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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Assistance to the Comoros

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 35/97 of 5 December 1980 on assistance to the Comoros, the General Assembly, *inter alia*, requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to the Comoros and to arrange for a review of the economic situation of the Comoros and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special economic assistance programme in time for the matter to be considered by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.
2. The Secretary-General accordingly arranged for a review mission to visit the Comoros to consult with the Government on the economic situation and on the progress made in implementing the special economic assistance programme. The report of the review mission, which is annexed, describes the economic and financial situation in the country, outlines the priority needs and projects and summarizes the progress made in implementing those projects which were included in the earlier special assistance programme (see A/35/394, annex, sect. III and appendix).
3. In General Assembly resolution 35/97, the Secretary-General was also requested to keep the situation in the Comoros under constant review and to maintain close contact with Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and international financial institutions concerned.

4. In paragraph 7 of resolution 35/97, the General Assembly invited a number of United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to bring to the attention of their governing bodies the special needs of the Comoros and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 August 1981. Furthermore, in paragraph 9 of the same resolution, the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system were requested to report to the Secretary-General on the steps they had taken and the resources they had made available to assist the Comoros. The text of resolution 35/97 has been communicated to the agencies and organizations concerned and their attention drawn to the specific requests addressed to them by the Assembly. The replies of the agencies and organizations will be reproduced in a report of the Secretary-General covering the Comoros and a number of other countries for which the Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to organize special economic assistance programmes.

ANNEX

Report of the review mission to the Comoros

(May-June 1981)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The serious economic situation in the Comoros was brought to the attention of the General Assembly in a number of reports (A/32/208 and Add.1 and 2; A/33/170; A/34/361 and Corr.1; A/34/556; and A/35/394) which referred respectively to Assembly resolutions 31/42 of 1 December 1976, 32/92 of 13 December 1977, 33/123 of 19 December 1978 and 34/127 of 14 December 1979 on assistance to the Comoros.
2. On 5 December 1980, the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/97, in which it noted with concern that the assistance thus far provided falls short of the urgent requirements of the Comoros and reiterated its appeal to Member States, regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental bodies to provide effective and continuous financial, material and technical assistance to help the country overcome its financial and economic difficulties.
3. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to arrange for a review of the economic situation of the Comoros and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special economic assistance programme in time for the matter to be considered by the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. Arrangements were accordingly made for a United Nations mission, led by the Director of the Office for Special Political Questions, United Nations Secretariat, to visit the Comoros from 29 May to 10 June 1981.
4. The mission was received by the President, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdallah. The mission also paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Grande Comore, His Excellency Mr. Said Hassan. It had extensive meetings with the Minister of Finance, Economy and Planning, His Excellency Mr. Said Kafe, and senior representatives of other ministries. There were also opportunities to meet representatives of the diplomatic corps in Moroni, as well as technical assistance personnel of the United Nations system.
5. Appropriate preparations had been made for the mission's visit and the basic information requested was readily made available, for which the mission wishes to express appreciation to the Government. The mission would also like to place on record its gratitude to the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and his staff for their help.

II. GENERAL SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

6. The basic problems which make the Comoros one of the world's poorest countries were described in some detail in previous reports of the Secretary-General. ^{1/} In

^{1/} A more detailed description of the country and of the national institutional and human constraints with which it must cope was given in the first report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Comoros (A/32/208/Add.1) and in subsequent reports.

summary, the Comorian archipelago is extremely poor in natural resources. Of its total surface area, only about 1,000 square kilometres are suitable for agriculture or pasture which, under prevailing farming techniques, falls far short of the area needed to produce the food required. The continuing growth of the population further accentuates the problem. There are no known mineral resources and, despite the generally ample rainfall, there is a shortage of surface water. Inshore fisheries are poor and there is no continental shelf. The distance between the islands, from 80 to 250 kilometres, complicates both administration and development.

7. These difficulties have been aggravated by both the socio-political and administrative structure inherited at independence. Servicing the large public debt placed a major burden on the Government budget. In the early years, the country had to rely heavily on expatriate staff as a result of the inadequate educational system and the consequent lack of trained manpower.

8. Health is generally poor and hospital services remain inadequate. There is widespread malnutrition, especially protein deficiency. Economic development has been unbalanced, and the economy has depended on a few export crops with widely fluctuating prices. Food production was neglected during the colonial period and the country developed an unhealthy reliance on imported foodstuffs. Finally, the physical infrastructure is inadequate, as are supplies of water and electricity.

9. The Government has made considerable efforts to revive the economy and put the administration into functioning order after both had been widely disrupted by a series of political events following independence. The attempt to give production a renewed impetus should begin to bear fruit in due course; meanwhile discernible progress has already been made in organizing a system for development administration. In both demography and economic statistics the groundwork has been completed, making possible the preparation of a first economic and social development plan for the years 1982 and 1983.

10. The population census conducted in 1980 with financing from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) yielded the following provisional results:

Grande Comore	192,000
Anjouan	138,000
Moheli	17,000

With the population of Mayotte (approximately 50,000 in 1980, on the basis of the 1978 census), the total comes to 397,000. The growth rate is estimated at approximately 3.2 per cent per annum.

11. The gathering of statistical data on a more reliable basis has been resumed and it has become possible to prepare a first set of national accounts. Table 1 shows, in millions of Comorian francs and at 1979 constant prices, how the gross domestic product has progressed between 1976 and 1980. The average annual increase has been approximately 4.5 per cent, a little above the population growth rate.

Table 1 also demonstrates the predominance of the "Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry" sector (which in 1980 accounted for nearly 42 per cent of the gross domestic product), the importance of trade (almost 24 per cent) and the minor role of manufacturing industries (less than 5 per cent).

Table 1. Gross domestic product by sector of economic activity: 1976-1980
 (1979 constant prices - Millions of Comorian francs)

Sector	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry	8,047.0	8,955.3	8,299.0	8,991.3	9,345.3
Manufacturing industries	984.1	1,017.7	1,006.6	1,033.0	1,074.3
Electricity, gas and water	70.0	80.0	88.0	89.7	92.9
Construction and public works	1,337.7	1,543.0	1,579.1	1,738.1	2,061.1
Trade, hotels, bars and restaurants	4,753.4	4,877.2	4,790.3	5,368.4	5,293.5
Transport and communications	303.5	313.0	319.5	333.0	340.7
Banks, insurance, real estate and services to enterprises	518.9	536.4	564.6	596.5	618.1
Public administration	2,049.4	1,455.0	2,505.9	3,068.9	3,304.9
Other services	154.9	161.9	166.3	167.0	174.1
GDP at market prices	18,218.9	18,942.5	19,519.3	21,385.9	22,304.9
Net indirect taxes	1,791.4	2,010.6	2,191.0	2,510.6	1,912.5
GDP at factor costs	16,427.5	16,931.9	17,328.9	18,875.3	20,392.4
GNP	17,533.3	18,312.4	18,980.4	19,655.9	20,891.7

Source: Statistical Division, Economic Commission for Africa.

12. Owing to many constraints, food production (maize, rice, bananas, meat and fish) is still insufficient to ensure a balanced diet and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep pace with demand. This in turn leads to ever-increasing food imports (rice, sugar, meat and fish). Efforts to substitute local maize for imported rice have had encouraging results, but self-sufficiency in food, the Government's priority objective, will take years to achieve.

13. In respect of Government revenue, foreign exchange earnings, and farmers' income, the economy of the Comoros depends primarily on four cash crops: vanilla, ylang-ylang, copra and cloves. The problems of the country have been compounded in the past year by the impact of the world economic crisis. The drop in exports handled at the two main ports for foreign trade was particularly drastic in the case of vanilla and ylang-ylang. Only the export of cloves showed improvement in 1980 (877 tons as against 351 in 1979).

14. Table 2 illustrates the dramatic fall in the export of vanilla. This can be attributed to low prices resulting from the lack of world demand, to marketing arrangements and to competition.

Table 2. Exports of prepared vanilla

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Quantities (tons)	124	230	117	170	13
Value (millions of Comorian francs)	465	1,085	736	2,272	192

Despite these setbacks, production has remained around the customary level (approximately 900 tons of green vanilla), and there are hopes for increased yields in the future as a result of an improvement programme which is being financed by external assistance sources. Because of the uncertainty of the export markets, there has been a decline in the prices paid to farmers and the Government has been obliged to limit exports so as to prevent still further deterioration in world prices. The crisis has discouraged numerous producers and traders and may have adverse effects on the 1981 production figures.

15. Table 3 shows how the export of ylang-ylang also deteriorated in 1980 as compared to 1979. Only 32.6 tons of essence were sold, the inferior qualities suffering from the ever-increasing competition of synthetic products.

Table 3. Exports of ylang-ylang essence

	1972	1977	1978	1979	1980
Total (tons)	99.2	61.8	60.2	61.2	32.6
Value (millions of Comorian francs) <u>a/</u>	500.9	637.0	172.0	661.0	393.4

a/ \$US 1.00 = 210 Comorian francs (average rate, 1980).

The Government is studying the economic future of ylang-ylang, and is considering the potential advantage of replacing it, at least partially, by food crops.

16. For copra the price paid to growers and prices on the external market also fell. Exports in 1980 amounted to only 480 metric tons as against 2,466 metric tons the previous year.

17. The balance of trade (table 4) reflects the difficult position of traditional Comorian exports. Although imports remained almost unchanged between 1979 and 1980, the trade deficit increased substantially, since the value of 1980 exports fell by some 27 per cent over 1979. The prospects for 1981 are hardly encouraging, given the effects of global inflation on the price of imports and the mediocre outlook for the harvest of agricultural export crops.

Table 4. Balance of trade
 (Millions of Comorian francs)

	1977	1978	1979	1980
Imports, cif	4,053	4,329	6,135	6,147
Exports, fob	2,203	2,099	3,729	2,712
Trade balance	-1,850	-2,230	-2,406	-3,435
Ratio of imports covered by exports (percentage)	54	48	61	44

18. The Comoros foreign transactions over the past two years are set out in the following table:

Table 5. Balance of payments, 1979-1980

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
	(millions of Comorian francs)	
Imports, cif	6,135	6,145
Exports, fob	3,701 <u>a/</u>	2,712
<u>Trade balance</u>	<u>-2,434</u>	<u>-3,433</u>
Other freight and transportation	58	-281
Travel	73	-80
Investment income	-1	125
Other goods, services and income	-224	-266
<u>Total goods, services and income</u>	<u>-2,528</u>	<u>-3,935</u>
Private transfers	-121	21
Public transfers	2,427	2,380
<u>Current account balance</u>	<u>-222</u>	<u>-1,534</u>
Direct investments	2,037	3,514
Portfolio investment	-	-86
Commercial loans	-	1,163
Short-term capital	-173	-241
Other capital (including errors and omissions)	-1,133	-3,482
<u>Over-all balance</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>-666</u>
Net fluctuations in reserves <u>b/</u>	-509	666

Source: Comorian Central Bank.

a/ Owing to changes in statistical methodology, this figure differs slightly from the corresponding figure in table 4.

b/ A minus sign denotes an increase in reserves.

19. The current account, which had shown a surplus in 1978, incurred deficits of 222 million Comorian francs in 1979 and of 1,534 million in 1980. This growing imbalance was caused by a fall in exports and by increased transport, freight and insurance costs. Public transfers fell slightly in 1980 as compared with 1979, but they continue to be essential to lessen the deficit on current transactions. Direct investment, mainly for road construction, showed a significant increase. In short, public and private grants, drawings against loans, and commercial loans - which reached a high level in 1980 - covered the foreign payments deficit. These flows, and a satisfactory performance by the traditional agricultural sector, permitted the economy in 1980 to sustain a rate of economic growth close to the average for previous years, despite the dramatic drop in exports earnings.

20. The Government has made efforts to contain expenditure and, with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to revise the country's tax structure in order to increase revenue. However, as table 6 shows, the total public expenditure of the Federal State and the islands increased significantly between 1980 and 1981, rising from 5,507,800 to 7,214,300 Comorian francs. The foreign aid needed to cover the deficit increased from 1,968,100 Comorian francs in 1980 to a projected 3,887,500 Comorian francs in the 1981 budget. The proportion of expenditure covered by foreign aid was approximately 33 per cent in 1979, 42.5 per cent in 1980, and is expected to reach 54 per cent with the 1981 budget. To meet current expenditures alone, in 1981 foreign resources will represent approximately 47 per cent and domestic resources 53 per cent of total revenues. The entire capital budget is financed by foreign loans and grants.

21. By the end of 1980, the foreign debt contracted by the Comoros stood at 21.3 million Comorian francs, of which about 11 million had been drawn. Although most of the debt was contracted at low interest rates and with long grace periods, the servicing of this debt already makes a significant demand on the country's resources. In a few years' time, once the grace period is over, debt servicing will constitute a major problem. For that reason foreign aid should, wherever possible, take the form of grants rather than loans.

Table 6. Public revenues and expenditures
(Millions of Comorian francs)

	1979			1980 a/			1981 b/		
	Revenues	Expenditures	Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Expenditures
<u>Administration of the islands</u>									
Grande Comore	699.2	731.2	-32.0	834.0	862.2	-28.2	1 621.0	1 621.0	1 621.0
Anjouan	453.4	489.2	-35.8	632.7	661.0	-28.3	1 138.0	1 138.0	1 138.0
Moheli	115.8	121.6	-5.8	134.7	217.6	-82.9	300.3	300.3	300.3
<u>Total for the islands</u>	1 268.4	1 342.0	-73.6	1 601.4	1 740.8	-139.4	3 059.3	3 059.3	3 059.3
(including foreign aid)	(232.4)			(439.7)			(1 412.5)		
Federal State	2 643.3	2 451.0	+192.3	3 075.1	3 767.0	-691.9	4 155.0	4 155.0	4 155.0
(including foreign aid)	(1 135.1)			(1 528.4)			(2 475.0)		
<u>Grand total</u>	3 911.7 c/	3 793.0 c/	+118.7	4 676.5	5 507.8	-831.3	7 214.3	7 214.3	7 214.3
(including foreign aid)	(1 367.5) c/			(1 968.1)			(3 887.5)		

a/ Audit results.

b/ Projection.

c/ Including the capital budget, representing 700.5 million Comorian francs in 1979, 701.5 million in 1980 and 975 million (projected) in 1981.

III. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

22. The Government is conscious of the difficulties which face the country and is anxious to overcome them. However, the Government recognizes that it cannot do this alone and hopes to be able to count on friendly support in surmounting the immediate obstacles to the country's development. The Government intends to draw up in the near future an interim development plan for the years 1982-1983. The broad outlines for priority action have already been approved and are contained in the Comoros memorandum prepared for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries which is to take place in Paris. The memorandum was discussed at the consultation meeting for East African countries, held at Addis Ababa from 4 to 15 May 1981.

23. The Government has adopted six main priorities for tackling key economic and social development problems: self-sufficiency in food; improved communications for the islands; energy production and water supply; health and population policy; training; and physical planning and housing planning. Within the framework of these priorities, the Government has prepared a large number of projects for submission to the various sources of foreign assistance for financing. Following discussions with the Government, and with its agreement, the mission selected 19 from among the projects to be executed during 1981-1985; some of these were already included in the programme drawn up in 1980 (see A/35/394). These projects, which are described below, are considered to be of high priority if the Government is to achieve its development objectives. In addition to these 19 projects involving the main sectors of the economy, budgetary support remains vital if State services are to function properly.

A. Budgetary support

24. Budgetary support was an element in the special economic assistance programme for previous years and is likely to remain part of that programme for some years to come. Despite a policy of austerity and IMF-assisted efforts to improve the tax system, budgetary resources will continue to fall short of minimum needs unless development activities now underway succeed in diversifying the economy and making it somewhat less dependent on the export of a handful of agricultural products. As indicated in section II above, the drop in world prices for these products was the main reason for a substantial shortfall in earnings in 1980. In 1981 the over-all budget deficit will total 3,887.5 million Comorian francs and will need to be covered by foreign assistance.

25. As indicated in earlier reports, part of this budgetary support could take the form of foodstuffs for resale by the Government. The list of such foodstuffs and their quantities remain as presented in the report of the review mission to the Comoros (21 to 28 March 1980) (A/35/394, appendix, para. 3): rice 15,000 metric tons; sugar 3,000 metric tons; canned meat and fish 1,000 metric tons; canned milk 400 metric tons; edible oil 600 metric tons.

B. Self-sufficiency in food

(i) Soil conservation and restoration in the Comoros

26. Soil conservation is one of the Government's main concerns. Ninety per cent of the population depend on agriculture. A widespread process of soil degradation caused by population pressures has already reached alarming proportions in some regions. Forest cover is gradually being destroyed, causing a growing shortage of timber-based products; the cultivation of steeply sloping terrain is accelerating soil erosion, and the threat to the country's over-all ecological balance is increasingly serious. The Government plans to develop a policy to arrest and eventually reverse this process.

27. Action is envisaged in several areas:

(a) Rational development and exploitation of natural and man-made forests, which will require more supervisory and trained staff and equipment for nurseries and reforestation sites. Between 6,000 and 10,000 hectares of land should be artificially replanted over the next 20 years.

(b) Action at the village and farmer level to build village reserves and encourage farmers to add tree cultivation to their traditional agricultural and livestock pursuits. This will require information and extension campaigns, incentives (such as appropriate subsidies) and more trained personnel.

(c) Soil restoration activities. A pilot project is under way in a catchment area of approximately 150 hectares at Nioumakeli, on the island of Anjouan. Some 10,000 families are also involved in anti-erosion work, which should be extended to the 30,000 Comorian farming families.

28. The requested assistance will cover the training or retraining of skilled supervisory staff, the supply of appropriate equipment and agricultural implements, and the services of technical assistance personnel. The cost is estimated at \$1,795,000.

(ii) Extension of the rural development infrastructure

29. The provision of this infrastructure has begun with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (1979-1981). It comprises the Federal Centre for Rural Development Support (CEFADER), which is responsible for planning and co-ordination, and the regional Centres for Rural Development Support (CADERS), each covering about 20 villages. Each CADER is self-managing; it supplies the necessary inputs to farmers at cost and provides technical guidance through multidisciplinary extension workers and village development workers. Five CADERS will be established before the end of 1981. A further 36 will be needed between now and 1986 to cover the entire territory.

30. The establishment of a new CADER requires the construction of an operations building, as well as supplies, equipment and technical assistance. The total cost

for the period 1982-1986 will be \$6,210,000, or an average of approximately \$1,250,000 a year.

(iii) Agronomic and veterinary support laboratory

31. Through the CEFADER and CADERS described above, the Government is directing and organizing various schemes to expand agriculture and livestock production. There are as yet no laboratories where extension work can be monitored and where soil, agronomic, plant health and veterinary analyses can be carried out.

32. It will be necessary to put up new buildings, train Comorian nationals and provide foreign technical assistance for a two-year period. The cost has been estimated provisionally at \$736,000. The Government initially requires financial assistance to carry out a preliminary study, at a cost of \$35,000.

(iv) Development of irrigated rice-growing

33. The Comoros imports most of its rice requirements. However, about 3,000 metric tons are grown locally. While the prospects for extending rice cultivation are limited, some small coastal plains or inland depressions totalling as much as 1,000 hectares on the island of Moheli could be used for irrigated rice-growing. This additional area could yield a crop of almost 5,000 metric tons.

34. Site development surveys have already been carried out, and the Government wants to follow this up by establishing a small test site comprising an experimental unit and a pilot unit. Volunteer farmers would be employed on both. The scheme would enable technical problems and socio-economic factors to be studied more thoroughly before extending the area of irrigated land.

35. External assistance is needed to provide the necessary expertise, fellowships, operational equipment and vehicles and to cover part of the operational costs over a three-year period. The total cost will be \$220,000.

(v) Development of livestock production

36. Local meat production is far from adequate, and the Comoros imports more than 1,000 metric tons of meat a year. The Government is channelling its efforts in two directions to expand meat production:

(a) Development of woodland and grazing land on some 5,000 hectares of under-used pastures on the high plateaux. The planting of windbreaks would help to combat erosion, ensure partial reforestation and develop fodder plants which could substantially increase the number of animals which the land could support. Livestock would also have to be improved genetically. The potential for such development is to be tested on a 500-hectare experimental unit.

(b) Development of livestock production, principally small ruminants, in agricultural areas. At present animals are very unproductive because they lack appropriate care and foodstuffs. An attempt will be made through the CADERS to use existing herds more rationally.

37. This two-pronged effort requires external aid in the form of technical assistance, training, equipment and a contribution towards operational costs in the first three years; the total cost will be \$1,225,000.

(vi) Development of food crops and legumes

38. Malnutrition is widespread among the population. The national diet is particularly deficient in proteins. The Government wishes to remedy the situation by developing the production of food legumes. The rotation of legumes with other crops would also help to maintain soil fertility. It is proposed to take action through the CEFADER/CADER system to improve food production per se, to ensure that families use food products more efficiently and to improve the conservation and marketing of food products.

39. Support is being requested in the form of technical assistance, training fellowships, equipment, seeds and a temporary contribution towards operational costs, for a total amount of \$360,000.

B. Improved communications for the islands

(vii) Purchase of a 2,300-ton freighter

40. The Comoros fleet has only three vessels, of 350 tons, 150 tons and 60 tons respectively, and these are old and in poor condition. This fleet is becoming increasingly inadequate for the growing interisland passenger and freight traffic and for traffic between the Comoros and neighbouring countries. According to a recent study, two new freighters ought to be purchased. The Government has given top priority to obtaining a 2,300-ton freighter, at a cost of \$1.3 million, for which external aid is being sought.

(viii) Purchase of an aircraft

41. This project, already mentioned in the 1980 report, has not yet been able to secure international assistance. Air Comoros has only one aircraft, a 44-seat Fokker 27, for domestic and international transport. The Government believes that the purchase of a second aircraft of the same type is imperative to ensure communications between the islands and with the outside world on occasions when the existing Fokker is, for any reason, out of commission. The estimated cost is \$6.5 million, including the necessary spare parts.

(ix) Construction of telephone exchanges

42. An interisland telephone link is under construction. Only the capital, Moroni, has an automatic exchange; four other districts have a rudimentary manual network. The purpose of the project is to install telephone exchanges or modernize existing installations in the districts of Mitsamiouli, Fombouni and Ntsaoueni (Grande Comore); Mutsumudu, Domoni and Sima (Anjouan); and Fomboni and Nioumachoua (Moheli). This should contribute significantly to ending the isolation of these centres of population. The estimated cost of the project - primarily covering the purchase of equipment - is \$11 million.

C. Energy and water

(x) Voidjou power station project

43. The Voidjou power station has three generators, two with a capacity of 600 kilowatts each, and an output of 1,200 kilowatts. Since peak demand already reaches levels exceeding 1,600 kilowatts, the capacity of the network should be at least equal to this and, on the assumption that demand will increase further, it is proposed to install a 2,000 kilowatt generating set (2,500 KVA). Since this will not exceed the capacity already planned for, it can be installed within the existing infrastructure and will require no additional premises. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$2.5 million.

(xi) Water supply projects

44. The first project concerns water supply for Ngazidja (also known as Grande Comore); this, together with the three following projects, would cover all the major urban centres on the island. While the islands of Anjouan and Moheli have springs and permanent surface water, the Comoros appears to have significant ground-water resources which could be exploited by drilling. The Government concluded an agreement with UNDP in 1979 on the exploration and development of water resources, and UNDP is carrying out a complete inventory of existing and potential resources. It expects to produce a comprehensive water development programme.

45. The various water supply projects proposed remain partly in the planning stage and cannot be costed with precision. The first involves extensions of the existing water supply systems in Ngazidja, the second covers the extension of water supplies in Hahaya; each is estimated at \$780,000. The third covers new boreholes and supply systems in the Mitsamiouli area; the estimated cost is \$1,590,000. The fourth project covers new boreholes and supply systems for the south in the Chindini and Oumbouni area; the estimated cost is \$2.3 million.

46. On the island of Anjouan it is proposed to improve the existing water supply installations in the town of Mutsamudu and in nearby villages in order to meet the requirements of the population, currently estimated at 20,000. Surveys, which cover construction of stream catchments, water supply conduits and storage tanks, the installation of a water treatment system, recalibration of the distribution network and extensions, re-employment and re-emplacment of some existing conduits are to be financed by the European Development Fund (EDF) (fifth replenishment). The total cost of the operation is estimated at \$1,500,000.

47. On Moheli island it is proposed to repair water supplies, conduits and improve distribution in the town of Fomboni and nearby villages in order to meet the requirements of about 6,000 people. The existing distribution network needs improvement and extension and water conduits, which were heavily damaged by floods in 1980, require repair. Surveys have been financed by the EDF (fifth replenishment). The cost is estimated at \$750,000.

D. Health

(xii) Supply of medicines

48. Because of budgetary constraints, the Comorian Government cannot, without external aid, meet its public health obligations, in particular the distribution of medicines to the population. According to estimates made by the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately \$610,000 is needed annually to provide the bare minimum. Supplies for 1982 are guaranteed, thanks to assistance from Kuwait. Financing sought for the continuation of the programme from 1983 to 1986 amounts to approximately \$3 million.

E. Training

(xiii) Construction and equipment of a multidisciplinary technical and vocational school in Anjouan

49. The national multidisciplinary technical school operating at Mutsamudu (Anjouan) has an enrolment of 110 students and its output will not meet the country's needs for skilled workers and labourers. The school has no premises of its own and is housed in a secondary school. The Government considers it necessary to build and equip a functional school which would provide multidisciplinary training for a larger number of students at more diverse levels of competence and in a larger number of trades, including bricklaying, carpentry and plumbing. The provisional estimate of the cost is \$2.8 million, which would cover the construction and equipping of the building, technical assistance requirements for two years and fellowships for advanced training.

(xiv) Construction and equipping of a veterinary and animal husbandry school

50. The priority the Government has given to food self-sufficiency and agricultural development requires a policy for the training of staff at all levels, especially agricultural extension workers, who have direct contact with farmers. At present, there is no establishment to train the specialists and lower-level staff needed in the agriculture and livestock production sector.

51. The Government plans to establish a secondary school focusing on veterinary science and animal husbandry, having a maximum capacity of 120 students. It is planned to train 20 to 30 new students each year and to retrain technicians already at work. A range of subjects is envisaged, depending on the requirements that emerge. After a reasonable initial period, the school should become self-supporting. The products of the farm to be attached to the school will be consumed directly and some of the crops produced may be sold. The total cost amounts to \$2,625,000, which covers construction, technical assistance and some fellowships for national staff.

Table 7. Summary of projects

Project	Cost (US dollars)
A. <u>Self-sufficiency in food</u>	
1. Soil conservation and restoration in the Comoros	1,795 000
2. Extension of the rural development infrastructure (approximately \$1,250,000 per annum)	6 210 000
3. Agronomic and veterinary support laboratory (preliminary study will cost \$35,000)	736 000
4. Development of irrigated rice-growing	220 000
5. Development of livestock production	1 225 110
6. Development of food crops and legumes	<u>360 000</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	10 546 110
B. <u>Purchase of equipment for improved communications</u>	
7. Purchase of a 2,300-ton freighter	1 300 000
8. Purchase of an aircraft	6 500 000
9. Construction of telephone exchanges	<u>11 000 000</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	18 800 000
C. <u>Energy and water</u>	
10. Voidjou power station project	2 500 000
11. Water supply for Ngazidja	780 000
12. Water supply for Hahaya	780 000
13. Water supply for Mitsamiouli	1 590 000
14. Water supply for Chindini-Oumbouni	2 300 000
15. Water supply for Mutsumudu	1 500 000
16. Water supply for Fomboni	<u>750 000</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	10 200 000

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Table 7. (continued)

Project	Cost (US dollars)
D. <u>Health</u>	
17. Supply of medicines	<u>3 000 000</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	3 000 000
E. <u>Training</u>	
18. Support for a multidisciplinary technical school at Anjouan	2 800 000
19. Support for a veterinary and animal husbandry school	<u>2 625 000</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	5 425 000
<u>Total</u>	<u>47 971 110</u>

APPENDIX

Status of the projects included in the report of the
review mission to the Comoros (21-28 March 1980) 1/

1. Airports improvement and equipment

The project has been financed.

2. Strategic reserve of petroleum

Financing has been found.

3. Agricultural implements

No progress. The cost is now estimated at \$1.8 million

4. Malaria eradication

WHO has contributed \$550,000 but additional funds estimated at \$3.5 million are needed for the next four years.

5. Strategic food reserve

This problem has been partially solved through the construction of warehouses by WFP and EDF. More remains to be done, but the priority needs may be regarded as having been met.

6. Salt production

Three Comorians who had been sent on a training course have returned. No source of financing for the principal investment.

7. Geothermal energy

The first survey phase, financed by UNDP, has been carried out and has led to the identification of promising occurrences. The next phase requires funding of \$2 million.

8. Development of secondary ports on Grande Comore and Moheli

Financing has now been secured for the dispersal port at Mutsamudu (Anjouan), and the Government hopes that work will start in 1982. Part of the funding for the two secondary ports (on Grande Comore and Moheli) is expected to come from EDF (fifth). Additional funding will be necessary but cannot be quantified until the technical studies now in progress have been completed.

1/ See A/35/394, appendix.