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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 39/190 of 17 December 1984 on assistance to Yemen, the General Assembly, inter alia, appealed to all countries, especially the developed countries, to contribute generously to the relief efforts and the reconstruction programme of the earthquake-affected areas in Yemen; requested the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to maintain and expand their programme of assistance to Yemen; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fortieth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

II. RELIEF PROGRAMME

2. On 12 December 1982, an earthquake struck the Yemen Arab Republic. It was felt all over the country in different degrees, in terms of resulting damage. The intensity of the earthquake was 5.8 on the Richter scale. It was found later that most of the damage was concentrated in Dhamar Province where 1,064 villages and small towns were affected. The losses in life were 2,500 persons, while the total number of the injured was 2,800. In addition to the dead, wounded and lost persons, the estimated losses amounted to 9,000 million Yemen rials (\$US 2,000 million).

* A/40/150.

3. The relief programmes started on the first day of the disaster. The working teams moved on to Dhamar Province providing the affected population with tents, food and cover. Statisticians and medical teams also moved to the Province to participate in the assessment and to assist in overcoming the disaster. Besides the help of the Government and the local citizens, friendly countries, responding to the news broadcast, dispatched additional assistance, which was sent immediately to the affected areas where it was distributed by responsible committees appointed by the Government.

4. The Government, represented by Ministers, top officials and the armed forces, made the largest contribution in the assistance and relief. The President kept in touch with the situation continuously, and in January 1983, he formed a Supreme Council for the reconstruction of the houses in the earthquake-affected areas.

5. The Vice-President, as leader of the Supreme Council, appointed the top employees for the Executive Office which started recruiting engineers from different Government departments to carry out the necessary field surveys and to establish records and a design unit in the office.

6. Preliminary statistics had shown that the number of villages affected by the earthquake was 1,072; the number of damaged houses was 21,000; and the number of cracked houses was 16,000. The details concerning these figures are shown in table 1 below.

Table 1

Classification	Dhamar	Ans	Al-Hada	Gahran	Dawran	Maghrib	Jabal	Total
						Ans	El Sharq	
Villages affected	1	210	217	39	331	147	127	1 072
Damaged houses	271	3 878	2 335	2 178	3 663	573	191	13 908
Cracked houses	1 309	5 087	3 777	1 213	6 296	2 542	3 836	24 060 <u>a/</u>
Unaffected houses	3 419	8 223	5 294	1 530	4 835	1 304	5 228	29 833

a/ Of the total number of cracked houses, 33 per cent (7,940) is now considered as damaged houses and should be added to the figure 13,908.

III. PROGRAMME OF RECONSTRUCTION

7. Survey teams have been collecting data and information in the field for three months. After further scrutinizing the information and data, three main projects were formulated and it is believed that they included all damaged and cracked houses. These projects can be summarized as follows: (a) building new houses by contracts; (b) repairing cracked houses; and (c) building new houses with the help of the affected inhabitants (self-help). A summary of this programme is shown in table 2 below:

Table 2

Classification	Dhamar	Ans	Al-Hada	Gahran	Dawran	Maghrib Ans	Jabal El Sharq	Total
<u>General contracts (14)</u>								
Location	1	151	81	39	173	-	-	445
Damaged houses	271	3 775	1 705	2 178	3 268	-	-	11 197
<u>Limited contracts (3)</u>								
Location	-	45	97	-	-	-	-	142
Damaged houses	-	83	584	-	-	-	-	667
<u>Self-help</u>								
Damaged houses	-	-	-	-	280	587	-	867

8. In addition to the details shown previously, the following table shows the damaged and cracked houses for which financial resources are needed to effect repair or reconstruction.

Table 3

Classification	Dhamar	Ans	Al-Hada	Gahran	Dawran	Maghrib Ans	Jabal El Sharq	Total
Damaged	-	20	46	-	101	-	191	358
Cracked houses	1 309	5 087	3 777	1 213	6 296	2 542	3 836	24 060

9. By a detailed investigation, it was noticed that 33 per cent of the affected houses are not repairable; consequently, they will be added to the total sum of damaged houses. Therefore, the figures shown in table 4 below are the total number of damaged and cracked houses for which financial resources are needed to effect reconstruction or repair.

Table 4

Classification	Dhamar	Ans	Al-Hada	Gahran	Dawran	Maghrib Ans	Jabal El Sharq	Total
Damaged	432	1 698	1 292	400	2 178	838	1 457	8 295
Cracked	877	3 409	2 531	813	4 219	1 714	2 570	16 133 <u>a/</u>

a/ The cost of repairing 1,000 of the total number of cracked houses was approved by the Supreme Council and the cost of repairing the remaining number of houses is still unfinanced.

1. Building new houses by contracts

10. In the highly affected area, the large number of cracked and damaged houses was identified, then divided geographically into 17 groups; each group represents a contract with a limited number of sites, and each site has a respective number of houses to be constructed. Survey plans were drawn up, master plans for villages were finalized and the typical house to be built was fully designed and detailed. Tenders issued can be summarized as follows in table 5 below.

Table 5

Tender number	Group name	Number of villages	Number of houses to be constructed
(1)	Dhamar	15	680
(2)	Dawran	25	845
(3)	Risabah	16	1 107
(4)	Hijrat Manqadah	12	728
(5)	Bani Shajarah	53	1 385
(6)	La Kamat Ash Shawish	21	918
(7)	Mabar	28	1 052
(8)	Ash Shamahi	35	491
(9)	Tinnan	30	785
(10)	Waynan	80	570
(11)	Sunaa	17	754
(12)	Khirbat Afiq	22	433
(13)	Marsabah	29	611
(14)	Jabal Ishaq	59	740
(15) A	Zeraga	51)
(16) B	Al-Baradon	46)667
(17) C	South Ans	45)
	Total	584	11 766

2. Repairing cracked houses

11. It was decided to start the project in Dhamar city, because the type of construction of its houses and the materials used permitted the execution of the programme in a suitable way. In addition to that, Dhamar city had the highest number of cracked houses in the area. As the technology of making repairs was unfamiliar to the working teams, it was considered preferable to start in a limited area in order to ensure good control, supervision and test. As in other towns and villages, there is a large number of houses which cannot be repaired because of the materials of which they are made (clay or adobe) or the manner in which they were constructed.

12. It was envisaged that experience in Dhamar would help to make a final decision on the other parts of the project.

3. Self-help

13. The remaining villages, which were not included in the contracts and are geographically scattered in very wide areas, and the numbers of houses in each village are low compared with those villages included in the contracts.

14. The project relies on the use of materials of the old houses to build the new houses and on the beneficiaries that will provide other local materials, such as water, sand and gravel, while the Government and the donors will provide the imported materials and skilled labour. The areas included in this project as shown in table 6 below.

Table 6

Areas	Villages	Destroyed houses	Cracked houses
Maghrib Ans	147	573	2 542
Northwest Dawran	52	158	15
Jabal Assharq	127	191	3 836
Other Villages	154	303	1 966
Total	480	1 225	9 759

IV. WORKS CARRIED OUT IN THE PROGRAMME

1. Contracts

15. The Executive Office for Reconstruction was established in March 1983, after which visits and selection of new sites took place. The preparation of maps and master plans continued in later months, tender documents were ready as from July 1983 and tenders were opened in January 1984.

16. Contractors started work as from September 1984. The total number of sites under construction at present is 58, containing 3,726 houses which make up about 32 per cent of the houses in the contracts.

17. It is planned that this project will be finished in the first months of 1986.

2. Self-help

18. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) programme helps in Northwest Dawran with a total sum of \$US 2.5 million to carry out work on 280 houses in the area, assisted by the programme of the United Nations Development Programme, which provides the engineers as a part of its technical assistance to the project. A survey has been completed and works are planned to start in a few weeks time.

19. The contribution of the European Economic Community (EEC) to this programme is \$US 2.5 million, which is to be used in Maghrib Ans, together with the Netherlands contribution of 5 million guilders and the United States of America Agency for International Development (USAID) loan of \$US 3 million. These amounts will enable work to be carried out on about 570 houses in the areas.

20. Training centres and model houses in Maghrib Ans have been completed, a part of the materials has been ordered and some agreements with beneficiaries have been signed. Actual work will start during March 1985.

3. Repairs

21. As mentioned before, the programme is planned to start in Dhamar city. Work has started in February 1985 on the first group of 40 houses and it is planned to finish them in one month. The overall works are planned to be completed in 10 months in Dhamar city.

22. The results of the repairs in Dhamar city, which contains 900 cracked houses will decide the execution of other areas which contain 24,060 cracked houses. A detailed survey and study on nine villages selected at random has revealed that 25 to 30 per cent of the cracked houses cannot be repaired. The works carried out in Dhamar city have shown the proper technology for making repairs and have supplied good figures for the cost of these repairs, which will be of assistance in other parts of the project.

V. COST OF THE PROJECT

23. The total cost of the project is shown in table 7 below.

Table 7*

1. ACTUAL FORM			
<u>Signed contracts</u>	<u>Rials (million)</u>	<u>Dollars (million)</u>	<u>Houses</u>
Open contracts	436	107.5	11 000
Repair (Dhamar city)	20	-	700
Self-help	44	-	780
Open contracts Additional (15)	32	5.5	670
	—	—	—
Subtotal	532	113	13 150
	—	—	—
2. ESTIMATES			
Building: non-repairable houses	296	62	7 400
Repair in other areas	209		8 700
Self-help programme (balance)	48		656
Expenditure of offices and running cost	50		
	—	—	—
Subtotal	603	62	
	—	—	—
Total	1 135	175	

* The overall estimated costs, including infrastructure (for example, electricity, roads, schools, water supply), amounts to 2,868 million rials.

VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

24. The contribution of different parties to the financing of the reconstruction programme is shown below.

	<u>Millions of YRls</u>
(a) Contribution of the Yemeni Government and citizens	500
(b) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 250 million Saudi Arabian riyals (SRls), equivalent (out of this SRls 21 million is for infrastructure	400
(c) Governments of Kuwait and Oman, \$US 15 million equivalent to	68
(d) Government of Abu Dabi, \$US 8 million and 10 million dirhams, equivalent to	50
(e) Kuwait Popular Committee, 4 million dinars, equivalent to	75
(f) EEC, \$US 2.5 million, equivalent to	20
(g) Government of the Netherlands, \$US 8.5 million, equivalent to	20
(h) UNCDF, \$US 2,510,662, equivalent to	9
(i) USAID (loan), \$US 3 million	15
(j) Government of Japan, mainly steel	26

25. In addition to the above, aid allocated by the Co-operative Council of Gulf States and paid by Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar amounting to \$US 15 million is allocated for building: 44 schools, 10 medical centres; 30 mosques and construction of roads in the affected areas. As for the loan given by that Council, amounting to \$US 145 million, it is planned to be utilized as follows: \$US 90 million for construction of roads; \$US 30 million for electrification of villages through the existing network; and \$US 10 for the Dhamar water supply and sewage system. The balance will be utilized to cover the deficit in the financing of houses.
