



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/216
22 April 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/181 of 15 December 1980, having endorsed the report of the United Nations interagency mission to the Sudan (A/35/410) and the recommendations contained therein, requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to send, as a matter of urgency, follow-up missions to carry out feasibility studies with a view to strengthening the capability of the Government of the Sudan to pursue cost-effective strategies and to plan and locate new settlements as an integral part of over-all rural and urban development. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report on the matter to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981 and to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.
2. The report annexed below, which was prepared in co-operation with UNHCR, describes the steps which have been taken in implementing General Assembly resolution 35/181 and contains the findings of the sectoral missions which have so far been completed.

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1980/10 of 28 April 1980, requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to send an interagency mission to the Sudan to assess the needs and the magnitude of assistance required for the financing of the programmes for the relief and settlement of refugees, and to report to the Council on this matter at its first regular session in 1981.
2. In its resolution 35/181 of 15 December 1980, the General Assembly endorsed the report of the United Nations interagency mission to the Sudan (A/35/410, annex) and the recommendations contained therein. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to send, as a matter of urgency, follow-up missions to carry out feasibility studies with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of the Sudan to pursue cost-effective strategies and to plan and locate new settlements as an integral part of over-all rural and urban development, on the basis of the recommendations of the mission.
3. In its report, the interagency mission had recommended that a series of sectoral technical missions should be sent to the Sudan to complete planning feasibility and final project design work on a number of Government proposals for dealing with the refugees. The following seven technical feasibility missions were recommended:
 - (a) TFM-1 Regional development
Planning for new settlements
 - (b) TFM-2 Development of integrated housing programmes
 - (c) TFM-3 Planning and project design for other social development/welfare services
 - (d) TFM-4 Planning for a strengthened educational system
 - (e) TFM-5 Planning for a strengthened health-delivery system
 - (f) TFM-6 Planning for a strengthened training system
 - (g) TFM-7 Planning and project design for agricultural programmes in refugee zones
4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/181, the Secretary-General has completed arrangements for carrying out the seven technical feasibility missions.

5. The mission on planning for a strengthened health-delivery system for refugees in the Sudan (TFM-5) is being undertaken by the World Health Organization. The mission is scheduled to arrive in the Sudan on 27 April 1981 and to complete its assignment in two weeks. Its report and recommendations will be made available to the Government as soon as the work has been completed.

6. Three technical feasibility studies relate to the education, training and planning for social development and welfare services (TFM-3, TFM-4 and TFM-6). The Economic Commission for Africa has agreed to organize an interagency mission to cover those three areas. The mission will include representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF, the ILO, UNHCR and other directly concerned United Nations organizations. The precise timing of the mission's visit is being discussed with the Government of the Sudan.

7. Those missions which concerned the planning for new settlements (TFM-1), the development of integrated housing programmes (TFM-2) and planning and project design for agricultural programmes for refugee zones (TFM-7) were organized by UNHCR and have been completed.

II. NEW SETTLEMENTS AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES

8. A combined mission dealt with regional development for new settlements and project design for agricultural programmes in refugee zones (TFM-1 and TFM-7). The mission included representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNHCR and the Government of the Sudan, and the work was carried out during November 1980. Some 15 proposed settlement sites were visited by the mission, which reviewed the allocated land area and determined the proportion suited to agricultural production. It also reviewed water resources at each site and the plans for domestic water-supply systems. It assessed the acceptability and feasibility of establishing refugee settlements in the proposed areas in consultation with local government councils.

9. Based on the above assessments, a number of the proposed sites were rejected, and additional in-depth studies were recommended for other sites. For those sites which were accepted, a number of elements were further examined, such as:

(a) The maximum number of refugees each prospective site could support;

(b) The suitability of land and natural resources for various agricultural activities with full consideration given to the soil- and land-conservation principles;

(c) The exact determination of the type of materials needed for the water supply systems;

(d) The location and layout of the villages, community centres and village centres;

(e) The study of current agricultural practices and the need for appropriate mechanization levels, with due regard to the need for agricultural self-sufficiency;

(f) The quantification of the various agricultural machinery inputs for each settlement.

10. The mission strongly recommended the establishment of an agricultural extension service to promote sound agricultural practices among the refugees, and that settlements should not be occupied before measures were taken to provide shelter, temporary health facilities and safe and adequate water, as well as emergency food supplies.

III. ACTION ON THE MISSION'S FINDINGS

11. In accordance with the mission's findings and in consultation with the Government of the Sudan, the High Commissioner has taken the following steps in his 1981 Programme:

(a) New settlements are being established in Abuda, Um Ali and Tenedba, as well as a water-supply system in the Hawara/Qala-em-Nahal area;

(b) Allocations have been made for the creation of an agricultural extension service;

(c) Equipment needed for the establishment of adequate water supplies has been ordered, and orders have been placed for the necessary agricultural equipment in the hope that it will reach existing and new settlements before the start of the rainy season.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED HOUSING PROGRAMMES

12. In line with the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations interagency mission (A/35/410, annex), the High Commissioner organized a sectoral mission on the development of integrated housing programmes. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was requested to advise on proposals which had been submitted for a housing project for the refugees in Port Sudan and, if necessary, to recommend possible alternative proposals.

13. It was noted in the report of the United Nations interagency mission that the plight of the urban refugee could not be treated separately from that of the host population. The mission felt that the desired objective of reducing social tensions in Port Sudan would not be achieved by creating semi-urban settlements for 30,000 refugees outside the town. Owing to local conditions, houses for the refugees would be provided with houses and infrastructure of a higher standard than that enjoyed by the Sudanese people. Further, the refugees would be settled too far away from employment opportunities in the town.

14. The mission made the following recommendations:

(a) As an alternative to the proposed project for resettling refugees, the squatter and lower-class housing areas of Port Sudan should be made the subject of a planned upgrading scheme, whereby everybody (refugees and Sudanese) would be provided with access to better services and infrastructure;

(b) Essentially, the proposal is to provide the Port Sudan Regional Planning Office with expertise and funds to improve, expand and speed up its programme for the improvement and upgrading of slums;

(c) As a first step, a small team of experts (architect-planner, infrastructure engineer, social planner and economist), should be sent on a one-month mission to prepare an outline plan of action for Port Sudan, in particular to identify the areas to be upgraded and to establish basic standards and procedures. As part of that exercise, one of the areas identified by the team should be selected for immediate upgrading and a detailed plan should be drawn up for it.

15. At present, UNHCR is discussing the recommendations of the mission with the competent authorities in the Sudan.
