "Comisión Católica Argentina de Migraciones", "Comité Ecueménico de Acción Social" and the Tolstoy Foundation are responsible for care and maintenance activities, while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assists with voluntary repatriation movements. In Brazil, the Tolstoy Foundation and Caritas implement care and maintenance activities. The Tolstoy Foundation also handles the care and maintenance of elderly Europeans in Chile. While the "Comisión de Iglesias Católicas de Solidaridad Social" and the "Oficina Nacional de Retorno" assisted with the care and maintenance of refugees from the Andean region and the returnee programme during most of 1992, the Catholic Episcopal Conference of Chile and the "Fundación de Ayuda de Retorno" have taken up implementation in 1993.

4.9.10 In Bolivia, care and maintenance and legal assistance are provided by the "Centro Especializado para los Estudios y Servicios para Migraciones no Voluntarias". In Paraguay, the Tolstoy Foundation and "El Comité de Iglesias para la Asistencia de Emergencia" implement care and maintenance activities for Eastern Europeans and refugees of other nationalities. In Peru, "La Comisión de Iglesias Católicas para Migraciones" handles assistance, whereas in Uruguay "El Comité Uruguayo para la Protección y Asistencia a los Refugiados" supports care and maintenance activities for refugees. IOM implements voluntary repatriation activities throughout the region.

General Programmes

Care and Maintenance

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.9.11 Assistance was provided during 1992 and the first quarter of 1993 to cover basic food, medical care, housing and household needs, primarily for vulnerable cases and new arrivals. Efforts continue towards local integration through the promotion of self-sufficiency. However, the adverse economic situation faced by all countries in the region makes it difficult to obtain the desired results in a short period of time.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.9.12 In Brazil, the unexpected arrival of some 800 asylum-seekers prompted a review of programme needs. Assistance to new arrivals is comprised of food, shelter and health allowances while durable solutions are being sought. UNHCR's assistance programmes in Bolivia, Chile and Peru cover the sectors of shelter, health and income-generating activities.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.9.13 The proposed allocation for 1994 to assist vulnerable cases and new arrivals in the region is maintained at levels similar to those in 1993. It is expected that a number of beneficiaries will opt for either local integration or voluntary repatriation.

Voluntary Repatriation

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.9.14 During 1992 and the first quarter of 1993, 665 Chilean refugees repatriated voluntarily: 569 from Argentina, 33 from Brazil, 25 from Peru and 38 from Uruguay. Voluntary repatriation assistance was provided to 41 additional individual cases in the region: one Salvadorian, nine Paraguayans, two Peruvians, and one Syrian repatriated from Argentina; seven Colombians, and eleven Salvadorians from Uruguay; six Paraguayans, one Angolan, one Nicaraguan and one Argentine from Brazil; and one Nicaraguan from Peru. Contrary to expectations, there were no repatriations to Eastern Europe, mainly due to the deterioration of the situation in former Yugoslavia.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.9.15 Priority continues to be given to voluntary repatriation as the most desirable durable solution. Assistance for voluntary repatriation is being

maintained at a limited level, covering transport costs, repatriation grants, and small allowances. The voluntary repatriation from neighbouring countries of Chileans is expected to increase during the rest of 1993 and 1994.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.9.16 With the consolidation of democracy in most of the region, the number of cases seeking voluntary repatriation assistance is likely to increase further during 1994, particularly among Chilean refugees.

Local Settlement

a) 1992 - 1993 (first quarter) programme implementation

4.9.17 A total of 450 refugees were provided with assistance towards local integration during 1992. The large majority were of Latin American origin, mainly Chileans. Others included asylum-seekers arriving from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. Assistance covered domestic needs, medical care, legal assistance, and income-generation activities.

b) 1993 programme implementation

4.9.18 Assistance towards local integration is being maintained throughout the region owing to a modest but steady number of new arrivals. In Argentina, needs in the food sector have grown substantially as traditional local sources of funding are no longer available.

c) 1994 programme proposals

4.9.19 The programme of assistance for 1994 has been formulated in consonance with UNHCR's objective of ensuring that an adequate level of assistance is provided to vulnerable groups, particularly new arrivals, for a limited period of time while durable solutions are sought.

Special Programmes

Education Account

4.9.20 During 1992, a total of 100 needy refugee students in the region received educational assistance at the post-secondary, vocational, and university levels. Assistance was provided to 17 students in Argentina, 21 in Brazil, 48 in Bolivia, four in Peru, and ten in Uruguay. Current budget projections cover needs for a total of 86 refugee students in 1993 and 102 in 1994.

Other Trust Funds

4.9.21 In 1992, some 1,400 individuals received assistance under the Tripartite Agreement signed between the Government of Chile, IOM and UNHCR. These included 110 families which received installation grants. Of these, 78 families received subsistence allowances and 32 benefited from grants covering basic needs.

4.9.22 Over 1,300 persons received assistance to cover legal and administrative procedures. The majority of the cases required only legal advice for matters such as the clearance of judicial records, determination of military status, invalidation of prison sentences, nationality queries, or claims to property.

Project Personnel Expenditure (PPE)/Programme Support and Administration (PSA)

a) **1992 - 1993 (first quarter) major developments**

4.9.23 Expenditure in 1992 in countries of Southern South America remained basically in line with revised estimates, with some savings effected thanks to exchange-rate gains, particularly in Brazil.

b) **1993 - Revised estimates**

4.9.24 Expenditure in 1993 has been projected at a higher level than initially estimated. In Argentina, substantial expenditure is being incurred to implement security measures and cover increased rental costs relating to new premises which UNHCR occupied last year. Due to the Argentina Regional Office's coverage of seven countries, a programme assistant post was created in July 1993, and budgets for travel and support costs have also been increased. In Brazil, travel and other expenses related to the unexpected influx of Angolans and Zairians have increased significantly.

4.9.25 In Chile one post was discontinued as of the end of April 1993.

c) **1994 - Initial estimates**

4.9.26 In 1994 expenditure in Southern South America is expected to be lower than in 1993. It is hoped that the situation in Brazil will be resolved during 1993 and that related expenditure will diminish.

4.9.27 Also, as the reintegration of Chilean returnees is advancing reasonably well, UNHCR plans to close its office in Santiago at the end of 1994, which will entail the discontinuation of three posts. Initial 1994 estimates for Argentina are similar to the 1993 revised estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES

(In thousands of United States dollars)

1992	1993		1994		
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1992 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)					
150.0	143.4	156.9	Bolivia	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	152.4
76.6	80.4	550.0	Brazil	Care and maintenance assistance pending	550.0
152.2	147.5	208.5	Chile	identification of durable solutions, legal	215.0
17.5	13.4	13.4	Paraguay	assistance and pensions for elderly refugees	13.4
125.0	100.0	100.0	Uruguay		89.3
78.0	70.4	154.6	Peru		70.4
180.0	145.0	145.9	Argentina	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	160.1
45.0	30.0	30.0	Other countries	To facilitate voluntary repatriation from	30.0
				this region to countries of origin	
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
666.2 a/	550.1	742.5	Argentina		729.4
4.3 b/	—	—	Brazil		—
8.2 b/	—	—	Chile		—
				RESETTLEMENT	
4.8 b/	—	—	Argentina		—
25.2 b/	—	—	Peru		—
3.9 b/	—	—	Chile		—
448.4	496.9	627.4	Argentina	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	651.3
207.3	215.9	314.4	Brazil	See Annexes I and II	260.4
188.9	212.5	200.2	Chile		196.0
228.7	127.1	273.2	Training		273.2
2,610.2	2,332.6	3,517.0		Sub-total (1)	3,390.9
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)					
14.2	14.2	14.2	Argentina	EDUCATION ACCOUNT	17.5
25.0	25.0	25.0	Brazil	20 university scholarships	25.0
85.8	85.8	85.8	Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay	20 university scholarships	85.8
				62 university scholarships	
117.4	120.0	82.0	Chile	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	37.0
63.5	—	—	Peru	Assistance to returnees in Chile	—
				Care and maintenance	
24.8	45.0	92.1	Argentina	PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND ADMIN.	92.1
53.3	33.0	22.8	Chile	Junior Professional Officer	22.8
				Junior Professional Officer	
384.0	323.0	321.9		Sub-total (2)	280.2
2,994.2	2,655.6	3,838.9		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	3,671.1

a/ of which US\$ 10,370 incurred against Overall Allocation

b/ obligation incurred against Overall Allocation

ANNEX I

PROGRAMME SUPPORT & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE (PSA) AND
PROJECT PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE (PPE) FOR THE 1994 INITIAL BUDGET

(by country or area and object of expenditure, in thousands of United States dollars)

THE AMERICAS

COUNTRY or AREA	Source of Funds	CATEGORY OF SUPPORT COSTS			OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE						Variation over 1993 Rev. + (-)
		PSA	PPE	Total	Staff Costs	Travel	Contract Services	Operating Expenses	Supplies & Materials	Other	
Belize	GP	62	399	461	331	15	1	90	14	10	5
	SP	88	14	102	98	4	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	GP	569	83	652	465	51	4	107	6	19	55
Costa Rica	GP	949	227	1,176	914	69	1	161	19	12	93
	SP	60	47	107	95	8	-	3	1	-	(135)
Guatemala	SP	115	1,576	1,691	1,175	109	3	299	70	35	(102)
Mexico	GP	1,249	953	2,202	1,655	126	4	329	37	51	(15)
	SP	154	269	423	270	55	-	80	18	-	(77)
United States of America	GP	1,140	670	1,810	1,176	80	50	364	18	122	(9)
	SP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(85)
Other countries in Central America	GP	23	71	94	32	8	1	43	6	4	(181)
	SP	225	323	548	392	44	1	94	8	9	(417)
Other countries in North America	GP	821	903	1,724	1,104	159	7	382	30	42	(233)
	SP	129	-	129	119	10	-	-	-	-	(194)
Other countries in Southern South America	GP	1,381	479	1,860	1,009	320	26	430	21	54	(41)
	SP	115	100	215	93	122	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-Total	GP	6,194	3,785	9,979	6,686	828	94	1,906	151	314	(326)
	SP	886	2,329	3,215	2,242	352	4	476	97	44	(1,010)
1994 (Initial)	Total	7,080	6,114	13,194	8,928	1,180	98	2,382	248	358	(1,336)
Increase/(Decrease) *	Total	(265)	(1,071)	(1,336)	(753)	(203)	(7)	(252)	(39)	(82)	
1993 (Revised)	Total	7,345	7,185	14,530	9,681	1,383	105	2,634	287	440	
1993 (Initial)	Total	6,103	4,344	10,447	7,110	718	113	2,035	165	306	
1992 (Actuals)	Total	6,791	6,692	13,483	9,236	866	156	2,175	199	851	

* 1993 (Revised) against 1994 (Initial)

THE AMERICAS (cont.)	1993 (revised)														1994 (initial)										Increase (Decrease) over total (excl. JPO)
	D2 L7		D1 L6	P5 L5	P4 L4	P3 L3	P2 L2	s/Tot	NO	GS	TOT all	JPO	D2 L7		D1 L6	P5 L5	P4 L4	P3 L3	P2 L2	s/Tot	NO	GS	TOT all	JPO	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.2	
	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	2.0	-	-	4.0	6.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	2.0	-	4.0	6.0	-	
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	6.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	4.0	6.0	0.2	
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.6	
	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	2.0	-	-	7.0	9.0	9.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	6.5	7.5	-	
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	9.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	7.5	0.6	
GUATEMALA	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	
	-	1.0	1.0	7.0	-	9.0	-	-	20.9	29.9	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	7.0	-	-	9.0	-	-	20.5	29.5	-	
Total	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	20.9	29.9	1.4	-	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	20.5	29.5	0.0	
HAITI	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	4.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	2.0	4.0	-	
Total	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.0	0.0	
HONDURAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	
	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	1.0	-	1.0	-	
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	
MEXICO	-	1.0	-	3.0	1.0	1.0	6.0	1.0	7.0	14.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	3.0	1.0	1.0	6.0	1.0	7.0	14.0	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.8		
	-	-	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	-	-	10.0	15.0	-	-	-	-	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	-	-	10.0	15.0	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	1.0	-	3.6	4.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	4.0	4.0	-		
Total	0.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	12.0	1.0	20.6	33.6	3.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	1.0	21.0	33.0	0.8			
NICARAGUA	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	0.5	-	5.0	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-		
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-		
	-	-	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5	4.5	6.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	1.0	-	1.0	-		
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.0	2.0	0.0	9.5	11.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0		

THE AMERICAS (cont.)	1993 (revised)																	1994 (initial)										Increase (Decrease) over total (excl. JPO)
	D2 L7	D1 L6	P5 L5	P4 L4	P3 L3	P2 L2	s/Tot L2	NO	GS	TOT all	JPO	D2 L7	D1 L6	P5 L5	P4 L4	P3 L3	P2 L2	s/Tot L2	NO	GS	TOT all	JPO						
FRENCH GUYANA/ SURINAME	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	-						
	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	0.7	-	1.8	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	-						
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	1.8	2.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
UNITED STATES	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	3.0	-	6.0	9.0	-	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	-	-	3.0	-	6.0	9.0	-						
	-	-	-	2.5	-	1.0	3.5	-	1.5	5.0	-	-	-	-	3.0	-	1.0	4.0	-	2.0	6.0	-						
	-	-	0.7	-	-	-	0.7	-	-	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-						
Total	1.0	1.0	0.7	3.5	0.0	1.0	7.2	0.0	7.5	14.7	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	1.0	7.0	0.0	8.0	15.0	0.0						
VENEZUELA	-	1.0	-	2.0	-	1.0	4.0	-	8.0	12.0	-	-	1.0	-	2.0	-	1.0	4.0	-	8.0	12.0	-						
	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.5						
	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-	1.0	-	1.0	2.0	-						
Total	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	0.5	1.0	4.5	0.0	8.5	13.0	1.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	0.0	9.0	14.0	0.5						
TOTAL	2.0	5.0	1.5	10.0	5.0	2.5	26.0	2.0	43.5	71.5	-	2.0	5.0	2.0	9.0	6.0	2.0	26.0	2.0	38.0	66.0	-						
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0						
	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.5	7.5	3.0	18.0	1.5	28.0	47.5	-	0.0	0.0	1.0	7.0	8.0	3.0	19.0	2.0	28.0	49.0	-						
	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.7	10.5	1.0	16.4	0.0	38.8	55.2	-	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	8.5	0.0	10.5	1.0	32.0	43.5	-						
GRAND TOTAL	2.0	5.0	4.7	19.2	29.0	6.5	60.4	3.5	110.3	174.2	15.1	2.0	5.0	4.0	17.0	22.5	5.0	55.5	5.0	98.0	158.5	3.0						

PSA = Programme Support and Administration; PPE = Project Personnel Expenditure; GP = General Programmes; SP = Special Programmes
EP = Established Posts; TP = Temporary Posts
JPO = Junior Professional Officer; NO = Professional National Officer; GS = General Service Staff