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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/85 of 31 December 1980, the Secretary-General continued to render such assistance as could be mobilized within the United Nations system to help the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development plans, and called upon specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts in that field. An account of the progress achieved is given in the present report.

## II. GENERAL SITUATION

2. The background of the Lebanese crisis and of the United Nations decision to give special assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon has been described in previous reports. <sup>1/</sup> The period under review marked a deterioration in the political and security situation prevailing in Lebanon. Beginning in April 1981, there was an increase in incidents of violence all over the country and an exchange of fire involving various armed factions, the Lebanese armed forces and the Arab Deterrent Force. Between the months of April and June the town of Zahle and its surroundings as well as various parts of Beirut came under heavy fire from artillery and automatic weapons. Movement between different parts of Beirut became difficult as a result of sniper fire. Beirut International Airport had to remain closed for 21 days. At the same time, there was an intensification of military activity in and around southern Lebanon, including bombardment by air and from land and sea by Israeli forces in the first half of July 1981. This caused the destruction of bridges along the coastal road and in the interior of the region and extensive damage to the oil refinery at Zahrani. On 17 July Israeli aircraft attacked some localities in Beirut. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 490 (1981) a cease-fire came into effect on 24 July and has remained in force.

3. A new Government was formed under Chafic al Wazzan on 25 October 1980. The Government has set as its first tasks the restoration of law and order in the country and the promotion of national conciliation. In these tasks, the Government is being aided by a conciliation committee established by the League of Arab States, consisting of the Foreign Ministers of Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic and the Secretary-General of the League. The efforts of the conciliation committee helped to bring about the cessation of the fighting in Zahle and they are continuing with a view to promoting an over-all political settlement in the country.

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<sup>1/</sup> See in particular the reports of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/35/99 and A/35/381 and Corr.1 and 2).

### III. RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

4. In 1977 the Government of Lebanon drew up a major programme for the reconstruction, improvement and extension of essential equipment and installations, including the harbour, the airport and the road network, which had been destroyed during earlier warfare and disturbances. The cost of the programme was estimated at approximately \$7 billion and was expected to be completed within five to eight years. In 1980, keeping in view the continuing state of insecurity and the paucity of funds and other necessary resources, the Government approved a more limited 12-month programme costing approximately \$300 million. In both programmes, special attention was paid to southern Lebanon because of the abject poverty there and the destruction and damage which it is still suffering as a result of continued fighting in and around the region. Details of the programmes were set out in the previous report to the General Assembly on the subject (A/35/381 and Corr.1 and 2) dated 3 October 1980 and in an earlier report (A/35/99) dated 20 February 1980.
5. The events described above have had an adverse effect on the economy, have slowed down work on various projects and have set back further the prospect of making a start on a full-fledged reconstruction and development programme. In the public sector, the main impediment is the lack of funds and other resources, a situation accentuated by the fact that disturbed security conditions inhibit the collection of government revenues and, undoubtedly, also the delivery of aid pledged by friendly countries. In the private sector, while some investment in industry and agriculture has taken place, the investor still prefers to put money in the safer sectors of trade or real estate.
6. In an address to the Economic and Social Council on 24 April 1981, Mr. Mohamed Atallah, President of the Council for Development and Reconstruction, the Organization responsible for planning and undertaking the reconstruction and development of the country said that the objectives of the programme were to respond to the immediate needs of the country; to advance on major projects deemed vital to the national economy; and to stimulate activities in the private sector. 2/
7. In explaining the strategy of development which the Government of Lebanon had adopted in the circumstances, he said:
- "Our priorities are conditioned by the possible rather than by that which is merely desirable. We must begin the task of rebuilding where we can, not perhaps where we should begin. This principle involves the geographical area where the reconstruction should take place. It also involves a realistic consideration of our resources, both human and material. Thus, our strategy must take into account the capacities of our institutions. We must rebuild now, however we may, and leave the more gradual task of institutional development and administrative reform for a more stable time."
8. The Government is however not oblivious of the need for long-term planning and, as previously reported, (A/35/381 and Corr.1 and 2 annexes I and II), at its request the United Nations Development Programme is financing a project under which a number of experts will advise and assist the Council for Development

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2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Plenary Meetings, 8th meeting.

and Reconstruction in continuously updating and reassessing the reconstruction programme in the light of long-range development objectives and in the formulation of sectoral and national policies within the framework of long-term planning. This Technical Support Group will also provide on-the-job training for appropriate Lebanese government personnel. In the preparatory phase of its work, the Technical Support Group has carried out a preliminary review of the reconstruction programme and studies relating to the objectives of the programme.

#### IV. THE ECONOMY

9. At the beginning of 1981, the Lebanese economy was geared to meet the relative momentum it had gathered during the years 1979 and 1980. Furthermore, the situation prevailing in the region, particularly after the outbreak of war between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, caused a massive influx of Arab capital into Beirut, stimulating commercial and banking activity. Despite an increase in the minimum capital requirement for new banks from 15 million to 50 million Lebanese pounds (LL), the number of banks rose to 88 at the beginning of 1981, as compared with 80 in 1975. In the same period, the volume of private deposits rose from LL 8 billion to LL 24 billion; advances to the private sector from LL 5.7 to LL 16 million.
10. The country's gold and foreign exchange reserves at the end of 1980 amounted to LL 7 billion, with gold valued at the conventional price of \$42.22 per ounce; at the current price of gold these reserves would be very much higher. At the conventional valuation, the reserves covered at the end of 1980 about 94 per cent of money supply (currency in circulation plus demand deposits in Lebanese pounds).
11. Statistics provided by the Beirut Port Authority show that between January and May 1981, 879 ships called at Beirut, unloaded about 900,000 tons and took on about 176,000 tons of cargo. The value of exports during these five months amounted to over LL 2 billion, an increase of 35 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 1980. However, customs receipts in the first six months of the year amounted to only LL 212 million as against LL 360 million for the corresponding period of 1980. This fall of 32 per cent in the customs receipts is explained by the great intensity of the activities of illegal ports in various parts of the country.
12. The year 1980 closed with a record balance-of-payments surplus, amounting to over LL 3 billion. The surplus was due mostly to capital movements, grants and especially to remittances made by Lebanese living abroad. The public debt, at approximately LL 4 billion, is low in comparison with that of many other countries, and in relation to Lebanon's balance-of-payments surplus on foreign exchange reserves.
13. The budget for 1981 estimates government receipts at LL 3 billion (excluding relief and reconstruction aid received from abroad), expenditure at over LL 1.4 billion, and a deficit of approximately LL 1 billion. This compares with a deficit of LL 567 million in 1977. It is estimated that the deficit will increase to LL 1.4 billion in 1983, owing partly to the Government's inability to collect revenues in full.

14. While exact figures are not available, the annual rate of inflation during 1980-1981 was estimated at 23 per cent. The value of the Lebanese pounds in terms of the dollar fell by nearly 29 per cent in the first six months of 1981, but this reflected the rise of the dollar in relation to all other currencies rather than an intrinsic weakening of Lebanese currency.

15. The situation with regard to manpower remains difficult. Nearly 200,000 Lebanese skilled workers are in the region of the Gulf States and in foreign countries. Moreover, 18,000 persons from 63 different countries were issued permits to work in Lebanon. The actual number of foreign workers is substantially larger as many persons are working there without authorization.

#### V. ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

16. In response to General Assembly resolution 35/85, in which the Assembly called upon specialized agencies, organs and other bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to assist the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development plans and in their implementation, many specialized agencies adopted resolutions to the same effect. Despite worsened conditions in Lebanon during the period under review, various agencies and organs of the United Nations system represented in Lebanon were able to continue and indeed intensify their activities. It should be mentioned that though the disturbances caused considerable damage and disruption of normal life, the call for outside relief assistance was not comparable to what had been needed in the period before 1977 and again in 1978. In May 1981, the Government addressed the United Nations Co-ordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon, requesting various articles and commodities to meet the needs of 25,000 families affected in various parts of the country by the events of April and May 1981. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was quick in responding to the request and the required quantities of cereals, cooking oil and canned meat were made available to the High Relief Committee in April 1981. To ensure prompt delivery, the quantities required were borrowed from World Food Programme stocks in the country.

#### A. United Nations Development Programme

17. The principal mode of United Nations technical assistance to Lebanon, as to other developing countries, is the UNDP indicative planning figure (IPF). The UNDP is financing and monitoring practically all the technical assistance projects carried out in Lebanon by the various executing agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The year 1981/1982 marks the end of the 1977-1981 cycle of programming and the beginning of the third cycle. The IPF for Lebanon for the 1977-1981 cycle was \$10 million, to which was added \$2.14 million carried over from the previous cycle. The 1977-1981 cycle began with the drafting of an informal

medium-term programme but its implementation was prevented by the disturbances that broke out in 1978. Instead, UNDP had to continue extensive emergency relief operations throughout 1978 and 1979. Programming began again in April 1979 and has proceeded since then at an increasing pace.

18. By March 1981, the total UNDP commitments reached an amount of \$13.6 million, of which \$9.7 million is intended to be spent in the course of the present cycle (though it may not prove possible to spend the whole amount by June 1982) and the balance of \$3.8 million to be spent in 1982, 1983 and 1984.

19. The highest percentage of resources (33 per cent) committed in the current IPF cycle has been allocated to the reconstruction and development of the country's agriculture because of the far-reaching socio-economic impact of this sector, particularly in preventing excessive migration of the rural population to urban areas and the resultant creation of poverty belts around cities with their volatile and underemployed urban poor.

20. The next largest recipient of UNDP technical assistance is the health sector. The most important project in this sector is the National Waste Management Plan, which involves medium- and long-term planning as well as a study of immediate improvements in the existing waste disposal system. A noteworthy feature of this project is that in view of the current scarcity of qualified government personnel, the Government have nominated a private Lebanese firm as its counterparts to the United Nations experts.

21. Education is obviously an important concern of the Government inasmuch as the civil strife of 1975, 1976 and 1978 caused a drain of trained national specialists indispensable for the reconstruction of the country. On the other hand, it is considered essential to enable the country's youth to gain professional qualifications to give them access to the dignity of work at a time when there is an obvious need for the rebuilding of morale in the country. About 20.8 per cent of the IPF resources are committed to education, at the university, technical and vocational levels.

22. Some 15.8 per cent of the IPF is being utilized in the transport and communications sector on projects in the areas of civil aviation, roads and telecommunications, all of them parallel with large reconstruction investments to be undertaken by the Government.

23. It can be seen from the foregoing that about 97 per cent of the UNDP programmable 1977-1981 IPF resources (including overprogramming) are concentrated on a limited number of key development sectors, namely, agriculture, health, education, transport and communications.

24. It should be noted, however, that two important preparatory projects have been programmed: LEB/80/005, Technical support group (TSG) preparatory activities (PA), and LEB/80/003, Assistance to Industry Institute. The former, fully explained in the previous report (A/35/381 and Corr.1 and 2, annex II, paras. 32-33), is in the sector of "General development issues, policy and planning" and is preparatory to a large-scale project for the third cycle.

It is evidently of primary importance, in view of the country's ambitious programme of reconstruction and long-term development. The project of assistance to the Industry Institute is preparatory to a large-scale project for the Third Cycle Country Programme and is directed towards establishment of a system of technical assistance to the industrial sector.

25. It is, perhaps, of interest to show the expenditure figures from the IPF for the first four years of the 1977-1981 cycle, which are as follows:

Year	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
US dollars	475,417	327,580	238,559	1,905,730

26. At the end of March 1981, an expenditure figure of over \$5 million was foreseen by the UNDP office in Beirut. However, the recurrence of civil strife in April and May 1981 will no doubt have a negative effect on the implementation of projects in 1981, and may bring the amount of expenditure down to some \$US 4 million.

27. These figures show that despite the situation of relative unrest Lebanon experienced in 1980, and given joint efforts by the Government, UNDP and its executing agencies, the country's capacity for absorption of United Nations technical assistance is quite considerable.

28. In April 1981, the Resident Representative submitted to the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) a note on the country programme for the third programming cycle of UNDP. The note is intended to serve as a basis for a discussion with the Government leading to the elaboration of a formal draft country programme document. Taking into account the most urgent projects for which United Nations assistance would be deemed essential by the Government, the note envisions UNDP inputs of somewhat over \$22 million between 1982 and 1986.

29. It should be noted that owing to the lack of the requisite statistical data concerning Lebanon, the UNDP Governing Council was not in a position at its session in June 1981, to decide on the country's third cycle IPF. However, it adopted a decision (81/18) in which it expressed the conviction that unless a concerted effort was undertaken to assist Lebanon in overcoming its current difficulties, the adverse effect on its future development could cause serious problems in the region. It decided to defer the determination of an illustrative IPF for Lebanon to the next session of the Board, and to consider the question at that time "as a matter of priority and with a view to increasing UNDP assistance".

30. The proposed programme for the next cycle (1982-1986) will mainly encompass the continuation of the priority projects under the second cycle and a few new projects, most of which are already submitted and formulated.

31. As will be noted from the following, the projects concern the main economic sectors: agriculture, industry, education, transport and communications, economic planning and infrastructure.



32. The following are the main projects proposed for inclusion under the third IPF cycle:

(a) New projects:

(i) General development issues, policy and planning

LEB/80/007 - Technical support and training in agricultural and rural development planning. The UNDP contribution is \$1,562,270.

The implementation of the project constitutes the condition sine qua non for the establishment of a medium-term programme for the reconstruction and development of agriculture. The project is considered important by the Ministry of Agriculture and CDR.

(ii) Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

LEB/81/007 - Development of animal production. The UNDP contribution is \$993,790.

Preparatory assistance is effected. Project document to be reformulated in connexion with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) project "Rehabilitation of dairy centres in Akkar and Hermel regions and FAO funds in trust project re-equipment of milk collection and transformation centres in Abdé. (Equipment to be supplied USAID).

(iii) Industry

LEB/77/021 - Industrial Information Centre. UNDP contribution is \$300,000.

This project is to be revised upon the completion of LEB/80/003 (PA), and probably to be implemented on IPF funds reserved for the forthcoming large-scale LEB/80/003 - Industry Institute.

(iv) Education

LEB/79/002 - Training in agricultural mechanization. UNDP contribution is \$700,000.

Project document to be reformulated and linked to LEB/78/009 - Development of animal production.

Training in public debts and treasury. UNDP contribution is \$500,000;

This project is considered important by the Ministry of Finance and CDR.

Assistance in the area of hostelry. UNDP contribution is \$200,000.

The idea of this project emanated from the Ministry of Tourism. Priority to be decided upon by CDR.

(b) Extension of on-going projects

(i) General development issues, policy and planning

LEB/80/005 - Technical Support Group in Matters of Reconstruction and Development. UNDP contribution is \$1,739,000 plus \$125,000 cost-sharing.

The project began with a preparatory assistance project in November 1980 under which consultants undertook missions in Beirut in order to tackle the project and prepare the plan of action and the programme for the implementation of the project. So far, four consultants have visited the country. These consultants have made many contacts with several government departments concerned and have prepared notes and reports on their missions.

In view of the nature of the project, United Nations and multilateral and bilateral assistance programmes showed special interest in participating in this large-scale project. The European Economic Commission has already expressed to CDR and to UNDP its willingness to provide two high-level experts for a minimum of one year to join the TSG project. The World Bank is also willing to reactivate its reconstruction loan agreement and has showed special interest in the project. In 1980 the World Bank offered CDR its assistance in identifying the priority areas on which it would appear most appropriate to concentrate at the current stage.

(ii) Agriculture

LEB/79/015 - Development of apiculture (Bee-keeping). UNDP contribution is \$386,000, of which \$230,000 is foreseen for the 1982-1986 cycle.

(iii) Industry

LEB/80/003 - Industry Institute. UNDP contribution is \$1.5 million.

Project is to start as soon as possible.

(iv) Transport and communications

LEB/78/001 - Roads rehabilitation. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

This project is considered essential by the Government.

LEB/77/037 - Establishment of telecommunications training programme. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

LEB/77/020 - Civil Aviation Safety and Operations. UNDP contribution is \$2 million.

This project is considered essential by CDR. Assessment of counterpart absorption capacity and indispensable prior obligation of the Government now being carried out.

(v) Health

LEB/77/033 - National waste management plan. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

This project is considered essential by CDR.

LEB/77/036 - Public health laboratory services. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

(vi) Education

LEB/77/002 - Relaunching and development of technical and vocational training. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

The project is progressing. The Directorate-General, Technical and Vocational Training, is strongly in favour of its extension.

LEB/79/011 - Development of vocational training of youth and adults. UNDP contribution is \$500,000.

To be extended if results of the ongoing projects prove successful.

LEB/79/012 - Assistance to the Lebanese University - creation of the faculty of engineering. Phase II. UNDP contribution is \$1 million.

CDR considers it important to include a UNDP-financed second phase in the country programme.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

33. As in the past, UNICEF directed its assistance to the promotion of basic services through a multidisciplinary approach, in order to attain an optimal rate of delivery of services to children and mothers in an integrated way, primarily in the fields of health, child nutrition, safe drinking-water supply, family and child welfare, formal and non-formal education, and services for women.

34. The UNICEF programme for 1980-1982 consists in assistance to two medium-term programmes in Lebanon and a three-year programme of services for Palestinian children and mothers.

Basic services units

35. During 1979-1980, UNICEF co-operated with the Office of Social Development (OSD) in establishing basic services units in seven areas. The established plan calls for the opening of such units in 12 new areas.

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36. An assessment of the ongoing activities indicated the slow rate at which the units were developing, because of the continuing political unrest and limited implementation capacity at various levels. For these reasons, efforts in 1981 will be directed towards strengthening and upgrading the unit activities. This will include pre- and in-service training of personnel and the strengthening of implementation capacity in general.

37. In addition to the above, UNICEF has been engaged with the Ministry of Education since early in 1980 in introducing pre-vocational subjects at the primary and intermediate levels for the use of in-school and out-of-school youth and in upgrading pre-primary education in public schools. Progress to date in this area has been satisfactory and very promising.

38. Under the Basic Services Programme, UNICEF is also supporting a number of relevant activities mainly directed towards manpower development.

#### Child-care services project

39. This project, which was started in 1978 with a grant of \$US 3,481,101.38 from a private source (the late Mrs. Sarah Grelak), is directed towards children deprived of a normal family life, including orphaned and handicapped children and social cases.

40. In 1981, as in 1980, the focus has been on meeting the individual needs of the residential institutions through the formulation of two-year plans for the development and reorientation of their programme activities.

41. In 1981, a survey was carried out of all institutions and private organizations delivering family and community-integrated services to children deprived of a normal family life. A project has been prepared to assist these pilot endeavours and expand their services.

42. Furthermore, with regard to the formulation of a national strategy of child-care services in Lebanon, activities in 1981 are focused on collecting the necessary documentation and preparing guidelines for the conceptual framework of the strategy.

43. In 1982, a workshop will be organized grouping officials from the public sector and representatives of the private sector to discuss and finalize the guidelines.

#### Services for Palestinian children and mothers in Lebanon

44. UNICEF has allocated from its general resources the amount of \$210,000 to assist Palestinian children and mothers in Lebanon in the following fields:

Health: nursing/mid-wifery education in Beirut, Saida and Tire (\$22,000); immunization campaigns with the co-operation of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and UNRWA (\$11,900); preventive and curative services, health education, strengthening hospital services (\$79,700);

Family and children welfare: establishing new and supporting existing kindergartens and nurseries in the refugee camps and surrounding vicinities (\$46,900);

Education (non-formal): pre-vocational training for women and girls and introduction of new life skills (\$44,500);

Project support communication: creating awareness of needs and services relating to mother and child welfare (\$5,000).

#### Project in southern Lebanon

45. UNICEF is also undertaking the execution of a large-scale reconstruction project in southern Lebanon, which is described in section VI B below.

#### C. World Food Programme

46. Continuation of aid from the World Food Programme (WFP) is still fully justified. This aid has on a number of occasions played an important role in helping the victims of the civil disturbances in 1981.

47. On 4 May 1981 the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) authorized a grant of 1,500 million tons of wheat flour, 125 million tons of vegetable oil and 30 million tons of canned meat for a total cost to WFP of \$US 850,000, to be distributed free of charge to 25,000 displaced families (125,000 persons). One third of the quantity was distributed to the Zahle area, one third to the Beirut area, and one third to southern Lebanon.

48. WFP is also participating in the revival of sericulture in Lebanon. During five years it will provide food commodities to the silk office to be distributed to the rearers to encourage them to plant mulberry trees in order to increase the production of silk cocoons. The number of beneficiaries for 1981 will be 5,000 persons and they will receive 35 million tonnes of food. The total cost of the project for five years is estimated at \$US 1,480,000.

49. A food-for-development project concerning the Lebanese mountain areas is to be resumed this year. Reactivation of the project was approved on 22 June 1981 after a halt of approximately three years. It will provide the authorities concerned (the Green Plan directorate) with 10,286 million tons of food commodities for two years (total cost: \$5,300,000), to be distributed to the farmers who will implement schemes to build access roads, retaining walls and concrete and earthen reservoirs.

50. In view of the current economic and social problems, great value is placed on the WFP project of food aid to children and vulnerable groups and to youths enrolled in the various types and levels of academic and social institutions. Three types of beneficiaries are receiving WFP aid in 1981: boarding institutions and day-care centres (20,150 beneficiaries); primary, public and semi-public school-children (6,000 beneficiaries) of canteen feeding; mothers (8,000 beneficiaries) and

infants and pre-school-children (16,000 beneficiaries). About 3,063 million tons of food commodities will be distributed by the end of 1981. This project will continue in 1982 and the total cost for two years is \$7,040,500.

D. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

51. In addition to its traditional activities of protection and assistance to refugees under its mandate and pursuant to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and its Executive Committee, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has undertaken, since 1976, special humanitarian tasks in Lebanon for which its Office has particular expertise. Those assisted by these special programmes are persons displaced within their own country. During the period 1976-1980, more than \$5.5 million was spent by UNHCR in the implementation of emergency relief and rehabilitation projects in Lebanon.

52. In 1980 it was estimated that 300,000 to 400,000 needy persons were still displaced in Lebanon, of whom about half were from southern Lebanon. Since April 1981 these numbers have increased following the outbreak of violence in Beirut, Zahle, and southern Lebanon. The aim of the UNHCR programme is to encourage the return of these displaced persons to their villages of origin and to facilitate their settlement through economic and social projects.

53. For the latter part of 1981, an important project is under consideration but not yet approved by the High Commissioner. It concerns a medico-social centre for displaced and needy persons in Ras El Nabeh, which was one of the most affected districts (in western Beirut but close to the "green line" separating the eastern and western sides of Beirut) during the recent fighting and where many displaced persons from southern Lebanon have been living since 1978.

E. International Labour Organisation

54. Because of the current situation, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has not had a full opportunity to assist Lebanon in the major fields of its needs: promotion of manpower and development of technical education and vocational training. Nevertheless, ILO has maintained a certain level of activity in aid of the reconstruction and development of Lebanon with various projects and consultancy assignments. The ILO has not implemented any new projects during 1981, and those begun in the past (vocational training for youth and adults, national social security fund, technical education and vocational training, in co-operation with UNESCO) 3/continue to be in operation.

55. At the current stage, the Government and ILO authorities feel that it is of primary importance to the government reconstruction and development plan to assess the future manpower requirements in order to adjust the manpower demand and supply.

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3/ See A/35/381 and Corr.1 and 2, annex I, pp. 9-10.



58. FAO projects could be grouped under the following main topics:

(a) Planning for the future: seven projects

The most important project in this field (LEB/79/013) is a comprehensive study for the reconstruction and development of the agricultural sector, which was funded by UNDP and finalized late in 1980. The study will serve as a guide for all further projects in the field of agriculture. The main output of the project is a long-term strategy and policy for agricultural development, a proposal for the reorganization of administration, and a medium-term programme for development and reconstruction.

The other six projects relate to the preparation of feasibility studies for investment projects in the fields of hydro-agriculture (hill, lakes, dams) agricultural marketing (wholesale market), modernization and decentralization of wheat storage capacity, and production of silk.

(b) Transfer of science and technology: five projects

The main project in this category provides 50 fellowships in some 20 disciplines. Four other projects have as their objective to demonstrate technical innovations for the improvement of yields in the fields of cereal seed production, olive production, greenhouses and bee-keeping. Locally produced machinery and equipment are used as much as possible for the application of these innovations.

(c) Relaunching of animal production

This project concerns the import of cows, the establishment of milk centres, the provision and production of vaccines at a Beirut farms laboratory, the strengthening of animal health services in all veterinary centres in Lebanon, and rehabilitation of artificial insemination services in four regional centres: northern Lebanon (Abdeh), Bekaa (Hermel), Mount Lebanon (Baabdat), and southern Lebanon (Saida).

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

59. Notwithstanding the civil disturbance in the past years and in 1981, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has responded expeditiously to the requests formulated by the Government of Lebanon. Some of the projects have been met under the UNESCO regular programme, others by drawing upon the financial assistance of UNDP. The secretariat has also canvassed certain Arab funds as possible sources of extrabudgetary financing.

60. Assistance to Lebanon in the field of education has been considerably increased as a result of the return to Beirut of the regional office for education in the Arab States. In view of the special role this office is able to play, UNESCO headquarters has made great efforts to strengthen its staff with specialists



covering various fields: educational planning, administration, the economics of education, school buildings, equipment, curriculum design, evaluation, non-formal education, popular education, and technical and vocational training.

61. In co-operation with the regional office, the Government has already identified as an area for priority action the general re-equipping of the physics, chemistry and natural sciences laboratories in public secondary schools and institutions of further education, including training courses for those teaching these subjects. The total cost of the project is \$13,200,000, part of which is met from a loan granted to Lebanon by the Islamic Development Bank. UNESCO undertook the implementation of the project late in 1980.

62. Authorities have assigned top priority to technical training with a view to restoring the network of technical and vocational schools. This priority has been substantiated by exceptional budgetary allocations from the Government.

63. The project of resumption and transformation of technical education is carried out by UNESCO in close co-operation with ILO and is tied to a \$6.6 million loan from the World Bank for re-equipping technical and vocational training institutions. A budget of \$1 million was allocated to finance the provision of 72 experts and consultant man/months, plus a training scheme for 100 man/months and the purchase of \$20,000 worth of equipment.

64. High priority was also given by the Government to strengthening the faculty of engineering and to training, within the proposed department, the professional staff needed to apply the national development policy. Besides 94 man/months for expert-consultant services and 70 man/months for training, UNESCO has allocated \$100,000 for equipment.

65. In addition to all these projects, which began in 1980, UNESCO has answered several requests from the Government under the participation programme for the training abroad of Lebanese students and for consultants to advise the Government in certain priority fields of reconstruction and development.

66. Moreover, UNESCO has studied the possibility of installing a network of regional centres for ecological information, and for the promotion of cultural activities (\$15,000 for the publication of a book on traditional architecture) and protection for archaeological sites.

#### H. World Health Organization

67. Close technical co-operation was maintained among the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health, and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), as well as with United Nations and national agencies. However, full assistance to the Ministry of Health in its restructuring was hampered since the recruitment of suitable personnel had to be postponed until circumstances would allow the Ministry to be fully operational. The same difficulty was also encountered for the projects in the development of a National Public Health Laboratory. Nevertheless, supplies and equipment have been provided, as well as

fellowships (\$181,554). The WHO fellowship programme has been very substantial in this regard (25 fellowships a year at a cost of \$266,400 for 1980-1981).

68. Important progress was also made by the National Waste Management Plan project funded by UNDP (\$2,150,580), which has succeeded in following the established schedule of its work plan. Its main objective is to improve the sanitary conditions of the country, mainly by preventing degradation of the environment through appropriate sewerage, and stormwater and solid waste systems. The project is also examining the economic feasibility of the use of heat energy generated by solid waste incineration to meet some of the industrial energy needs. On the other hand, WHO will assist the Government in preparing legislation for water pollution and quality control, as well as for the establishment of an environmental agency.

69. There is an urgent need for the strengthening of the Ministry of Health and of governmental health services, and for their reorganization, restructuring and reorientation towards integrated health care, with strong emphasis on preventive and promotional activities.

70. The main problem posed to public health activities remains the insufficient number of public health personnel. In this regard, manpower development must be geared to actual needs, within the framework of a comprehensive national health policy and plan.

71. WHO places great importance on health care problems in Lebanon. It has assigned from its regular budget \$944,600 for the biennium 1980-1981, for the reorganization and development of health services in Lebanon. This includes rehabilitation, supplies and equipment to strengthen hospital and health services, identification of priority health needs, epidemiological surveillance, disease control, and emergency services.

#### I. World Bank

72. During 1981 no new loan agreements were contracted between the World Bank and the Government of Lebanon. The activities of the World Bank were limited to ongoing loans, which were already contracted and which concerned the following sectors:

- (a) Port rehabilitation;
- (b) Telecommunication rehabilitation;
- (c) Water supply and sanitation rehabilitation;
- (d) Rehabilitation of technical education and vocational training;
- (e) Transport and communication;

(f) Other studies: urban reconstruction, rural development, industrial estates, and public transportation.

73. The following is the list of the active World Bank loans:

(a) Loan No. 877 LE (Amendment) - Education project, signed on 12 July 1977 for an amount of \$6.6 million (The first loan agreement was signed on 24 January 1973.)

(b) Loan No. 944 LE (Amendment) - Highway project for an amount of \$33 million (The first loan agreement was signed on 21 November 1973.)

(c) Loan No. 1476 LE - Reconstruction project, signed on 12 July 1977 for an amount of \$50 million, divided over four components:

- (i) Port rehabilitation (part A of the project)
- (ii) Telecommunication rehabilitation (part B of the project)
- (iii) Water supply and sanitation rehabilitation (part C of the project)
- (iv) Other studies (part D of the project): urban reconstruction, rural development, industrial estates, public transportation or other studies, and unallocated funds.

74. In July 1977 the World Bank decided to assist the post civil war reconstruction efforts with a loan of \$50 million (loan No. 1476 LE). During the civil war of 1975-1976, Beirut, along with several other cities and villages, were badly affected. There was extensive damage, estimated at roughly \$2 billion to \$3 billion. The country's production capacity was reduced by some 40 to 50 per cent at the end of 1976 in comparison with the end of 1974.

75. There was a need to restore a minimum level of key public services to allow for the resumption of the regional role of Lebanon as a service centre for the Middle East. The Government of Lebanon gave top priority to facilitating the recovery of the private sector. The reconstruction project of the World Bank included rehabilitation and restoration of the port of Beirut and of the telecommunications system to pre-war levels.

76. The project was also designed to rehabilitate the water supply and sanitary facilities of Beirut in order to ease the situation. Studies were to be carried out with a view to accelerating the preparation of future projects for urban reconstruction and regional development. They included a programme for urban reconstruction and regional development, with sites and services for low-cost housing, industrial decentralization, integrated rural development in the poorest regions of Lebanon and a mass transit project.

77. Loan No. 1476 LE is for a period of 17 years with three and a half years of grace, at 8.2 per cent per annum. This loan agreement (of \$50 million) was suspended and is now under consideration for reactivation since this project relates to the CDR plans for reconstruction and the infrastructure part.

## VI. SOUTHERN LEBANON

78. Previous reports have outlined the abject poverty of the southern region in the past and the damage suffered as a result of war. In this respect, the situation has not changed since 1980. No major reconstruction and development is feasible in the current circumstances. The area continues to suffer from water and electricity shortages, inadequate communications, and backwardness in many social and economic sectors. Continuous air attacks and shellings cause frequent disruption of daily life and provoke temporary displacement of people from their homes to safer areas. Intensified bombardment from the air, sea and land in the month of July 1981 resulted in the destruction of the bridges in the region and in heavy damage to the Zahrani oil refinery and other installations.

79. On the whole, in spite of the continuing insecurity and inadequate living conditions, the inhabitants have made great efforts to restore normal conditions to the extent possible and to maintain economic activity. Emergency repairs were immediately carried out on the destroyed bridges and traffic was quickly restored along detours and make-shift passages. The Government is placing an order in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the supply of permanent bridges. The UNICEF programme, described below, was also unaffected in any major way by the trouble in July and the work schedule is being maintained. One result of the troubles in Beirut, Zahle and other parts of the country was that people who had earlier fled to Beirut, Saida and other places returned to the relative safety of their old homes. The presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon has brought a considerable measure of security to the area of operations and through its humanitarian offices at the battalion level, it has helped the people concerned to lead a more or less normal life.

### A. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

80. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continues to play an important role in southern Lebanon. Its humanitarian activities, undertaken at the village level, concern health promotion, water distribution, assistance in repairing houses and school buildings, restoring small roads, and trying to bring the villages back as much as possible to normal life. In this regard, the humanitarian officers try to assist each village in accordance with its needs and requests.

81. As in the past, UNIFIL personnel or Lebanese civilians wounded in the area as a result of shelling or accidents were evacuated by UNIFIL helicopter to the

hospital at Naquoura (there were 55 medical evacuations, 47 of them by helicopter and eight by ambulance).

82. In conjunction with the battalions' medical centres, and in the absence of other facilities, the hospital also continued to treat the local population as required. Since the beginning of the year, the out-patient clinic has had a total of 5,084 patients - 3,070 UNIFIL personnel and 2,014 Lebanese civilians. In the same period, the hospital admitted and treated 422 patients - 274 UNIFIL personnel and 148 Lebanese civilians. The surgical unit of the hospital, in its two operational theatres, performed 269 operations - 189 cases of minor surgery and 80 cases of major surgery. A total of 1,449 X-ray examinations were performed. The hospital dentist treated 1,643 patients.

83. During the period under review, UNIFIL medical personnel intensified contacts with the Lebanese authorities, in connexion with both the upgrading of medical services for the population in the area and the use of hospitals in Tyre and Saida for the referral of civilian cases.

84. A Lebanese engineering company, 130 strong, has been stationed at Arzun and is working on improving existing buildings and the construction of shelters. It will also undertake projects for the benefit of the civilian population in the area of operation. A Lebanese medical team of nine, led by a doctor, has joined the staff of the Tibnin hospital.

85. On the other hand, UNIFIL gives its full co-operation to UNICEF activities for the rehabilitation of the drinking water supply and of school and hospitals dispensary buildings, and to other United Nations or voluntary agencies (the Young Men's Christian Association, for instance). Moreover, as in the past, UNIFIL personnel supervised in accord with the Ministry of Education, the annual baccalaureat examinations held in southern Lebanon in 1981.

#### B. United Nations Children's Fund

86. An agreement between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), to which reference was made in the previous report, was signed on 14 October 1980. Under it, UNICEF is designated as the Government's executing agency for a number of rehabilitation projects in the south. The agreement will run for five years, and the estimated cost of the projects to be implemented under it is approximately \$45 million. The funds come from the Arab League aid pledged to Lebanon two years ago, and will be placed at the disposal of UNICEF in accordance with an agreed programme. A Monitoring Committee consisting of the President of the CDR, the United Nations Co-ordinator and UNICEF, approves the programme of work prepared by UNICEF and oversees the progress of implementation. UNIFIL provides security and logistics support where needed and has also helped by carrying out ground surveys and providing personnel to run clinics, dispensaries and the like.

87. The immediate objectives of the agreement are:

(a) to repair, extend and upgrade pre-primary, primary and intermediate schools;

(b) to restore or repair dispensaries, health centres and hospitals and provide the required medical supplies and equipment;

(c) to rehabilitate the basic water-supply network, repair pumping stations, water mains, treatment plants, and other facilities.

88. In addition, UNICEF is also undertaking, on an experimental basis, some community self-help projects, which are drawn up with the help of local people and implemented with voluntary labour. UNICEF provides technical assistance and some equipment. For example, in the village of Rachaya-Al-Fukhar, a road is to be repaired and a church and community hall constructed at a cost of LL 200,000. At another village in the Saida district, a water reservoir is to be built at a cost of LL 10,000. The initial response to these projects has been very encouraging and the programme may be expanded.

89. The UNICEF programme also provides for the training of technicians and health personnel and for the in-service training of teachers.

90. The Government is taking measures to induce the staff required to manage and run the various facilities to return to the region. Meanwhile, medical, engineering and other personnel were included in the Lebanese Army contingents recently deployed in southern Lebanon with a view to helping the rehabilitation programme.

91. A UNICEF office for the south was opened at Qana in March 1981 in order to supervise the implementation of the projects. The position by June 1981 was that a total of 140 projects, of a total value of approximately \$12 million, had been presented to the Monitoring Committee for review and approval. Of these projects, 72 were being implemented by the end of July. Medical equipment for the Tyre and Tibnine hospitals arrived at the beginning of July.

92. On the basis of a socio-economic survey of local needs and potential carried out by UNIFIL, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee has indicated to the Government the various fields - such as agriculture, handicrafts and small-scale industry, and communications - in which the United Nations system can render further technical assistance. If the Government so desires, the United Nations agencies concerned are ready to help in drawing up and implementing specific projects.

#### C. World Food Programme

93. The continuous shelling of the areas of Nabatiyeh, Hasbaya, Tyre and Marjeyoun has created not only a feeling of insecurity but a food shortage.

At the request of the Government, to meet the needs of people affected by disturbances in 1981, the World Food Programme provided 500 million tons of wheat flour, 42 million tons of vegetable oil, and 10 million tons of canned meat, for distribution to 8,300 families in southern Lebanon.

D. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

94. Within the framework of its rehabilitation programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) participates in the joint UNICEF and UNIFIL efforts to ensure adequate health care facilities for the population of southern Lebanon. An amount of \$53,000 has been allocated by UNHCR for the procurement of drugs and medical supplies to meet the needs of up to 50,000 patients from the region. At the end of May 1981 the first batch of medicines arrived at Beirut Airport and was sent to UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura. From there they are distributed by UNIFIL to the four dispensaries of Qana, Taibeh, Kantarah and Shebaa, the outclinic in Naqoura and the medical services of the different UNIFIL battalions treating civilian patients.

95. For the latter part of 1981, three projects are designed to assist the population of southern Lebanon: first, continuation of the above-mentioned procurement of drugs and medical supplies for the dispensaries and UNIFIL medical services; secondly, rehabilitation of handicapped displaced children; and thirdly, lower secondary vocational training for displaced children.

E. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

96. The Government of Lebanon is concerned about the protection of the archaeological and cultural sites and monuments of the city of Tyre, and has asked the Director-General to take officially all necessary steps to ensure their protection in the circumstances now prevailing in southern Lebanon.

97. The Security Council took note of the measures taken by the Government of Lebanon to impress upon the international community the need to protect the site and city of Tyre in accordance with international law.

98. Concerning the protection of Tyre, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator and the Force Commander met with various leaders in order to discuss ways of respecting and protecting the site and the city.

99. Moreover, a manifestation was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in May 1981 in support of moves to protect the archaeological sites and their historic character.

100. In the same spirit, the Committee of the Festival of Tyre is preparing a film about the eight successive civilizations in Tyre and their archaeological remains.

F. Economic Commission for Western Asia

101. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) is not directly involved in southern Lebanon, but it has prepared a number of studies that would assist in the social and economic development there:

(a) "Oil shale exploitation technology at Zahrani refinery": processing of oil shale for the extraction of crude oil and directing it to a nearby cement plant in order to supply southern Lebanon with low-cost cement;

(b) "Housing": repair, reconstruction and improvement of houses through the creation of multipurpose co-operatives that would be constituted by departments responsible for each sectoral activity (housing, agriculture, consumer goods, handicraft);

(c) "Agricultural development of the south": selection of appropriate types of crops; encouraging the renewed exploitation of neglected land or reclamation of new land; encouraging of the breeding and diversification of livestock.

G. World Health Organization

102. Apart from its co-operation with UNICEF activities in southern Lebanon the World Health Organization will provide technical co-operation in the building, planning and reconstruction of hospitals, health centres, and dispensaries in the south. It will also assist with the formulation of a work programme for these institutions, particularly in the field of preventive and promotional activities and with the training for the staff required.