



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/44/426
2 August 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

| | <u>Paragraphs</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| I. INTRODUCTION | 1 - 3 | 2 |
| II. IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTANCE | 4 - 15 | 2 |
| A. Action taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees | 4 - 7 | 2 |
| B. Action taken by the United Nations Development Programme | 8 - 15 | 3 |

* A/44/150.

4P

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 43/141 of 8 December 1988 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, the General Assembly expressed grave concern at the shrinking resources available for refugee programmes in the Sudan and at the serious consequences of the presence of massive numbers of refugees in the country, which has a negative impact not only on the country's ability to continue to act as host and provide assistance to refugees, but also on its security and stability and on its socio-economic development.
2. The General Assembly appealed to Member States, the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial institutions to provide the Government of the Sudan with the necessary resources for the implementation of development assistance projects in regions affected by the presence of refugees.
3. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in response to that request and is based on information provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the activities undertaken by them within their respective areas of competence.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTANCE

A. Action taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

4. At the end of the period under review, UNHCR was assisting close to 380,000 refugees of the more than 745,000 refugees estimated to be in the Sudan: 350,000 of the assisted refugees were from Ethiopia. Over 83,500 Ugandan refugees repatriated voluntarily during the period, and there were 33,000 new arrivals from Ethiopia in the second half of 1988.
5. The completion of the returnee operation for Ugandan refugees in the south and the consolidation of assistance, pending their repatriation, to a reduced case-load of Chadian refugees in the west enabled UNHCR to focus more closely on the eastern Sudan with its large Ethiopian refugee population. While the essential needs of refugees assisted at the settlements and reception centres were being met, measures were taken to promote their self-reliance and enhance their economic independence, inter alia, by linking refugee assistance to development-related activities in refugee-affected areas.
6. It is believed that over half the Ethiopian refugees in the eastern Sudan have settled of their own accord in urban and rural areas and receive no assistance. UNHCR responded to the needs of refugee-affected areas by funding projects in 1988 and 1989 under the general programmes with the objective of strengthening

infrastructure in those locations where large concentrations of unassisted refugees live. Parallel to this effort UNHCR co-operated closely with the World Bank in the preparation of an agricultural development project in south Kassala province that will benefit small farmers, including refugees in the settlements, unassisted refugees and nationals. The multi-sectoral programme was ready for implementation in April 1989. The project will be carried out over a five-year period at a total cost of \$US 36 million, to which UNHCR will contribute \$US 10 million in five annual instalments. The co-financing venture is the first of its kind in Africa. In further efforts to link refugee assistance to national development, UNHCR was also closely associated with UNDP in action on the recommendations contained in section VI of the report of the inter-agency mission to the Sudan (A/42/646, annex). Four technical missions took place in the first quarter of 1989 in order to formulate viable projects for presentation to interested donor Governments and agencies.

7. Further, the European Community made available in 1988 over \$US 26 million from Lomé III, article 204, resources to cover the refugee component as a complementary and additional input to national support. The package of projects will benefit self-settled refugees in affected areas and will be implemented over a three-year period. It is expected that such refugee-linked area development projects, in a region with poor levels of infrastructure and services, will also enhance the economic self-reliance of refugees in the UNHCR-assisted settlements and reduce in the long run their dependence on direct assistance.

B. Action taken by the United Nations Development Programme

8. In further efforts to link refugee assistance to national development, UNHCR was also closely associated with UNDP in following up on the recommendations of the inter-agency mission to the Sudan.

9. UNDP has been requested to assist the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to develop a coherent strategy and development project for refugee-affected areas of the Sudan. The UNDP mandate emanates from General Assembly resolution 42/129 of 7 December 1987, in which the Assembly called upon the donor community to provide support along the lines of the report of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (see A/39/402, annex). UNDP, in partnership with UNHCR, was designated as the agency primarily responsible for mobilizing this assistance.

10. Following the receipt of a letter from the Prime Minister of the Sudan to the Secretary-General in June 1988, in which the Prime Minister declared a state of emergency in the Sudan, consultations were held in New York between the United Nations, UNDP and the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations, which resulted in the decision to establish in the UNDP Khartoum office a Special Emergency Unit with appropriate staffing (three international Professional staff and two national officers) and resources to meet the pressing demands of the displaced persons and the development needs of refugee-affected areas.

11. In addition, in order to assist in preparing an interim appeal on the immediate requirements of the displaced persons and the main appeal on longer-term development requirements of the displaced persons and refugee-affected areas, the Emergency Unit has closely assisted the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and was responsible for the fielding of technical missions aimed at formulating viable projects for presentation to interested donor Governments and United Nations bodies.
12. These missions were organized within the framework of the project SUD/88/B01 (Project preparation for refugee-affected areas), financed by funds from the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. Its current allocation amounts to \$US 262,515. The rationale for the programming approach being implemented is to provide the Government with high quality projects and to assist in preparing development strategies for refugee-affected areas, which will serve as the overall development framework for these projects. A working group composed of representatives of all parties concerned has been established to provide policy guidance to the teams and review their outputs. An integrated zonal approach is being considered to assess the requirements of refugee-affected areas.
13. The four technical missions were fielded in March/April 1989 and produced four sectoral strategy documents and 33 projects requiring \$US 167 million in donor support in the following sectors: agriculture, \$US 21.6 million; heat and water, \$US 59.4 million; income generation, \$US 11.3 million; and education, \$US 74.4 million.
14. The programming exercise being carried out by UNDP, in close collaboration with UNHCR, consists of the first of a multi-year longer-term exercise that will identify viable projects for donor funding on a continuing basis.
15. A revolving fund for small-scale ventures, employment promotion and income generation for women, particularly refugees in the Sudan, financed by funds from the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa with a total allocation of \$US 268,300, was approved in March 1989. This project aims at promoting the employment and generation of income for women through the development of small-scale ventures in Khartoum and in the central region by encouraging group and community-based activities through the involvement and training of local staff, to be established as a component of a registered self-financing and self-supporting organization.
