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

Assistance to Yemen

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 38/204 of 20 December 1983 on "Assistance to Yemen", the General Assembly appealed to the developed countries and to developing countries to contribute generously to the relief efforts and the reconstruction programme of the earthquake-affected areas in Yemen. It also requested the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and expand their programme of assistance to Yemen. The Secretary-General was further requested to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the above resolution.

II. THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE

2. The physiographic and tectonic features of Yemen make it susceptible to volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. On 12 December 1982, an earthquake of severe intensity (5.8-5.9 on the Richter scale) struck the country, centring in Dhamar province, located in the central mountain region. Seven districts of the province suffered extensive devastation and loss of life. Over 265,000 people were affected. A total of 42,000 residential buildings suffered damage: 25,000 were completely destroyed and 17,000 partly damaged but repairable. Loss of human life has been estimated at 1,500, with another 4,000 injured. Communal facilities such as governmental buildings (19), schools (80), mosques (650) and water wells (130) were seriously damaged. According to Yemen Government sources, the overall loss as a result of the earthquake is in the range of \$US 2 billion.

III. RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

3. Immediately following the earthquake and at the request of the Government, the Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations System's Operational Activities for Development acted as co-ordinator for relief assistance provided by the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, and non-governmental organizations, including the International Red Cross and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies. An ad hoc committee consisting of representatives designated by the Government, embassies and consulates located in Yemen, bilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, was established. This committee started functioning the day after the tragedy struck and met several times. Since its inception, the office of the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Sana'a has acted as the secretariat for the committee. The proceedings were reported by the Government representative to the High Committee for Disaster Relief chaired by the Prime Minister.

4. The co-ordination role played by the ad hoc committee helped with the orderly acquisition and supply of the most essential items urgently required for relief operations. Tents, blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils and lamps, food and water-tank purifiers were promptly mobilized and rushed to affected areas. Medicines and medical services were generously provided by many Arab countries.

5. Table 1, based on information gathered by the United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Sana'a, shows the type of assistance received from external sources for relief operations.

6. An international joint mission, consisting of representatives of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, the World Bank, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, visited Yemen to assess the earthquake damage, draw up reconstruction programmes and estimate the costs involved. Its recommendations included the construction of earthquake-resistant dwellings, using traditional building materials in seismically safe sites.

7. The Government has launched a reconstruction programme consisting of three phases: (a) relief; (b) reconstruction; and (c) assistance to rural development. The total cost of the reconstruction programme is estimated at 2,861 million Yemen rials (\$620 million). The relief phase was completed in 1983, although the provision of food, medicine, tents and other supplies still continues. The reconstruction phase will involve the repair of approximately 17,000 houses, the direct construction of 15,000 houses and the construction by self-help of some 10,000 houses. Assistance for rural development in the earthquake-affected areas will be organized once the reconstruction is completed. The Government has established an Executive Office for Reconstruction to implement the reconstruction programme.

Table 1

Summary of external assistance received for relief operations a/

| Source | Type of assistance |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Member States | |
| Algeria | Tents and medical supplies |
| Belgium | Blankets |
| Canada | Cash grant equivalent to \$175,000 |
| Denmark | Tents |
| Djibouti | Tents and medical supplies |
| Egypt | Tents, blankets, canned food and medical supplies |
| France | Helicopters, team of geologists, tents, blankets, clothes, wheat, soap and medical supplies |
| German Democratic Republic | Tents |
| Germany, Federal Republic of | Search and rescue team, blankets and clothes |
| India | Team of physicians, sanitary engineer, medical supplies, and blankets |
| Italy | Medical supplies and orthopaedic team |
| Japan | Cash grant equivalent to \$500,000 |
| Jordan | Team of physicians |
| Kuwait | Team of physicians and tents |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | Team of physicians, tents, olive oil, canned fish and dried skimmed milk |
| Netherlands | Cash grant equivalent to \$50,000, tents, blankets and kitchen utensils |
| Norway | Blankets and water tanks |
| Oman | Medical supplies, blankets and tents |

Table 1 (continued)

| Source | Type of assistance |
|--|---|
| Pakistan | Team of physicians |
| Qatar | Tents, blankets, team of physicians |
| Saudi Arabia | Mobile hospital and medical staff, blood-transfusion equipment, oxygen, tents, baby food, mattresses, blankets and canned food |
| Somalia | Tents and fresh food |
| Switzerland | Medical team, geologists, medical supplies, tents, blankets and water purifiers |
| United Arab Emirates | Mobile clinics and two teams of physicians |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Medical supplies, blood-grouping transfusion kits, masks, water-purifying tablets, latrines, insecticides, tents and kitchen utensils |
| United States of America | Team of physicians, nurses, masks, generators, water tanks, blankets, tents and food aid for self-help construction programme |
| 2. <u>Non-governmental organizations</u> | |
| British Save the Children Fund | Blankets |
| Bulgarian Red Cross | Clothes and canned fish |
| Caritas | Tents, clothes and food |
| Caritas (Federal Republic of Germany) | Cash grant equivalent to \$41,000 |
| Catholic Relief Services | Clothes, kitchen utensils, tents and blankets |
| Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) | Cash grant equivalent to \$38,000 |
| Diakonisches Werk | Cash grant equivalent to \$47,000 |

Table 1 (continued)

| Source | Type of assistance |
|--|---|
| Hôpital sans frontières | Protein tablets |
| ICRS | Tents |
| Irish concern | Cash grant equivalent to \$100,000 |
| Italian firms | Tents and generators |
| LCRS | Medical team, hospital materials, kitchen utensils |
| Middle East Relief Service | Tents |
| Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM) | Blankets, water tanks, videos, pumps and pipes |
| Philips (Netherlands) | Portable x-ray unit |
| Red Cross (Federal Republic of Germany) | Tents, water tanks, water purifiers, generators, medical instruments and vehicles |
| Secours populaire français | Food |
| El Shamiry Corporation | Housing units |
| Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) | Cash grant, tents, blankets and clothes (total value equivalent to \$66,667) |
| SOBEA | Cash grant equivalent to \$7,500 |
| Swedish Free Mission | Water tanks |
| Swedish Save the Children Fund | Cash grant, blankets, blood-transfusion sets, mobile health care and vaccination team |
| Swiss Caritas | Cash grant equivalent to \$24,650 |
| United States Baptist Organization | Water tanks |
| World Vision | Cash grant equivalent to \$20,000 |

Table 1 (continued)

| Source | Type of assistance |
|--|--|
| 3. <u>United Nations system</u> | |
| Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator | \$2,000 for kitchen utensils |
| United Nations Children's Fund | Vehicles, medical supplies, surgical instruments, masks, portable sprays, water-purifying tablets, water laboratories, jerrycans, kitchen utensils, blankets and tents |
| United Nations Development Programme | \$30,000 for tents |
| United Nations Capital Development Fund | Vertical and horizontal pumps |
| World Food Programme | \$1,877,000 for flour, pulses, vegetable oil and dried skimmed milk |
| United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | Team of geologists |
| World Health Organization | Team of physicians; equipment and vehicles valued at \$20,000 |
| 4. <u>International organizations</u> | |
| European Economic Community | Cash grant, tents and medical supplies valued at \$500,000 |
| Islamic Conference | Tents |

a/ The cash values of several contributions in kind are not readily available. The Sana'a Christian Community made a contribution of water tanks.

8. Table 2 gives details of grant assistance provided by Member States and organizations for the reconstruction programme.

Table 2

Summary of grant assistance for the reconstruction programme a/

| Source | Amount (Dollars) | Type of assistance |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Japan | 3 555 555 | Steel reinforcements |
| Kuwait | 10 000 000 | Building contracts |
| Netherlands | 1 820 000 | Construction projects |
| Oman | 5 000 000 | Building contracts |
| Qatar | 5 000 000 | Building contracts |
| Saudi Arabia | 15 000 000 | Building contracts |
| United Arab Emirates | 8 000 000 | Building contracts |
| European Economic Community | 2 550 000 | Technical assistance and training |
| Redd Barna (Norwegian Save the Children Fund) | 45 000 | Creation of training centre and building schools |
| United Nations Centre for Human Settlement/ United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Capital Development Fund | | Self-help construction of 280 houses |

a/ It is understood that contributions from the Arab Member States are expected to reach \$114,000,000.

9. The reconstruction programme for housing repairs and construction is under way and is expected to be completed by the end of 1986.
