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**SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL
PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**

Special economic assistance to Benin

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 36/208 of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Benin. The Secretary-General was further requested to arrange for a review of the economic situation of Benin and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special economic assistance programme for that country and to report on the matter to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
2. In pursuance of the resolution, the Secretary-General arranged for a review mission to visit Benin in July 1982 to consult with the Government. The mission's report, which is attached hereto, describes the economic and financial situation of the country and summarizes the progress which has been made in implementing the special economic assistance programme. It also describes some urgent humanitarian needs that require emergency assistance.
3. In paragraph 8 of resolution 36/208, the General Assembly invited a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of Benin and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1982. Their replies will be reproduced in a report of the Secretary-General covering Benin and other countries for which the Assembly has requested the Secretary-General to organize special economic assistance programmes (A/37/L40).

ANNEX

Report of the mission to Benin

(12-17 July 1982)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General on special economic assistance to Benin (A/36/269) and, in resolution 36/208, endorsed fully the assessment and recommendations of the mission, contained in the annex to the report.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly urged the international community to support fully the efforts of the Government of Benin to mobilize funds for its special economic assistance programme. The Secretary-General was requested to arrange for a review of the economic situation of Benin and the progress made in organizing and implementing the special economic assistance programme for that country.
3. The Secretary-General arranged for a review mission to visit Benin from 12 to 17 July 1982. The mission was led by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions and Co-ordinator, Special Economic Assistance Programmes.
4. The head of the mission was received by the Interim President of the People's Republic of Benin, His Excellency Mr. Ignace Adjo Bocco. The mission worked closely with a team of senior officials from the various developmental ministries under the leadership of the Minister of Planning, Statistics and Economic Analysis. Consultations were also held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a number of other ministers responsible for various aspects of Benin's development. At the conclusion of the visit, a meeting was held with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Benin to brief them on the mission's findings.
5. The mission wishes to place on record its appreciation of the assistance and full co-operation it received from the Government of Benin in providing information necessary for the mission's work. The mission also acknowledges with appreciation the assistance it received from the Resident Representative and staff of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Cotonou.

II. OVERVIEW

6. The mission noted that, in the period under review, a number of important developments had taken place that would affect Benin's progress in economic and social development, some undoubtedly positive, others, unfortunately, negative.

A. Positive developments

1. Project implementation

7. On the positive side, some of the main projects planned for implementation during the period of the First State Plan of Economic and Social Development, 1977-1980, as well as a number of other major projects are now coming into operation. They include the cement production works at Onigbolo, established under a joint venture of Benin and Nigeria; the sugar production complex at Savé; the

exploitation of off-shore petroleum and an important maize production project. These developments can be expected to provide a substantial boost to Benin's economy in the very near future.

2. Restructuring and reorganization of state and parastatal organizations

8. As reported in the mission's principal report (A/36/269) a Special Commission was set up to carry out an evaluation of each state and parastatal organization. The Commission's report was studied by the Central Committee and the Executive National Council under the chairmanship of the President. In examining the results attained by the public bodies, the Joint Session took account not only of the objectives that had been set but also of the international economic situation, which has been particularly difficult for developing countries.

9. The steps taken at the session were guided by three principles: (a) better allocation of available resources - human, material and financial; (b) reorganization of the state economic sector through a radical restructuring of the public enterprises and to make them more efficient and a redefining of the functions assigned to certain public enterprises; and (c) improved management of the state and parastatal organizations.

10. At the conclusion of the Joint Session, a Final Communiqué was issued on 22 April 1982 which announced particulars of a major reorganization of the public enterprises. A substantial number of enterprises were dissolved; some were combined with other enterprises or had their functions taken over by other bodies; others were maintained with the application of measures to increase their efficiency. The Final Communiqué also announced a number of far-reaching economic and financial measures concerning price policy, remuneration, appointments, credit, agricultural and industrial policy.

11. These far-reaching measures can be expected to lead to greater efficiency and productiveness of the economy as a whole. The Government recognizes, however, that progress will be very much influenced by the upgrading of managerial skills at all levels through training of personnel and advisory programmes and by providing institutional support.

3. Promulgation of the Code of Investment

12. The Code of Investment which had been in force in Benin since 1972 has been revised. Benin's new Code of Investment was promulgated by the President on 20 May 1982. The provisions and guarantees of the Code cover enterprises of all kinds - state and parastatal, mixed enterprises, private investment, both national and foreign, and enterprises of importance to the economy that require a lengthy period of capital investment before realizing returns. The Code also contains provisions for the promotion and encouragement of small and medium-scale national enterprises and co-operatives. Copies of the Code may be obtained from the Government as Law No. 82-005.

13. Promulgation of the new Code with its explicit provisions and guarantees can be expected to make a significant contribution to increasing the attractiveness of investment in Benin.

4. Response to the appeal of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations

14. The mission was pleased to note that there had been an encouraging response from various States and international and intergovernmental organizations to the appeal launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in October 1981 for \$149 million to meet the cost of urgent development projects under the special economic assistance programme. As of 17 July 1982, about \$81.3 million of the funds required had been provided or firmly pledged. This assistance, which should enable a number of projects to get under way or reach full implementation, can be expected to strengthen Benin's infrastructural and economic base and provide additional impetus to economic activity in the country and the advancement of the social well-being of the population.

B. Negative developments

1. Disequilibrium in the balance of payments

15. Preliminary figures indicate that the deficit in Benin's external trade in goods and services increased still further in 1981. Both external and domestic factors have contributed to this. Continuation of economic recession in major industrialized countries, reflected in depressed demand and world prices for agricultural commodities have adversely affected Benin's export earnings; at the same time, continued global inflation has increased the cost of imports. Domestic developments were also unfavourable. Benin's 1980/81 harvest of cotton - one of the country's principal exports - was 36 per cent less than in the previous year.

16. A recovery in cotton production is anticipated for 1981/82 as a result of increases in the prices paid to producers. Rehabilitation of oil-palm plantations is expected to raise output in this area also.

2. Drought

17. As a result of drought, Benin experienced a poor harvest in 1980/81. Prices for most food staples rose substantially in 1981 as compared with the previous year; these increases primarily affected people living in the capital city, Cotonou, and other urban areas.

18. Unfortunately, the 1981/82 harvest has also been adversely affected by climatic conditions. In the north of Benin, drought resulted in a major shortfall in the sorghum crop, while failure of the second rains (September/October 1981) in the south resulted in the failure of the second maize crop. The Government estimated that the 1981/82 cereal harvest would be about 40 per cent reduced from normal levels.

3. Floods

19. Climatic vagaries were again experienced by Benin in June/July 1982 when the coastal areas of the country were subjected to exceptionally heavy rains. Widespread flooding occurred causing dislocation, hardship and, in particular, serious health hazards to the people of Cotonou, Porto Novo and all the other coastal settlements. The Government estimated that about 500,000 people were affected. About 80,000 of these were forced out of their homes and had to seek refuge in the homes of relatives or friends or in temporary shelters set up by the Government. As the waters were very slow to recede, it was expected that about 1,500 would find it necessary to remain in shelter centres for several months.
20. The situation made it necessary for the Government to institute a number of special measures for emergency relief of the population affected by the floods. The mission, accompanied by the UNDP Resident Representative, was taken by helicopter to all the affected areas.
21. On 23 July 1982, the Government of Benin officially requested international assistance to help support its relief efforts.
22. As of early August 1982, contributions amounting to \$525,000 had been pledged. A request, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Benin, was submitted to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) for medicines, vaccines, disinfectants, blankets, food and implements and materials necessary to repair drainage and water-supply systems. Details of relief requirements may be obtained from UNDRO, Geneva, or from the Government of Benin.

C. Exchange rate

23. Benin is a member of the franc zone and the national unit of currency is the Communauté financière africaine franc (CFAF), which is linked to the French franc at the rate of CFAF 50 to FF 1.00.
24. For the purposes of the present report, estimates of project costs and amounts of contributions made by various donors towards the recommended programme have been expressed in United States dollars.
25. Where it was necessary to convert project cost estimates from CFA francs to United States dollars in document A/36/269, conversions were made at the rate of CFAF 250 to \$US 1.00. However, in the period under review, the French franc and, with it, the CFA franc, depreciated against other major currencies. Where it was necessary to make conversions from CFA francs to United States dollars, the mission used the rate of CFAF 330 to \$US 1.00.
26. The depreciation of the CFA franc adds to the burden of Benin's debt repayment, since much of the country's external debt was contracted outside the French zone (see paras. 35-36). However, since the bulk of Benin's external trade is conducted within the franc zone, the depreciation of the CFAF is not expected to have a marked impact on Benin's trade balance.

III. ECONOMY AND FINANCES

A. Gross domestic product

27. The Government of Benin provided the following series of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), in current prices, expressed in billions of CFAC:

<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
134	149	166	193	225	234

Since the over-all rate of inflation in Benin was estimated at 12 per cent for 1980 and at a somewhat higher figure (12.5 to 13.0 per cent) for 1981, these figures would indicate that the economy of Benin experienced a decline in real terms in 1981.

28. It should be noted, however, that assessment of the evolution of the Benin economy is very difficult owing to lack of certain statistical data, especially the lack of direct data on the output of goods and services in the most recent period. The statistical difficulties are compounded by the fact that much activity in such important sectors as agriculture and commerce takes place outside the monetary economy.

29. The mission was informed that arrangements have been made for Benin to receive some technical assistance to help overcome this situation, but for this assistance to be effective and to ensure continuity and progress in the area of national statistics, accelerated training programmes are required.

B. Government budget

30. By continuing its policy of tight control on expenditures and by improving and expanding revenue collection, the Government continues to effect a surplus in the recurrent budget. Nevertheless, the surplus permits the financing of only a relatively modest part of the Government's investment programme. External assistance remains essential for the implementation of the country's development programme.

31. Wages and salaries paid to government personnel constitute two thirds of central government expenditures. Duties and taxes on external trade constitute the most important source of fiscal receipts, 65 per cent in 1980.

C. Balance of payments

32. Major disequilibrium in external trade continues to be a feature of Benin's balance of payments. In 1979 and 1980, earnings from official exports amounted to less than one half the cost of imports. The deficit on external merchandise trade approximated 58 billion CFAF in each of these years. Preliminary figures for 1981 indicate a further increase in this deficit.

Table 1. Budget receipts and expenditures
 (Millions of CFAF)

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982*</u>
Fiscal receipts, of which taxes and duties on international trade	31,833.6	35,511.5	38,861.6	50,937.0
	17,241.1	23,146.2	...	
Expenditures	21,293.0	24,176.3	31,071.6	
Personnel	14,427.5	16,346.5	21,076.9	
Material	2,065.0	2,281.2	2,368.9	
Other	4,800.5	5,548.7	7,625.7	
Surplus	10,540.6	11,335.2	7,790.0	

* Proposed budget.

Table 2. Balance of payments
 (Millions of CFAF)

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Merchandise trade	- 58,400	- 57,500
Goods and services	- 44,900	- 44,000
Transfers	+ 21,800	+ 21,800
Non-monetary capital	+ 20,400	20,400
Monetary capital*	+ 2,700	+ 1,800

* A plus sign (+) signifies a decrease in assets or an increase in liabilities

33. The deficits have been covered for the most part by public and private transfers and by net inflows of capital. To a lesser extent there has been recourse to monetary institutions.

34. The Government is giving careful study to the problem of unrecorded trade between Benin and neighbouring countries. Unrecorded exports and re-exports constitute a substantial part of Benin's external trade.

D. External debt

35. At year-end 1981, Benin's external indebtedness amounted to 147.1 billion CFAF. Although this total represents an increase as compared with the year-end 1980 figure of 131.9 billion CFAF, the rate of increase in Benin's external indebtedness has slowed down considerably (see table 3).

36. However, since much of the debt was contracted outside the franc zone, the burden of debt repayment for Benin will be substantially increased by the depreciation of the CFA franc during 1981 and 1982.

Table 3. External debt
(Millions of CFAF)

	Year-end 1979	Year-end 1980	Year-end 1981
Principal	60,447.2	105,328.7	123,646.4
Interest and other charges	13,518.5	26,535.9	23,461.4
Total indebtedness	73,965.7	131,864.6	147,107.8

E. Progress in implementing the First Development Plan 1977-1980

37. Benin's development programme is carried out within the context of the First State Plan of Economic and Social Development, 1977-1980. Actual annual investment expenditures have increased from 27.4 billion CFAF in 1977/78 to 43.0 billion CFAF in 1980/81.

38. Total expenditures during the first three years of the Plan amounted to 114.3 billion CFAF, giving an average implementation rate of 46.9 per cent. The Government identified a number of constraints to the implementation of its development programme.

39. Firstly, since about four fifths of development expenditures are financed from external resources, the Government's ability to implement an investment programme is highly dependent on the adequacy, continuity and predictability of these funds.

40. A second constraint is the lack of funds to meet the local funding contribution required by some donors. It would be most helpful if donors would waive that requirement.

41. A third difficulty is the lack of financial resources to meet the recurrent costs associated with some projects. Donors are invited to consider assistance to help meet these costs, in whole or in part, until the projects become self-supporting.

42. With a view to expediting and facilitating the implementation of its development programme, the Government has, on its part, taken steps to overcome a number of constraints in various areas: government ratification procedures have been reviewed and clarified; disbursement procedures have been simplified, and increased technical assistance has been sought and obtained for project design, architectural studies, etc.

43. One serious constraint to the implementation of Benin's investment programme, however, continues to be the lack of qualified middle-level personnel. This deficiency is evident in almost all sectors of the economy and impedes the implementation of projects in such vital areas as water supplies and road construction.

IV. MOBILIZATION OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES

44. The Government of Benin is anxious to develop a close partnership with donors in the implementation of its development programme. In the period under review, important steps have been taken to promote fruitful relations with donor countries and agencies.

45. In September 1981, representatives of the Government of Benin participated in the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Paris. A list of priority development projects for which external assistance was required was submitted to the Conference.

46. In October 1981, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed a letter, enclosing a copy of the mission's principal report (A/36/269), to all Member States, describing the serious economic and social problems facing Benin and appealing for generous assistance to enable the Government to carry out a recommended programme of short-term and medium-term development. Letters, with copies of the mission's report, were also sent to all relevant United Nations agencies and organizations and to pertinent regional and interregional organizations and financial institutions. An encouraging response was made by the international community, as detailed in section V.

47. In order to promote a better understanding of Benin's development efforts, needs and objectives, the Government has decided to organize, in co-operation with UNDP a Round Table Conference of Development Partners, to be held in Cotonou during the second half of January 1983. The Government hopes that all existing and potential donors that are invited will attend the Conference, and participate fully in the discussions. It is hoped that this Conference will lead to a positive response to the financing of Benin's National Development Plan which will be launched in 1983.

V. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

48. The special economic assistance programme drawn up in May 1981 by the interagency mission to Benin, in consultation with the Government of that country, called for international assistance amounting to \$149.3 million.

49. Based on information provided by the Government of Benin to the first review mission, total international assistance provided or pledged, related to the special economic assistance programme for Benin, amounted to \$81.3 million as of 17 July 1982 (see tables 4 and 5).

50. Over 40 per cent of the assistance was for projects to provide Benin's urban and rural areas with potable water supplies. A further 30 per cent of the total amount provided or pledged was for food and health programmes, with all of the health projects eliciting some response. Most of the rural development projects elicited some response from the international community, but important projects such as the national seed multiplication plan and the Parakou veterinary diagnostic laboratory remain unfunded.

51. Regrettably, three proposed projects to promote Benin's agro-industries have not yet received any funding, nor have a number of projects in the area of education.

52. In view of the integrated approach to development which the Government is endeavouring to pursue and the interrelationships between individual projects and between sectors, it is hoped that the additional funding required will be forthcoming.

53. It will be noted from table 4 that a number of the original project cost estimates have been revised. The revisions include the reformulation of projects to conform more closely with Government policy, the incorporation of the results of technical studies of projects and of refined cost estimates, and the expansion of a number of projects in size and duration.

VI. SUMMARY

54. The first review mission found that, in the period between May 1981 and July 1982, a number of important developments had taken place in Benin that would affect the country's progress in economic and social development.

55. On the positive side, a number of major projects planned in recent years are now coming into operation and can be expected to provide a substantial boost to Benin's economy in the near future. They include production of cement, sugar and maize and off-short petroleum exploitation.

56. The Benin Government has embarked upon a series of institutional and procedural reforms that are expected to enhance the efficiency with which domestic and external resources are utilized. The Government's decision to restructure and reorganize the State and parastatal organizations can be expected to result in improved efficiency, higher levels of productivity and increased output. The Government recognizes that these measures need to be supplemented by the upgrading of managerial skills at all levels.

Table 4. International response to the United Nations special economic assistance programme

Status of estimated costs and contributions provided or pledged by sector, as of 17 July 1982

(United States dollars)

(Based on information provided by the Government of Benin, donors and the United Nations)

	Original project cost estimates	Revised project cost estimates	External financing provided or firmly pledged
I. <u>Development assistance needs:</u>			
A. Rural development	41 326 852	48 860 600	5 784 650
B. Transport	26 210 000	23 785 750	8 949 000
C. Water	30 050 000	30 050 000	34 836 900
D. Industry and construction	5 950 000	8 750 000	1 361 750
E. Human resources development	24 990 000	60 069 210	6 630 396
Total	<u>128 526 852</u>	<u>171 515 560</u>	<u>57 562 696</u>
II. <u>Health and food needs:</u>			
A. Health	2 980 000	22 926 140	10 504 588
B. Food	17 800 000	17 800 000	13 244 010
Total	<u>20 780 000</u>	<u>40 726 140</u>	<u>23 748 598</u>
Grand Total	<u><u>149 306 852</u></u>	<u><u>212 241 700</u></u>	<u><u>81 311 294</u></u>

Table 5. Status of project costs and contributions as of 17 July 1982
(United States dollars)

(Based on information supplied by the Government of Benin,
donors and the United Nations)

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided Amount	or pledged Source of funding
<u>I. Development assistance needs</u>				
<u>A. Rural development</u>				
A-1	National seed multiplication plan	15 205 000	-	
A-2	Construction of buildings to house agricultural research laboratories	2 457 000	30 000	UNDP
A-3	Assistance to the food crops research programme	2 457 000	88 000 151 515	World Food Programme (WFP) Fonds d'aide et de coopération (FAC)
A-4	Parakou veterinary diagnostic laboratory	1 642 000	-	
A-5	Development and improvement of sheep-rearing	1 338 000	-	
A-6	Improvement of livestock product marketing	3 343 750	10 000	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
	Charcoal production enterprise	1 609 000	44 000) 1 745 510)	WFP
A-8	Permanent monitoring of the forest cover	1 099 800	330 000 146 875	Arab Gulf Fund United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
A-9	Strengthening of SONIAH development of Benin's water resources (preliminary phase)	1 848 000	176 000	WFP

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided Amount	or pledged Source of funding
A-10	Agricultural survey and establishment of a permanent system of agricultural statistics	3 034 050	20 000	UNDP/FAO
A-11	Equipment of agricultural research and technical assistance laboratories	3 021 000	40 000 15 150	UNDP/FAO FAC (confirmed)
A-12	Okpara Ranch	5 072 000	1 521 600	Conseil de l'entente
A-13	Equipment for Niger River Basin fishermen	1 091 000	-	
A-14	Assistance to the national plant protection service	3 000 000	150 000 610 000	UNDP/FAO Federal Republic of Germany
A-15	Assistance in family economics	2 643 000	250 000 25 000) 84 000) 79 000 250 000 18 000	WFP FAO Voluntary Fund for United Nations Decade for Women UNEP United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Total, A		<u>48 860 000</u>	<u>5 784 650</u>	
B. <u>Transport</u>				
T-1	Comprehensive transport plan	600 000	-	
T-2	New exit road in Contonu	7 680 000	3 000 000	a/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
T-3	Bridges on the Mono and Sazue rivers	7 575 750	4 375 000	West African Development Bank

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided Amount	or pledged Source of funding
T-4	Rehabilitation and improvement of 100 km of railway track between Cotonou and Savé	7 930 000	1 574 000	FAC
	Total, B	<u>23 785 750</u>	<u>8 949 000</u>	
C. <u>Water</u>				
W-1	Potable water supply for villages	10 000 000	1 800 000	United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
			1 400 000	OPEC/UNICEF
			4 500 000	European Development Fund (EDF)
			5 000 000	Conseil de l'entente
			178 370	WFP
			300 000	UNDP
			90 000	Multilateral sources
			439 436	Netherlands
			1 434 034	Switzerland
W-2	Urban water development	19 200 000	800 000	Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
			90 910)	African Development Fund (ADF)/African Development Bank (ADB)
			515 150)	
			18 089 000	Federal Republic of Germany
W-3	Strengthening of the national hydrometric network	850 000	200 000	UNDP/OPEC/EDF
	Total, C	<u>30 050 000</u>	<u>34 836 900</u>	

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided Amount	or pledged Source of funding
D. <u>Industry and construction</u>				
1. <u>Agro-industries</u>				
I-1	Industrial production of soluble flour from yams	2 500 000	-	
I-1	Production of gari and tapioca from manioc	2 900 000		
I-3	Strengthening of the Benin Agricultural Equipment Co-operative (COBEMAG)	350 000	-	
	Subtotal	<u>5 750 000</u>	<u>-</u>	
2. <u>Building materials and construction industries</u>				
C-1	Research and development of materials used in construction	950 000	1 225 750 100 000 72 000	UNDP UNDP/Revolving Fund United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS)
C-2	Analysis of the current housing situation and proposals for a construction and housing policy	400 000	54 000	UNCHS
C-3	Preparation of town plans for six district capitals	650 000	- b/	
C-4	Photographic mapping survey of the national territory	1 000 000	-	
	Subtotal	<u>3 000 000</u>	<u>1 361 750</u>	
	Total, D	<u>8 750 000</u>	<u>1 361 750</u>	

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			<u>provided</u> Amount	<u>or pledged</u> Source of funding
E. <u>Human resources development</u>				
1. <u>Education</u>				
E-1	Construction and equipping of 200 primary schools	5 200 000	1 600 000 1 865 470 45 450 431 640	UNCDF Netherlands UNICEF WFP
E-2	Secondary school laboratories (100)	5 013 600	-	
E-3	Secondary school vocational centres (30)	1 023 000	-	
E-4	One university student hostel	1 656 000	-	
E-5	Five university departments	20 792 000	-	
E-6	University library	1 094 000	-	
E-7	Polytechnical colleges (22)	14 922 610	-	
	Subtotal	<u>49 701 210</u>	<u>3 942 560</u>	
2. <u>Planning and training</u>				
P-1	Household budget survey	2 000 000	-	
P-2	Human resources planning	1 500 000	625 000	UNDP/International Labour Organisation (ILO)
P-3	Training of management personnel for State enterprises	2 050 000	273 966	UNDP/ILO
	Subtotal	<u>5 550 000</u>	<u>898 966</u>	

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided Amount	or pledged Source of funding
3. <u>Labour-intensive employment</u>				
L-1	Labour-intensive public works	4 818 000	510 050 424 740 242 000 537 080 75 000	UNDP Norway Italy WFP UNDP
	Subtotal	4 818 000	1 788 870	
	Total, E	60 069 210	6 630 396	
	Total I (development assistance needs)	177 515 560	57 562 696	
II. <u>Health and food needs</u>				
A. <u>Health</u>				
H-1	Village health units (training of personnel and provision of medicines)	2 722 510	170 000 681 818	UNICEF Netherlands
H-2	Anti-malaria campaign	4 090 910	36 600	WHO/Gulf States
H-3	Extension of the vaccination and immunization programme	4 000 000	226 700	WHO/UNICEF
H-4	Construction and equipping of 60 community health centres and district hospitals	7 956 360	1 460 000 3 840 000 102 000 581 260 1 276 590	UNCDF Federal Republic of Germany UNICEF Switzerland Japan
H-5	Additional equipment for hospitals	3 636 360	7 500 1 702 120	UNICEF Japan

No.	Project Title	Latest estimated project costs	External financing	
			provided or pledged Amount	Source of funding
H-6	Training of paramedical personnel and extended facilities	520 000	420 000	WHO
	Total, A	22 926 140	10 504 588	
B. <u>Food</u>				
F-1	Feeding of hospital patients (3 years)	1 000 000	-	
F-2	Assistance to nursing mothers and infants	4 500 000	-	
F-3	Feeding of children in schools (school canteens - 3 years)	4 500 000	1 672 000 c/)	
WFP			6 982 000)	
F-4	Community development projects (3 years)	2 500 000	1 408 000) 1 320 930) 550 000)	WFP
F-5	Budget support	5 300 000	537 000 318 180 455 900	WFP FAC European Economic Community (EEC)
	Total, B	17 800 000	13 244 010	
	Total II (health and food needs)	40 726 140	23 748 598	
	Grand total	212 241 700	81 311 294	

a/ Includes also financing from the national budget.

b/ Under a separate project, FAC is providing \$515,150 for town planning and sanitation studies for seven district capitals.

c/ Period 1983-1985.

57. In May 1982, Benin's revised Code of Investment was promulgated by the President. This development should contribute to increase the attractiveness of investment in Benin.
58. Moreover, the mission found an encouraging response on the part of the international community to the projects listed in the special economic assistance programme, as detailed in the mission's principal report (A/36/269). Contributions amounting to approximately \$81.3 million, more than one half of the cost of the original programme had been provided or firmly pledged by 17 July 1982. This assistance, by permitting a number of projects to get under way or reach completion, can be expected to strengthen Benin's infrastructure and economic base and to contribute to the economic and social well-being of Benin's population.
59. A number of cost estimates of projects in the programme have been revised upwards. The revised programme amounts to \$212.2 million. In some instances, the revisions have resulted from the reformulation of projects to conform more closely with government policy. In other cases, the revised costs have resulted from the incorporation of the results of technical studies and refined cost estimates.
60. Unfortunately, climatic conditions were not favourable to Benin in 1981/82. Early government estimates based on incomplete returns indicated that, as a result of drought and irregular rainfall, the 1981/82 cereal harvest would be about 40 per cent reduced from normal levels.
61. Moreover, in mid-1982, the coastal areas of the country were subjected to exceptionally heavy and concentrated rains, which resulted in widespread flooding. The Government instituted a number of special measures for emergency relief of the population affected by the floods and on 23 July 1982 officially requested international assistance to help support these efforts. As of early August 1982, contributions amounting to \$525,000 had been pledged.
62. The mission noted that preliminary estimates indicated that the deficit on Benin's external merchandise trade increased in 1981 as compared with 1980, when it amounted to about 58 billion CFAF. With regard to the internal balance, the mission found that the Government, through its policy of tight control on expenditure and by its efforts to improve and expand revenue collection, had continued in 1981 to effect a modest surplus in the recurrent budget. However, this permits the financing of only a relatively small part of the country's development programme, which must continue to depend on external assistance.
63. The mission was informed that, with a view to promoting a better understanding of Benin's development efforts, needs and objectives, the Government has decided to organize, in co-operation with UNDP a Round Table Conference of Development Partners, to be held at Cotonou during the second half of January 1983. At that meeting, the Government will present and explain its development strategies as set out in the National Development Plan for the period 1983 to 1987. The meeting will also afford an opportunity for an exchange of views between the Government and its development partners on ways and means of ensuring the effective mobilization and utilization of external resources for its development programmes.

VII. PROGRESS REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS IN THE
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

1. Development assistance needs

A. Rural development

1. General

64. Agriculture, stock-raising, forestry and fisheries together account for approximately 45 per cent of Benin's GDP. Exports of agricultural products - mainly oil seeds, cotton, cocoa and coffee - account for about 70 per cent of Benin's trade exports.

65. During the past 12 months, the Government has taken various measures to improve the performance of agricultural institutions, to increase agricultural production and to provide additional assistance to farmers.

(a) Reorganization of agricultural institutions

66. A public commission has completed an evaluation of the performance of each parastatal organization in the agricultural sector and as a result has decided on a number of basic changes in their functions and responsibilities. The thrust of the changes involves the strengthening of the Centres for Regional Co-ordination for Rural Development (CARDERS) and the amalgamation of agricultural activities in a smaller number of state enterprises. For instance, the National Company for Agricultural Development (SONAGRI - an enterprise engaged in importing production inputs, namely fertilizers, insecticides, light agricultural equipment, cotton gins), the Fund for the Stabilization of Agricultural Prices (FAS), and the National Company for Commerce and Exports from Benin (SONACEB - an enterprise responsible for the exporting of Benin's agricultural products and cement and tobacco and for a peanut-shelling plant) have been amalgamated into one institution, the National Company for Agricultural Products (SONAPRA). Some institutions have been abolished, e.g., SODERA, SONAPECHE. The CARDERS have been made responsible for cotton ginning, the tobacco-mining centre and peanut production and processing as well as for the co-operative plantations.

(b) Increase of agricultural production

67. During the year, the Government pursued its integrated approach to rural development, and integrated rural development projects were launched in Borgou and Zou, with World Bank assistance.

(c) Assistance to farmers

68. The Government has introduced a number of measures which aim at increasing the supply of agricultural inputs to enable farmers to improve yields and protect plants from pests. The Government is also examining improved methods of marketing local produce.

69. Unfortunately, during 1981, the country again suffered from irregular and inadequate rainfall in some regions and this has resulted in a major shortfall in food production.

2. Status of projects

70. The special programme of economic assistance includes projects which were designed to improve the cultivation of a variety of export and food crops, extend the acreage under cultivation, exploit to the maximum the potential of both sea and river fishing, develop stock-raising through the improved use of pasture lands, eradicate tsetse flies, improve veterinary care and improve marketing methods. The following summarizes the progress which has been achieved on each project in the rural development sector:

A-1 National seed multiplication plan (original cost estimate: \$15,205,000)

71. This is a multifaceted project, part of which is currently being financed by EDF. Attention is being devoted to production, stocking and conservation of seeds and also to cereals. A phytosanitary control programme for seed multiplication, in particular for manioc, has been established. If the national manioc multiplication programme is successful this year, a new two- or three-year project might be undertaken. The production of basic seeds is financed by the National Investment Fund (FNI) to the amount of \$81,250.

A-2 Construction of buildings to house agricultural research laboratories (original cost estimate: \$2,457,000)

72. The housing of these four laboratories has been contemplated by the Government for some time. It is planned to construct the crop protection laboratory next to the agropedology building. A very modest contribution of \$30,000 has been made by UNDP, but the work has not effectively got under way. A biometrics laboratory, financed by the West Africa Rice Development Association, has been opened.

A-3 Assistance to the food crops research programme (original cost estimate: \$529,000; revised cost estimate: \$2,457,000)

73. This programme is part of an over-all programme in Benin and is financed in part from the national budget to the amount of \$312,500. Under an agreement signed in January 1982, the French Fonds d'aide et coopération will provide 50 million CFAF (\$151,515) for research into Benin's food and cash crops. WFP is providing assistance to the project in the amount of \$88,000. Furthermore, the World Bank is supporting several research programmes on food crops and cotton under the Zou-Borgou rural development project.

74. The Government has now expanded the research programme considerably, with a view to increasing agricultural production to meet the population's food needs, which have become more acute during the year because of a shortfall in production resulting essentially from bad weather conditions.

A-4 Parakou veterinary diagnostic laboratory
(original cost estimate: \$1,642,000)

75. A multisectoral mission has helped to define the basic elements of this project. No offers of financing have yet been received.

A-5 Development and improvement of sheep-rearing
(original cost estimate: \$1,338,000)

76. A project to provide guidance and instruction in breeding small ruminants has been prepared by a multisectoral mission. Three technical support stations have been established in three provinces - Borgou, Atacora and Zou - with financing of \$46,875 from the national budget. No offers of financing have been received.

A-6 Improvement of livestock product marketing
(original cost estimate: \$320,000; revised cost estimate: \$3,343,750)

77. The agency which was to implement this project (SODERA) has been abolished. Attention is being devoted to the establishment of a new agency. A study on the subject was carried out within the framework of a seminar organized by a FAO specialist (cost: \$10,000). Financing of \$586,250 by the National Bank for Agricultural Credit (CNCA) is available in addition to the assets of SODERA, amounting to \$195,000. Together with the institutional reform, the Government has decided to expand the scope of the project originally envisaged, particularly in the establishment of mobile shops to provide stock breeders with needed inputs (i.e., veterinary products, food supplements, stock-raising equipment and consumer goods).

A-7 Charcoal production enterprise
(original cost estimate: \$1,609,000)

78. A UNCDF programming mission has examined the project for charcoal production and it is expected that, once formulated, the project will be submitted to UNCDF with a request for financial assistance. However, the project has been reformulated to encompass the provision of necessary infrastructure as well as marketing arrangements and reforestation. WFP has budgeted financial assistance for this project amounting to \$44,000 and \$1,745,510. The final cost of the revised project is still to be determined.

A-8 Permanent monitoring of the forest cover
(original cost estimate: \$1,099,800)

79. This project is currently being financed from the national budget to the amount of \$125,000, since the UNEP regional funds, amounting to \$146,875, devoted to the project have been exhausted. Two other related projects have been defined by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), namely, a multifaceted plantation project, for which the Arab Gulf Fund has provided financing amounting to \$330,000, and a project for combating brushfires.

A-9 Strengthening of the National Company for Irrigation and Hydro-agricultural Development (SONIAH) and development of Benin's water resources (preliminary phase)

(original cost estimate: \$1,367,000; revised cost estimate: \$1,848,000)

80. SONIAH has been abolished and its functions transferred to the newly created Office Béninois d'Aménagement Rural (OBAR). Unlike SONIAH, the latter will deal with integrated rural development. UNDP provided financial assistance to SONIAH until the end of 1981. EDF is examining the possibilities of financing a pilot irrigation project in the Mono Valley in the amount of CFAF 500 million. Further financing may be required from the fifth EDF cycle. It is expected that UNDP/FAO assistance will be forthcoming for the development of the Ouémé valley. A study of an over-all development profile for the Niger valley has been carried out by the multisectoral rural mission. UNCDF, in a recent programming mission, has identified for further study, a hydro-agricultural equipment project (irrigated rice-growing) to promote the development of the Ouémé valley. This project, at an approximate cost of \$800,000 will aim at the development of 1,000 hectares for irrigated rice-growing and the draining of another 6,000 hectares. WFP has budgeted assistance of \$176,000 for this project.

A-10 Agricultural survey and establishment of a permanent system of agricultural statistics

(original cost estimate: \$3,034,050)

81. FAO has helped to launch an experimental agricultural survey in Benin (UNDP/FAO: \$20,000); the Government now has the basic methodological tools for an agricultural census. With financing of \$31,250 coming from the national budget, the agricultural census is now in progress. Assistance from UNDP is under consideration.

A-11 Equipment of agricultural research and technical assistance laboratories

(original cost estimate: \$3,021,000)

82. In the food technology field, an elementary laboratory has been established. With respect to technical and veterinary research, a request was made some time ago to the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development (UNIFSTD) without success. This part of the entitled project has been further defined by a multisectoral mission under the heading: "Strengthening of the animal husbandry and veterinary unit", and the estimated cost is \$1,135,000. The project on rural economics and sociology was submitted for funding by UNDP or UNIFSTD. A UNDP/FAO consultant has prepared a preparatory assistance document (funding provided by UNDP/FAO: \$40,000). FAC is providing assistance for equipment for the Department of Agronomy of the University amounting to approximately \$15,150.

A-12 Okpara ranch

(original cost estimate: \$5,072,000)

83. Twenty per cent of the over-all cost of this project is being financed by the Conseil de l'entente (\$1,521,600). The project aims at the rehabilitation of pasture lands and establishing a herd. Since SODERA no longer exists, the project

will now fall under the supervision of either the Department of Livestock or the Benin-Arab/Libyan Agro-Animal Company (SABLI).

A-13 Equipment for Niger River Basin fishermen
(original cost estimate: \$850,000; revised cost estimate: \$1,091,000)

84. The Government wishes to increase production from river fishing, mainly through the training of fishermen in the river valley and in the improvement of fish processing and marketing techniques. For purposes of co-ordination, it is planned to set up a centre at a Malanville and four subcentres along the river.

A-14 Assistance to the national plant protection service
(original cost estimate: \$1,140,000; revised cost estimate: \$3,000,000)

85. The project was originally defined for an interim period (i.e., to the end of 1982). The Government now feels that the original momentum generated for national plant protection should be maintained and therefore plans to extend the project for another three years. Emphasis will continue to be placed on technical guidance for plant health.

86. In June 1982, the Federal Republic of Germany held discussions with the Government of Benin concerning the continuation of the project currently being carried out with assistance from UNDP and FAO amounting to \$150,000. The Federal Republic of Germany has committed assistance amounting to DM 1.5 million or \$610,000. Furthermore, a seed production project is included as part of the fifth EDF cycle with the aim of supporting plant protection.

A-15 Assistance in family economics
(original cost estimate: \$2,643,000)

87. An FAO-funded survey (\$25,000) on the role of women in rural areas has been completed and the results will be published soon. A new FAO project has been approved in the amount of \$84,000, with the aim of providing assistance for the activities of rural women. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women has also approved an assistance project in family economics amounting to \$79,000. UNDP is also assisting this project; as of December 1982, contributions will total \$250,000. Training activities are continuing with funding from ILO (two female consultants for one month each). UNICEF is also providing assistance in training female rural leaders (10 leaders per year for the period 1981-1983) to the amount of \$18,000. WFP has budgeted financial support of \$250,000 for this project.

B. Transport

1. General

88. The transport system of Benin comprises 7,266 km of roads, 577 km of railways, a deep-water seaport and an international airport at Cotonou. The focal point of the entire system is the capital of the country, Cotonou. Considerable emphasis is being laid by the Government on the development of transport infrastructure. The institutional set-up for an integrated approach to transport planning and development has been established and some progress made in the articulation of an

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integrated transport plan. Several new roads have been constructed in both Cotonou and the rural areas. In addition, some urban roads (Cotonou) have been improved. Work on the renovation of railway tracks is continuing and some new rolling-stock has been acquired.

2. Status of projects

T-1 Comprehensive transport plan

(original cost estimate: \$600,000)

89. The World Bank is providing assistance to the Studies and Planning Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, which is responsible for co-ordinating various forms of transport and drawing up a comprehensive transport plan. The Government has given its agreement in principle to this project, which includes the services of two experts, a transport economist and a general engineer. The project also deals with the training of the staff of the Ministry.

T-2 New exist road in Cotonou

(original cost estimate: \$7,680,000)

90. Following an economic feasibility study carried out in 1981, the first section (starting from the bridge), which is 2,450 metres long, has been completed. Its construction was funded through the national budget, with financial help of \$3,000,000 from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The second section, 2,500 metres long with two lanes in each direction, is under construction. Additional funding amounting to CFAF 900 million is required. Funding is also required for the construction of Olory-Togbe Avenue (2,500 metres) and its extension up to the autonomous port of Cotonou at an estimated cost of CFAF 1,050 million. Furthermore, a feasibility study (financed by Nigeria) is under way for the road project that would link Cotonou and the Nigeria highway. It is expected that as soon as the study is finished, construction work will begin on the road project with financial assistance from Nigeria.

T-3 Bridges on the Mono and Sazue rivers

(original cost estimate: \$10,000,000; revised cost estimate: \$7,575,750)

91. This project was revised by an ECA mission in January 1982. Feasibility and implementation studies prior to the planned construction have already been carried out by the Government with funding of \$62,500 coming from its national budget.

92. The formalities for financial assistance of \$4,375,000 from the West African Development Bank (BOAD) are being completed. A request for additional assistance has been submitted to EDF.

T-4 Rehabilitation and improvement of 100 km of railway track between Cotonou and Saué

(original cost estimate: \$7,930,000)

93. The justification for this project was confirmed by an ECA mission in January 1982.

94. In 1981, FAC agreed to provide assistance amounting to CFAF 425 million (\$1,574,000) for railway equipment, rail-line base and other materials. The Benin-Niger Joint Organization for Railways and Transport (OCBN) has contributed \$2.3 million for the purchase of equipment and materials. A request for financial assistance for this project has been submitted to the Government of Japan.

C. Water

1. General

95. Significant progress has been achieved concerning access of the urban population to a potable water supply. During the year, work on the supply of 6 districts was completed and work on 9 others was started; technical studies concerning 24 districts were finalized. As regards supply of potable water to the rural population, efforts have continued for tapping ground-water supplies through wells and boreholes. Work has started on 363 wells in the provinces of Zou, Atacora and Borgou but some difficulties have been encountered. Work is expected to start during 1982 on 600 wells in the provinces of Atacora, Mono, Ouémé, Zou and Borgou. Technical studies are in progress concerning 200 wells in the Atlantique and Zou provinces.

2. Status of projects

W-1 Potable water supply for villages
(original cost estimate: \$10,000,000)

96. This project is being implemented with financial and technical assistance from a number of sources.

97. UNCDF is providing \$1.8 million for 158 wells in three provinces: Borgou, Zou and Atacora.

98. OPEC and UNICEF are providing assistance in the amount of \$1.4 million, with UNICEF as the executing agency.

99. An EDF programme amounting to \$4,500,000, with a government contribution of CFAF 80 million, is due to be carried out in 1983; it will provide 190 wells in Atacora, 90 in Mono and 65 in Ouémé.

100. The Conseil de l'entente has agreed to the financing of a programme for 110 wells in Atacora, 60 wells in Ouémé and 245 wells in Borgou. This programme, to which the Conseil de l'entent is contributing \$5 million and the Government CFAF 200 million, is to be carried out in 1983.

101. In addition, financial assistance of \$439,436 has been received from the Netherlands and 3 million Swiss francs or about \$1,434,034 has been firmly pledged by the Government of Switzerland.

102. A request for a loan of \$5 million for the construction of 60 wells in Zou and 140 wells in Atlantique was submitted to BOAD in November 1981.

103. WFP has budgeted contributions to this project amounting to \$178,370.

104. UNDP is allocating \$300,000 for technical assistance for the 18-month period ending 1983. A further \$90,000 has been mobilized from multilateral sources for the recruitment of United Nations volunteers.

105. Within the World Bank's rural development project for Zou Province, there is a small component for rural water supplies which covers the reconstruction or rehabilitation of 100 wells and the construction of 50 new wells.

W-2 Urban water development
(original cost estimate: \$19,200,000)

106. This project entails the provision of drinking water to 24 district headquarters.

107. The Federal Republic of Germany provided DM 2 million (\$813,000) for preliminary test drilling. A further DM 42.5 million (approximately \$17,276,000) was pledged for project implementation under bilateral discussions held in June 1982. Legal prerequisites for disbursement are to be completed in the course of 1982.

108. In 1981, a potable water supply programme for six districts was carried out with financial assistance from Denmark amounting to \$800,000.

109. Studies financed jointly by ADF (CFAF 30 million) and the Benin Company for Electricity and Water (SBEE) (CFAF 12 million) are in progress for 12 districts. Another programme for providing nine district capitals with drinking water and electricity will begin very shortly with the assistance of ADF (CFAF 170 million) and a contribution of CFAF 30 million from SBEE.

110. Within the framework of a separate project, the International Development Association (IDA) is providing assistance for an emergency programme for the town of Cotonou, amounting to \$5 million.

W-3 Strengthening of the national hydrometric network
(original cost estimate: \$850,000)

111. There is a regional project entitled "Hydrological forecasting system for the Niger River Basin", which aims at establishing hydrological stations in each of the participating countries. The thrusts are on a data-acquisition system and the training of staff. With funds from UNDP, OPEC and EDF, Benin has contributed \$200,000 to the total regional budget of \$3 million. A project document has been drawn up with technical assistance from WHO. In addition, the Government of Japan has been contacted for bilateral assistance.

D. Industry and construction

1. Agro-industries

(a) General

112. In the field of industry the following major developments took place during the year: (a) launching of the cement-producing company ONIGBOLO; (b) launching of the petroleum extraction company SAGA; and (c) launching of an additional cooking-oil refinery.

113. A major sugar agro-industrial complex is being developed and production is scheduled for 1983.

114. The most important problem in the field of industrial development seems to be the need to rehabilitate several industrial projects, e.g., textiles, tomato-processing and so on. There is a need for external financial and technical assistance and for more modern industrial equipment.

115. In the field of agro-food industries, the Government has been able to launch the two projects designed to assure a regular supply of processed products for both urban and rural dwellers, in line with its strategy of achieving food security and raising nutritional levels.

(b) Status of projects

I-1 Industrial production of soluble flour from yams

(original cost estimate: \$1,600,000; revised cost estimate: \$2,500,000)

116. The details of this project were worked out with the help of UNIDO and the investment cost was revised to \$2,500,000. Funding from the Benin Development Bank (BBD) amounting to approximately \$594,000 has been obtained, while financial support estimated at \$470,938 from a French funding agency, the Caisse centrale de co-opération économique (CCCE), is under negotiation. A UNIDO review has revealed that the cost of construction of the pilot plant would be higher than originally anticipated.

I-2 Production of gari and tapioca from manioc

(original cost estimate: \$1,000,000; revised cost estimate: \$2,900,000)

117. This project for the construction of a food-processing plant was revised by a UNIDO mission, and a detailed technical dossier was drawn up. Investment cost is estimated at around \$2,900,000. The project is under consideration by BOAD. CCCE has made some contribution for the financing of a study on the project. On the basis of a UNIDO technical review, the Government proposes now to set up a plant for the production of gari and tapioca with greater output capacity than originally planned.

I-3 Strengthening of the Benin Agricultural Equipment Co-operative (COBEMAG)
(original cost estimate: \$350,000)

118. A request has been made for a UNIDO mission to draw up the technical dossier. The Netherlands assistance project "Promotion of the use of draught animals in the Borgou", amounting to \$350,000, includes provisions for some support to COBEMAG. The main objective of the project would be to diversify the range of articles manufactured, in particular non-motorized tools.

2. Building materials and construction industries

(a) General

119. In line with the growing demands in Benin for building materials, an effort has been made during the year for the processing of more local resources (e.g., kaolin, clay, etc.) for that purpose.

120. The situation concerning housing in the towns and rural area continued to be difficult. A start has been made in assessing the situation. This needs to be continued so as to lead to a building action plan.

121. Modest progress has been achieved with bilateral assistance for town planning. However, the need is still very acute for the drawing-up of town plans for a number of district capitals.

122. The needs for photographic coverage of Benin have now been assessed and a plan of action for the period 1982-1986 has been defined.

(b) Status of projects

C-1 Research and development of materials used in construction
(original cost estimate: \$950,000)

123. The objective of this project is in line with the technical assistance activities financed by UNDP under the project on mineral prospecting (BEN/81/008) amounting to \$1,225,750, renewed for three years as of January 1982. The aim is to look for and exploit raw materials for ceramics and housing construction. A team of experts from the Benin Office for Mining (OBEMINES) and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat is continuing the work of locating and prospecting the various clays in the three sectors of the Zou coastal basin. The prospecting programme for limestone, sand and gravel deposits is scheduled to begin by the end of 1982. The United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration is currently providing assistance for the prospecting of kaolin in Ketou to the amount of \$100,000. A dossier for the project entitled "Exploration, improvement and application of traditional techniques and materials - pilot project" was drawn up after a mission by a consultant from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements/Habitat (UNCHS); funding from UNCHS amounts to \$72,000. The contribution to this project from the national budget amounts to \$93,940.

C-2 Analysis of the current housing situation and proposals for a construction and housing policy
(original cost estimate: \$400,000)

124. An advisor from UNCHS has drawn up a project document for UNDP/UNCHS assistance. The project, which is currently under review by the Government, would take 18 months and provides for the following components:

	<u>UNDP/UNCHS</u> (\$US)	<u>Government</u> (CFAF)
Personnel	265,050	14,955,000
Training	20,000	-
Equipment	25,000	3,500,000
Miscellaneous	<u>14,500</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total	<u>324,550</u>	<u>19,455,000</u>

Financial assistance of \$54,000 by UNCHS has already been obtained.

C-3 Preparation of town plans for six district capitals
(original cost estimate: \$650,000)

125. The original objective of the project was to prepare town plans for the following six district capitals: Kandi (Borgou), Djougou (Atakora), Savalou (Zou), Come (Mono), Allada (Atlantique) and Pobe (Ouémé).

126. However, since Djougou and Savalou are included in an FAC project for urban planning and sanitation studies for seven district capitals for which \$515,150 is being provided, these two district capitals are replaced in this project by Kuandé and Oussa-Zoumé. Funds are required to carry out the six studies.

C-4 Photographic mapping survey of the national territory
(original cost estimate: \$1,000,000)

127. This project aims at providing Benin with modern and consistent aerial photograph cover of its national territory. In view of the needs of planners, the proposed scale for this cover is 1/30,000.

128. A regional cartographic adviser from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development undertook a mission in August 1981 in order to:

(a) Evaluate the status of cartography in Benin;

(b) Identify the topographic and cartographic needs of the various government agencies and their relation to the activities of INC (National Cartographic Institute) so as to avoid any duplication of services.

129. Given the co-ordinating role played by INC as regards cartography, the mission recognized the need to provide INC with more equipment and staff. In this

connexion, the following additional subprojects have been recommended for implementation over the next 10 years:

	<u>Period</u>	<u>Cost (\$US)</u>
Photographic laboratory	1982-1983	525,000
Doppler surveying network	1983	250,000
Photogrammetry and cartography	1983	775,000
Conventional surveying	1983-1985	1,000,000
Map printing	1985-1986	650,000
Construction of premises	1982-1983	6,350,000

E. Human resources development

1. Education

(a) General

130. In 1981, special efforts were made by the Government and by the United Nations to evaluate the educational reform launched in 1975. Priorities have now been better identified. Emphasis is being placed on primary level and on technical and vocational training, in particular on the development of the educational infrastructure and strengthening the capacity for educational planning.

(b) Status of projects

E-1 Construction and equipping of 200 primary schools
(original cost estimate: \$5,200,000)

131. The scarcity of schools built of durable materials remains acute. This is expected to give rise to problems of accommodation in the near future, given the increase in pupils resulting from an annual population growth rate of 2.7 per cent.

132. Several projects are being implemented, namely:

(a) Provision has been made in the national budget to the amount of \$62,500 for financing the construction of 12 schools and for improving schools constructed by the community;

(b) UNCDF is currently completing the construction and equipping of 72 schools in rural areas to the value of \$1.6 million;

(c) UNICEF is financing the construction of 5 schools (\$45,450);

(d) The Netherlands is providing \$1,865,470 for the construction and equipping of 100 schools in rural areas near the border. WFP has budgeted food

assistance equivalent to an amount of \$431,640 as part of community self-help programmes for school construction work.

E-2 Construction and equipping of 100 secondary school laboratories*
(original project cost: \$1,200,000; revised project cost: \$5,013,600).

133. A detailed study by a UNESCO mission has led to the expansion of this project. Under its revised plan, 100 laboratories will be constructed over a three-year period. The cost of constructing the laboratories is estimated at \$2 million and that of equipping them at \$3 million. (In the original project, funding was sought for 30 laboratories.)

E-3 Construction and equipping of 30 secondary school vocational centres
(original project cost: \$300,000; revised project cost: \$1,023,000)

134. In line with the plan of the educational authorities to link up all levels of education with practical life and the social environment, the Government has launched the pilot school at Comé to familiarize children with production processes. Rather than just providing for 30 workshops as originally envisaged, it is planned, following an evaluation of that experience, to pursue the project elsewhere by enlarging 5 centres for general secondary education.

135. It is estimated that total funding of \$1,023,000 is required:

Construction	\$701,000
Technical assistance (36 M/H)	\$214,000
Training	\$108,000

E-4 Construction and equipping of a university student hostel
(original project cost: \$7,500,000; revised project cost: \$1,656,000)

136. This project, which originally called for two hostels at a cost of \$7,500,000, was reviewed by a UNESCO mission and revised. The revised project concerns only one student hostel, with a capacity of 450 students. Construction is expected to take three years and to cost \$1,656,000. This project would provide accommodation for 25 per cent of the students at the Abomey-Calavi campus.

137. No progress has been made in securing financing for this project.

E-5 Construction and equipping of five university departments
(original project cost: \$450,000; revised project cost: \$20,792,000)

138. This project was reviewed by a UNESCO mission. While the original plan was to

* Three integrated normal schools are currently under construction at Lokossa, Parakou and Natitingou, under a \$25.6 million grant from the World Bank and financial assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany (\$4.7 million) and Switzerland (\$3.5 million).

construct and equip a six-classroom unit at the University, the Government now plans to develop five major university departments as follows:

	<u>Cost</u> (United States Dollars)
National Institute of Economics	1,590,000
National Institute of Legal and Administrative Sciences	2,683,000
National Institute of Agronomy	5,680,000
National Institute of Physical and Athletic Instruction and Education	1,850,000
University Hospital Centre	8,989,000

No progress has been made in securing financing for the revised project.

E-6 Construction of a university library
(original project cost: \$600,000); revised project cost: \$1,094,000

139. The UNESCO mission reviewed this project. The needs have now been more clearly identified. It is proposed that the library's capacity should be enlarged by adding on a reading room and storage areas, and by enlarging its library. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,094,000. No progress has been made in securing financing for this project.

E-7 Construction and equipping of 22 polytechnical colleges
(original project cost: \$840,000; revised project cost: \$14,922,610)

140. In accordance with the Government's strategy, which focuses on encouraging technical and vocational instruction starting in 1982, the UNESCO sectoral mission assigned top priority to this project. While the original plan aimed at the establishment of one agricultural polytechnical college, the Government is now planning to establish 22 polytechnical colleges to cover agricultural, industrial and commercial subjects in various parts of the country.

141. Several donors have expressed interest in the project. Funding of approximately \$15 million is required for:

- 6 agricultural polytechnical colleges
- 8 industrial polytechnical colleges
- 8 commercial polytechnical colleges

142. The Government also plans to expand some existing colleges.

2. Planning and training

(a) General

143. The year 1982 has been characterized by renewed efforts to improve planning capacity not only in the education sector but also in other sectors dealing with human resources.

144. An ILO employment mission was undertaken in April 1982 to assist the Benin Government to draw up a strategy for the Second State Plan, which is to begin in 1983. The priorities set by the mission focused on greater efforts on behalf of rural areas as part of a strategy to create jobs, on stimulating handicraft production that is considered to be at the pre-industrial stage, on developing the co-operative movement both for production and consumption and on adapting training to employment possibilities.

145. In recording assistance for 1982, mention should also be made of UNDP assistance in connexion with projects related to central planning (BEN/77/006: \$431,000 (1982)); to the training of personnel of the Ministry of State and Para-Statal Enterprises and to management supervision (BEN/81/004: \$273,996 (1982)); and to vocational training geared to enterprises (BEN/75/012: \$16,000 (1982)).

(b) Status of projects

P-1 Household budget survey (original cost estimate: \$2,000,000)

146. In April 1982, a six-member technical committee was set up within the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) to deal with this matter. A pilot survey of household budgets and consumption was scheduled for the second half of 1982. The survey is one of the first components of the programme proposed by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, ECA and FAO, with a view to establishing a permanent household survey apparatus. The programme was approved by the Council of Ministers in May 1982. The contribution from the national budget amounts to \$93,750. EDF has indicated its agreement to participating in this project. Financial assistance from FAC is under consideration.

147. A project to provide assistance to INSAE, to be executed by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, has also been planned in connexion with this programme.

P-2 Human resources planning (original cost estimate: \$1,500,000)

148. The human resources planning project is a follow-up to the UNDP/ILO project entitled "Manpower planning", which will end in December 1982. Approximately \$625,000 has been mobilized for this project.

The main activities of the current project are as follows:

- (a) Seminar on human resources;
- (b) Establishment of a documentation centre;
- (c) Preparation of the Review of Statistics and Labour;
- (d) Survey of state staffing needs, of permanent state workers and of school output.

149. The employment module included in the national demographic survey and the survey on private enterprises are being financed by funds from the UNDP/ILO project.

P-3 Training of national management personnel (three years)

(original cost estimate: \$1,500,000; revised cost estimate: \$2,050,000)

150. This project has been extended in view of the need to establish a national organization responsible for providing enterprises with systematic further training for their personnel and with assistance in organizational and management matters. The establishment of a management centre has therefore been proposed, at an estimated total cost of \$2,050,000.

151. UNDP is currently executing a project entitled "Assistance to the Ministry of State and Para-Statal Enterprises", the final phase of which would indirectly contribute to the project in question through the seminars held at the local level (UNDP/ILO funding: \$273,966).

3. Labour-intensive employment

(a) General

152. Labour-intensive public works enjoy wide support of the rural population. A new thrust is being given to small-scale industries and to the development of co-operatives. The linkage between training and employment has been increasingly underscored.

(b) Status of projects

L-1 Labour-intensive public works

(original cost estimate: \$3,900,000; revised cost estimate: \$4,818,000)

153. This project aims at the development of human resources in rural areas and includes the following activities:

- Reafforestation (400 ha);
- Water and agricultural improvements for rice cultivation (120 ha);
- Building tracks for access to rural areas (78 km);
- Providing watering-places for livestock (15);
- Building cisterns or reservoirs (30);

- Digging wells (20);
- Building basic schools (15);
- Building community health clinics (20).

154. Priority is given to reforestation, water and agricultural improvement for rice cultivation and the water supply (wells, cisterns and reservoirs, watering-places). This programme benefits from the voluntary participation of the rural inhabitants.

155. The revised cost of the programme is \$4,818,000. The following contributions have been made to the project: \$424,740 from Norway, \$242,000 from Italy, \$510,050 from the UNDP Interregional Fund, \$537,080 from WFP and \$75,000 from UNDP. Funds amounting to \$28,125 have been made available from the national budget. Additional external assistance is required to enable the project to reach full momentum.

II. Health and food needs

A. Health

1. General

156. A 10-year plan on primary health care has been defined with the collaboration of WHO. It has been submitted to the Groupe de ressource santé de l'an 2000 at Geneva. Benin has been chosen as one of five test countries the experience of which can serve to assist other countries in their health programmes. The implementation of the plan is in progress.

2. Status of projects

H-1 Village health units training of personnel and provision of medicines
(original project cost: \$370,000; revised project cost: \$2,722,510)

157. A Beninese-Netherlands project in this field has been under way since August 1981. The assistance of the Netherlands amounts to \$681,818.

158. UNICEF has contributed medicines and 1,000 kits for midwives and first-aid workers (\$170,000 for 1981-1983).

159. WFP has earmarked assistance for the 1983-1985 programme in foodstuffs to encourage the training of village health workers (\$27,340).

160. The Government proposes now to pursue the training effort within the framework of its new 10-year plan on primary health care.

H-2 Anti-malaria campaign
(original project cost: \$435,000; revised project cost: \$4,090,910)

161. Two sources of funding have so far been secured for the project: \$44,110 from the national budget and \$36,600 from WHO/Gulf States.

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162. The programme was launched in 1982 and its original planned duration was five years.

163. The revised project cost reflects the requirements for pursuing and extending the anti-malaria campaign over a 10-year period.

H-3 Extension of the vaccination and immunization programme
(original project cost: \$130,000; revised project cost: \$4,000,000)

164. The project was launched in 1982 with the training of personnel at the national level with a planned duration of five years. The revised project cost reflects the requirements for pursuing and extending the immunization programme over a 10-year period.

165. Assistance received so far is \$66,606 from the national budget and \$226,700 from WHO/UNICEF in the form of vaccines, equipment and transport.

H-4 Construction and equipping of 60 community health centres and district hospitals
(original project cost: \$1,500,000; revised project cost: \$7,956,360)

166. This programme is a small part of the 10-year health programme drawn up by the Government in co-operation with WHO. The establishment of 354 community centres is planned for this period compared with the original plan for 60 health centres.

167. In 1981, the Government financed the construction and equipment of two community centres at a cost of \$66,606.

168. UNCDF is providing \$1.46 million towards construction and equipment costs of 60 health centres, 48 of which have already been completed.

169. During 1982, Benin received a grant of 300 million yen or approximately \$1,276,590 from Japan for vehicles.

170. Switzerland has undertaken activities in several districts with assistance amounting to \$581,260.

171. The Federal Republic of Germany has pledged DM 9.45 million (\$3,840,000) for the extension of two district hospitals, the establishment of a number of village health centres and supplies of medicines.

172. WFP has indicated its agreement to support the Government's efforts to build health centres with a contribution of \$530,020,020 for community mobilization. Negotiations are under way between the two parties.

173. The UNICEF programme includes the provision of equipment for lying-in wards at 60 community health centres (\$102,000 for 1981-1983).

H-5 Additional equipment for hospitals
(original project cost: \$225,000; revised project cost: \$3,636,360)

174. The Government's policy in this area is to improve the standard of equipment in existing hospitals.

175. UNICEF has agreed to provide equipment for five clinical laboratories between 1981 and 1983 (\$7,500).

176. In 1981, Japan contributed technical equipment valued at 400 million yen or \$1,702,120.

177. Instead of dealing with hospital needs on a piecemeal basis, the Government has now been able, with the assistance of WHO, to formulate a comprehensive plan to cover hospitals throughout the country. This has required the revision of the project from \$225,000 to \$3,636,364.

H-6 Training of paramedical personnel and extended facilities
(original cost estimate: \$320,000; revised cost estimate: \$520,000)

178. WHO has provided for the training of paramedical personnel to the amount of \$420,000. Funds are still required for the extension of facilities, originally estimated at \$100,000.

B. Food

1. General

179. A "food strategy" project is being prepared, in which the Government stresses agricultural development and the establishment of a security stock in each province for crisis periods. A request for \$400,000 has been submitted to the Canadian Government for the preparation of the strategy; another request for assistance is to be submitted to EEC.

180. The proposed project would help the country cope with the vicissitudes of climate which have recently necessitated emergency food assistance from WFP. Aid to the rural population affected by the drought has amounted to \$738,200.

181. A number of agencies are providing food assistance to Benin, including WFP, EDF, FAC, the Catholic Relief Services, and the Helvetian Confederation (through "Terre des Hommes").

2. Formulation of possible projects:

F-1 Feeding of hospital patients (3 years)
(original cost estimate: \$1,000,000)

182. Negotiations are under way between the Government, WFP and other donor agencies concerning the details of this project and the modalities of implementation.

F-2 Assistance to nursing mothers and infants
(original cost estimate: \$4,500,000)

183. The Government expects to receive food assistance from the Catholic Relief Services. The assistance is expected to amount to \$1 million for 1982 and approximately \$1.1 million for 1983. Additional annual assistance is also expected for small-scale community development projects.

F-3 Feeding of children in schools (school canteens - 3 years)
(original cost estimate: \$4,500,000)

184. WFP provided substantial food assistance for school feeding programmes servicing 26,000 pupils in basic schools and 5,000 students at middle-level general education colleges. Funding for 1982 amounts to \$1,672,000.

185. In addition, WFP has included an amount of \$6,982,000 in its 1983-1985 budget. A project document has been submitted for the Government's signature.

F-4 Community development projects
(original cost estimate: \$2,500,000)

186. Funding in the amount of \$1,408,000 for 1982 has been agreed to by WFP. For 1983-1985, the amount included in the budget of WFP is \$1,870,930. The project document is being finalized.

F-5 Budget support
(original cost estimate: \$5,300,000)

187. FAC and EEC have provided budget assistance to the National Cereals Commission in the form of wheat for resale valued at \$455,900. France has been providing food assistance to Benin for some years. Under an agreement signed in September 1981, France will provide 2,000 tonnes of wheat f.o.b. France at an estimated value of CFAF 105 million (\$318,180). The net proceeds from the wheat sales are used for rural development projects, in particular for the construction of silos. WFP has also provided \$537,000 in assistance to this project by meeting 50 per cent of internal transport costs of food provided by the Programme. Additional assistance in cash or in kind (vehicles, spare parts, etc.) is urgently needed in order to ensure the smooth implementation of food aid projects.
