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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced
persons in Chad

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/143 of 8 December 1988 on emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to implement its special programme of assistance to returnees in that country. This programme, which started in January 1987, was adopted as an integral part of the overall response by the international community to the need for recovery and rehabilitation in Chad. The initial programme of nine months was extended several times until 31 March 1989. The funds allocated made it possible to provide for the needs of returnees from Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Nigeria.
2. It is estimated that at the end of 1988 approximately 103,000 returnees had benefited from UNHCR assistance, which included blankets, household utensils, seeds and agricultural tools, and transportation costs and the provision of food. Distribution of non-food items in the south of the country was undertaken with vehicles belonging to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and was supervised by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Chadian Red Cross.
3. The German Agro-Action, a non-governmental organization of the Federal Republic of Germany, was the main UNHCR operational partner in the Ouaddai Region. Assistance was also given to returnees in the agricultural sector and covered the development of water-supply resources in the home areas of returnees in southern Chad. A private commercial firm "SOTRAHY" under the overall supervision of the Official national de l'hydraulique pastorale et villageoise (ONHPV), completed the sinking of wells and installation of water pumps. Assistance under this programme

was financed through funds obtained as the result of a special appeal. At the closure of the programme, in March 1989, \$2.25 million had been spent. Limited repatriation has continued in 1989, particularly from Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Nigeria. This has been financed under the UNHCR annual programme allocations for the countries concerned.

4. Since the closure of the UNHCR office in Chad, the UNHCR representative in Cameroon co-ordinates the activities of the office in co-operation with the UNDP office in D'jamena.
