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P O L I C Y

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Annual report of the Administrator for 1984

Summary

The present report brings to the Council's attention the main highlights of the activities of the United Nations Volunteer programme during 1984. In particular, the Administrator is seeking the Council's guidance and, where appropriate, invites policy decisions on several important questions, notably the UNV Domestic Development Services programme and participatory development; the UNV regional emergency assistance programme in drought-stricken countries in Africa; and the possibility of establishing an international volunteer day to recognize and encourage the international volunteer movement for development.

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INTRODUCTION

A brief overview of UNV

1. The United Nations Volunteers programme will observe its fifteenth anniversary on 7 December 1985. During this 15-year period UNV has managed, following an initial start-up period, to sustain an upward growth curve. The Administrator is also gratified to note once again the high quality of services rendered by the individual United Nations volunteers, who justly deserve the respect which they have come to gain in the international development community.
2. The guiding principle of UNV operations continues to be its marked recipient orientation, with the paramount objective of harnessing the volunteers' dedication and technical competence for the fulfilment of the interests of the developing countries as they, themselves, define them.
3. A second important characteristic is the programme's universality, not only in terms of the availability to all participating countries of this cost-effective alternative form of technical assistance (UNDP's "soft window"), but also in terms of the origin of the volunteers. Continuing efforts are made by UNV to extend the network of countries from which volunteers are recruited as well as those in which they serve; the Administrator is pleased to inform the Council that these efforts are meeting with success, notwithstanding the still small numbers of volunteers coming from some of the major industrialized countries.
4. Cost-effectiveness remains a hallmark of the United Nations Volunteers. More and more Governments and United Nations executing and specialized agencies have recognized that UNV provides a way of stretching scarce resources further, enabling the international development community to maintain a high level of response to the needs of recipient countries.
5. It is also well to recall that UNV represents, qualitatively, a response to development needs which has come to be known as appropriate technical assistance. It is now clear that there continues to be a strong demand for the operational type of assistance (OPAS) in many countries, particularly those plagued with problems related to the drought situation, and whose relatively weak infrastructures often make it impossible to use effectively the additional resources provided by the international community. The UNV programme provides an excellent instrument for meeting this type of need especially as the average prior experience of the majority of volunteers ranges from five to seven years, and volunteers are now available in some 130 professional categories.

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6. Summarizing, it may be said that UNV represents the twinning of technical skills and idealism. Based on its ability to recruit on a world-wide basis and its insistence on proven expertise, the programme has been able to weld these two qualities together in such a fashion as to ensure an appropriate, effective and economical response to the needs of the developing world. It is in recognition of these characteristics of voluntarism that the Administrator is raising the question of designating an annual international volunteer day.

Major themes of activities in 1984

7. The year 1984 was a turning point as far as the direction of certain activities of UNV is concerned. Events and the resulting experiences demonstrated that, in addition to its regular functions, the UNV programme could be particularly suitable and effective in dealing with both operational assistance and emergency operations. The programme could also be instrumental in promoting participatory development activities. (See section I below.)

A. Operational assistance

8. The Administrator maintains that effective international development activities require first and foremost the active and sustained participation of the recipient partner at all stages. Such participation is often severely hampered because of the lack of sufficient qualified cadres in the developing countries, especially in the least developed countries (LDCs). The temporary provision of qualified manpower through the UNV programme not only augments, on an immediate basis, the personnel resources of the requesting Governments, thereby assisting them to derive the maximum benefit from multilateral and bilateral development activities, but also provides a "breathing space" for the countries concerned to build up and train national manpower resources.

9. As of December 1984, over 45 per cent of the volunteers in the field (some 430) were directly attached to government departments, mainly in OPAS-type capacities in LDCs, assisting in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of projects; in the co-ordination of external aid; and through the assumption of line functions. Requesting countries feel more and more confident in using United Nations volunteers for this type of assignment, as 80 per cent of them are usually recruited in developing countries and therefore bring with them a particularly relevant experience.

B. Emergency operations

10. In response to the Administrator's appeal, the Governing Council, in decision 84/19 adopted at its thirty-first session in June 1984, approved an allocation from the UNDP Special Programme Resources of \$1.5 million to

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provide volunteers to assist the most severely affected African countries to utilize more effectively the emergency relief assistance mobilized as a result of the Secretary-General's initiative.

11. UNV has attached the highest priority to this activity and in July 1984 drew up a project document (RAF/84/024, United Nations Volunteers Emergency Assistance to Drought-Affected Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa), in consultation with the UNDP regional bureaux concerned. The project was signed in August 1984. Twenty-seven countries were selected to receive additional assistance under this programme. In addition to informing the Governments concerned of the Council's approval of this activity, the UNV Executive Co-ordinator and his staff undertook a number of missions to the region to accelerate the formulation of requests for the expeditious fielding of volunteers.

12. It should be noted that 60 per cent of the project was fully operational at the field level as at the time of the preparation of this report. It is expected that all the resources allocated to the project will have been fully committed before the end of the 12-month period envisaged.

13. The types of requests received are predominantly in the areas of co-ordination of emergency aid operations, food distribution, and vehicle, water pump and borehole maintenance. However, there is also a spectrum of other skills requested which, although bearing directly on the drought emergency, have a pronounced developmental character including those in the following fields: health, nutrition, sanitation, public works, hydrology, agronomy and animal health. Thus the root causes as well as the emergency situation are being dealt with within the programme, on which a further update will be provided during the session.

14. The Administrator is confident that United Nations volunteers, as experienced professionals willing and able to function under difficult living and working conditions, constitute a most suitable manpower resource for emergency operations. In order to stretch the existing, limited resources, he therefore intends to draw increasingly on the UNV programme to participate in system-wide emergency operations, especially in the context of the ongoing African emergency, and recommends that all United Nations system organizations involved in such activities take advantage of the UNV programme's capacity in this respect.

I. THE UNV THRUST IN THE FIELD OF PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT

15. A significant development in 1984 was the marked evolution of UNV's activities in participatory, grass roots development programmes. After careful study and consideration, the Administrator, in the following paragraphs, is submitting his views and specific proposals in this regard for the consideration of the Council.

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16. UNV activities are an important part of the overall UNDP strategy to promote participatory grass roots approaches to development. UNV is also instrumental in furthering contacts and collaborative activities and arrangements with NGOs aimed at improving the condition of the population groups who remain on the periphery of development. In this connection, the Administrator expressed his intention at the thirty-first session of the Council to further enlist non-governmental organizations in an effort to strengthen self-reliance at the community level and to help the development process reach more effectively the poorest and powerless who have too often been passed over in the push for progress. The Council, in decision 84/4, operative paragraph 16, welcomed "the emphasis placed by the Administrator on grass roots approaches for development and on recipient Governments' increasingly tapping the potential of non-governmental organizations within the context of country programming and project execution, without prejudice to the basic principles of the Programme as embodied in the Consensus of 1970."

17. UNV involvement in grass roots activities has been evolving steadily since the adoption of resolution 31/166 by the General Assembly in 1976, which called upon UNV to develop its activities in support of "organized efforts by local and indigenous groups and communities to promote self-help" through programmes and projects conforming to national priorities. Both governmental organizations and NGOs which participate with UNV in such activities have been termed domestic development services (DDS).

18. UNV started with the approach of assisting indigenous development organizations with their activities aimed at the lowest layer of the social fabric. UNDP committed significant resources from its regional programme funds to make it possible for UNV to assist such DDS programmes. The first programme, "Technical Co-operation with DDS Organizations in Asia and the Pacific" was established in 1978, and in the current phase covers 16 countries. The total UNDP input amounts to \$3.27 million.

19. UNV has now prepared a number of impact studies on its activities under this programme in some of the countries. In addition, an external evaluation of the programme was undertaken by two high-level consultants during September 1984 and their report is now available. (See also section III of the present document.)

20. From these studies and other internal monitoring and evaluation exercises and workshops, a clear conception has now emerged of how UNV can bring a new dimension to UNDP's involvement in this field. The UNV programme is focused on indigenous development organizations and groups at all levels of society to make them aware of their potential, and assists them to identify and articulate their own priorities and then to take corrective action, through a self-help process.

21. Thus, the focus is not only on what is being done, but on how it is done. This distinction is fundamental in changing to an approach of which the final goals are self-reliance and self-sustaining development.

22. Also in keeping with the programme's basic philosophy is an institutional strengthening process for groups and organizations operating at the grass roots level with which, in agreement with the Governments concerned, co-operation programmes are developed. The elements of such programmes are mentioned in document DP/1984/INF/3.

23. In addition to the conceptual work, UNV has accumulated extensive operational experience in this area. The Administrator therefore believes that the time is propitious to submit to the Council a strategy to bring UNV's institutional capacity fully to bear on this important field.

24. UNV activities in participatory development are based on the following concepts:

(a) Local communities at the basic societal level, essentially rural communities, have common aspirations and confront common difficulties and should be assisted in taking charge of the planning and implementation of their own development;

(b) The persons or groups to be addressed by international co-operation within the context of a participatory development approach must include those who traditionally have been by-passed by official external assistance programmes;

(c) Some form of external catalytic input is needed to enable these groups to take charge of the planning and implementation of their own development. This calls for a special kind of intervention which builds on the cohesion and motivation of such groups to initiate a social development process; such an input could be in the form of seed money, technical personnel in the form of regular volunteers, and access to appropriate technology;

(d) It is evidently not sufficient simply to deliver material and financial inputs to such communities or to the DDS organizations working in them; technical skills and an appropriate type of animator are also needed, drawing on other successful experiments sponsored by UNDP and other United Nations system organizations in the field of training of agents of change; the UNV/DDS volunteer is the modality which UNV has developed for this purpose;

(e) This special type of volunteer animator has prior working experience with a DDS organization at the grass roots level, knowledge of community development processes and some technical skill which provides him or her with an entry point to the local community, a willingness and ability to cope with very difficult living conditions and a capacity to adjust to local customs and traditions. The DDS volunteers' assignments generally last for two years, during which time they live and work at the village level. The volunteer's

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level of remuneration is limited to the individual's most basic needs and is based upon that paid to local DDS workers (approximately \$100 per month).

25. The approach consists therefore of three mutually reinforcing elements which are described in the paragraphs which follow.

26. Support to the strengthening of ongoing participatory grass roots processes. Core managerial staff and field workers of DDS organizations are trained in techniques required for participatory grass roots development. One way of doing this is through the participation of field workers in the UNV/DDS volunteer exchange programme. On returning to their home organizations, they take back with them a rich experience upon which to draw in tackling development problems in their home countries. A second facet is on-the-job training provided for core staff of DDS organizations. A third way is the workshops, seminars, evaluation meetings and other gatherings which UNV helps to organize, in which the maximum participation of DDS working-level staff is encouraged. The common feature of all three methods is that the learning process takes place outside formal training institutions and is based on a process of increasing awareness and strengthening operational capabilities through the sharing of experiences.

27. In addition, DDS organizations are helped in conducting small-scale innovative experiments aimed at increasing the self-reliance of communities including, in particular, disadvantaged groups. This is being achieved, first, by attaching UNV specialists directly to co-ordinating organizations at the national level to assist in introducing proper programming procedures and effective operational activities; second, by assisting these organizations in identifying the needs for technical assistance, estimating the modest financial inputs required, and securing of such inputs where possible; and third, by creating a number of appropriate technology centres accessible to local communities and capable of engaging in extension work.

28. Further, networks of exchange are established and promoted at the national, regional and subregional levels between animators from DDS groups and organizations. Such horizontal co-operation, which provides a framework for the sharing of knowledge and experiences, is a principal characteristic of the UNV/DDS volunteer exchange programme.

29. Finally, the theory and practice of participatory grass roots development is improved to give greater precision to programme formulation, implementation and evaluation. The evaluation of the participatory process calls for judgements based upon qualitative criteria. The DDS programme aims at developing systematic documentation of the practice of grass roots initiatives in order to further the understanding of the participatory method of development and, therefore, how best to improve the effectiveness of rural development projects through such popular participation.

30. Action in relation to recipient and donor Governments. In relation to recipient Governments, continual policy dialogues are held at the national and regional levels between UNV, Governments and NGO representatives from DDS organizations. The UNV programme has already promoted and provided assistance for the holding of national DDS workshops at which policy directives are reviewed and the active participation of increased numbers of NGOs is strongly encouraged. Periodic subregional and regional workshops are conducted in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific for the same purpose.

31. In relation to donor Governments, a sensitization process as to the nature of UNDP's grass roots initiatives as undertaken by UNV is under way. The participatory development information paper submitted to last year's Governing Council, the studies and reports submitted to this year's session, the consultations with co-operating organizations in industrialized countries and direct contacts with foundations and private institutions interested in participating in the programme are all examples of UNV action in this respect.

32. In relation to both recipient and donor countries, a concerted effort has been undertaken to mobilize additional resources in favour of participatory development activities both to attract new funds in addition to what is already being allocated, and to have a larger allocation of already available funds.

33. Action in relation to the United Nations development system. UNV has participated in UNDP's efforts to sensitize its staff members and field personnel to the conceptual framework of participatory grass roots activities and the operational methodology as developed by the UNDP's new programme on grass roots and NGO matters. Case studies and reports on the programme's activities are disseminated within UNDP headquarters and to UNDP field offices. UNDP and specialized agency field staff are also encouraged to participate in workshops, seminars and other meetings organized by UNV in their countries of assignment. UNV also invites selected resident representatives, UNDP headquarters staff and officials of specialized agencies to its regional workshops.

34. UNV encourages UNDP field offices to utilize expertise from DDS NGOs for other development programmes. By drawing on this largely untapped reservoir of talent, the United Nations development system could also provide the individuals concerned with additional experience to be channeled back into their own organizations.

35. UNV also encourages the systematic consideration of additional activities in this field at the project formulation stage. The strategy is placed within the overall UNDP objective of reviewing the ongoing and pipeline programmes of

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the United Nations development system to identify those cases where the addition of a participatory development dimension would benefit the attainment of the planned objectives. This would allow for a further review of possible linkages with the UNV/DDS programme.

36. This three-step approach adopted by UNV provides UNDP with another tested delivery mechanism to make its programme more responsive to the priorities of the indigenous communities placing emphasis on self-reliance. The Administrator believes that UNV is thus well-equipped with its network of contacts and field volunteers to be the focal point for such action. While he is conscious of the urgent necessity to do more of an operational nature in this field, he also recognizes the imperative to avoid the creation of additional organizational units. The Administrator therefore wishes to suggest that the Council, in the light of UNV's solid institutional capacity and several years of working experience with DDS governmental and non-governmental organizations, lend its full support to the UNV programme of participatory development and consider favourably any new operational and financial arrangements which a major new thrust in this direction may imply.

II. INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

A. The coming of age of international volunteer service

37. The increasingly widespread and varied operation of the UNV programme - with activities currently in some 100 developing countries - should be considered as an expression of the growing importance that peoples and Governments of the world attach to the volunteer movement. The programme has learned much from this movement and from the governmental and non-governmental organizations that have given it support and encouragement. The UNV/DDS programme in particular has aimed at reorienting the volunteer movement towards local and national self-reliance, and at linking voluntarism with technical assistance with the recognition in all countries - especially LDCs - of the value of participatory development.

38. International voluntarism, as exemplified by the bilateral volunteer programmes and UNV, has reached the stage where, the Administrator believes, it can truly be said to have come of age. Despite the justifiable emphasis on technical skills and priorities, the idea of service lies at the heart of the international volunteer movement.

39. Service to others is as old as mankind; people have always been driven to try to improve their imperfect world. Voluntary action has consistently formed the foundation of humanity's noblest work. Undeniably, it is the volunteer ethos that resides at the core of the development concept, and within the United Nations family the concept of volunteer service attained a

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new stage of evolution with the successful establishment of the UNV programme, a dynamic synthesis of voluntarism and technical expertise. In the process, UNV has helped to strengthen development co-operation programmes of the United Nations system, imparting new dynamism and a fresh commitment.

B. Proposal for an international volunteer day

40. The Administrator would like, therefore, to suggest that the Council consider proposing that the United Nations General Assembly designate 7 December, the anniversary of the date of the adoption of the resolution establishing the United Nations Volunteers, for an annual observance of what would be known as International Volunteer Day.

41. Such international days, years, and even decades as United Nations Day, World Food Day, International Year of the Child, and International Decade for Women have helped focus attention on critical development issues. Thus the appropriateness of an international volunteer day - a day inviting world recognition of the role of voluntarism in the international development movement. It is fitting, moreover, to ally this recognition with the creation on 7 December 1970 of the United Nations Volunteers programme. In suggesting the observance of such a day, the Administrator has taken into consideration General Assembly decision 35/424 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 where preference is given, when possible and appropriate, to limit international observances to one day. Furthermore, the Administrator has also verified that the proposed date does not conflict with other established international observances.

42. Observance of such a day would help to stimulate and encourage volunteer service in all of its manifestations, and would highlight the value of voluntary action - whether local, bilateral or multilateral - in every part of the world. Moreover, it would underline sensitivity of the United Nations to the importance of voluntarism, exemplified in seemingly modest individual efforts which, when multiplied by great numbers of people, are among the most effective forces for change today. Such observance would not call on UNDP to meet any additional financial requirements.

43. Observance of such a day would draw attention to the fact that through voluntary service - independent of age, sex, race, creed or social status - anyone, anywhere, can contribute to the world's well-being.

44. Finally, observance of such a day would alert increasing numbers of professionally qualified people - and particularly, in the context of the 1985 International Youth Year, of qualified young people - to the possibility of fulfilling their desire to serve.

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III. UNV PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS DURING 1984

A. Programme development

45. During the year, UNV initiated various activities to further develop the concept of international voluntarism, to strengthen its involvement in the programming of technical assistance at the country level, to further its co-operation with specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to intensify its contacts with co-operating organizations and to bring awareness of the programme to a wider group of people through the further improvement and diversification of UNV publications.

46. A number of field missions were undertaken by the Executive Co-ordinator and his staff to develop new programmes and to carry out more intensive monitoring of ongoing operations.

47. Regarding the specialized and executing agencies, particular emphasis was placed on improving their understanding of the UNV programme and on their more closely co-operating with it. Consultative meetings were held with a number of major agencies, resulting in formal exchanges of letters of understanding for further and increased co-operation. In addition, UNV continued its active participation in the UNDP Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting.

48. The Administrator is therefore pleased to be able to report that the UNV programme is now fully recognized by Governments and the United Nations system as a viable and essential instrument for technical co-operation programmes. The sharp increase in the total number of requests for volunteers (see annex I in UNDP/1985/44/Add.1) clearly supports this conclusion.

B. The search for universality

49. As mentioned in the introduction to this report, efforts were intensified to give an even more practical expression to one of the important characteristics of the programme: its universality. Efforts were made to strengthen relations with co-operating organizations and Governments and to enlist their support for their expanded participation in the programme, by identifying and proposing suitable candidates for UNV service. This resulted in co-operation agreements with two more Governments, Poland and Portugal, and consultations are under way with other countries.

50. The second annual UNV Consultative Meeting was held in April 1984 in Geneva with the participation of representatives of Governments and co-sponsoring organizations from both donor and developing countries. Issues discussed were ways of improving the selection, recruitment, utilization and backstopping of volunteers. Such meetings bring to bear on these questions

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the voices of both the contributors of volunteers and the recipients. The Administrator intends to continue the efforts to raise the level of participation of industrialized country nationals in the UNV programme, which still remains below the optimum.

C. An overview of programme operations

51. Numerically, the programme exhibited a steady expansion in 1984. At 31 December, there were 1606 established posts, the highest figure attained since the founding of UNV, comprising 942 volunteers in situ, 145 en route to assignments and 519 under recruitment. Four-hundred-twenty UNVs concluded assignments and 490 new volunteers were placed.

52. Even while expanding, a more uniform distribution of resources was achieved, since in 1984 the UNV programme Emergency Medical Assistance to Sri Lanka (SRL/78/020) - which at its peak had an assigned strength of 195 - was successfully concluded. Apart from involvement in refugee matters and drought-related emergency projects, the concentration of the core programme moved towards long-term developmental activities and the provision of operational middle-level expertise in areas where, previously, long-term experts of the OPAS type would have been the likely input. Succeeding paragraphs delineate some salient elements of the programme's activities during 1984. Programme trends from 1982 through 1984 are outlined in annex I contained in DP/1985/44/Add.1.

Asia and the Pacific

53. A marked feature in the Asia and Pacific region is the responsiveness of the UNV programme to requirements for operational expertise at a progressively higher level of sophistication. Bhutan hosts the largest programme in the region; the volunteers function within a multisectoral project covering key sectors of the economy.

54. Currently, 31 UNV posts have been established in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in skills ranging from small-scale industry development to medical services, with duty stations often in extremely isolated areas. In Western Samoa, there is concentration on the development and modernization of a rural medical service through a number of medical officers to be recruited from Asian countries, in keeping with the policy of favoring a TCDC approach wherever possible. In the Cook Islands, a multisectoral project provides for 15 UNVs.

55. The programme's capacity to respond to requests of a highly sophisticated level was further demonstrated in Singapore, where tertiary-level lecturers were provided to two national polytechnics for subjects ranging from mechanical engineering, architecture and electrical engineering to computer science.

Africa

56. The Africa region now absorbs close to 50 per cent of the volunteers. This percentage will be further enhanced as the emergency assistance project (RAF/84/024) becomes fully operational. (See paragraphs 10-14 above).

57. Three countries (Madagascar, Nigeria and Zaire) requested United Nations volunteers for the first time and Angola received the first three of eight UNVs financed under its IPF. In Portuguese and Spanish-speaking countries requests have registered a 37 per cent increase. Noteworthy within these countries has been the co-operation effected through the regular programmes of WFP and UNICEF and through projects financed by the Emergency Operations Trust Fund (UNEOTF).

58. Botswana will shortly have one of the largest contingents of UNVs on the continent. Steady expansion is also projected for Lesotho, where support is being sought for the health and agricultural sectors. In co-operation with UNESCO, UNV is involved in strengthening the Faculty of Applied Sciences at the University of Burundi. In Gabon, the first phase of the school construction project, to which had been assigned a team of 10 UNV architects and civil engineers from China, was completed; the second phase will also benefit from the services of United Nations volunteers. With UNEOTF funding, a team of UNV specialists from China has been assigned to increase cereals production and to demonstrate new techniques in one of Rwanda's poorest regions. The Pan African Congress (PAC) has requested the UNV programme to execute a project designed to establish the Multipurpose Training Centre located at Masuguri-Kitonga in the United Republic of Tanzania, where two UNVs, a civil engineer and an architect, will be the only internationally recruited personnel. Other notable areas of UNV activity in Africa are Guinea, where an education sector project is currently being developed; Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic, where education projects are being extended and broadened; Mali, which hosts UNVs in minerals exploration, trade promotion, motor-pump irrigation, industrial promotion and development planning; and Togo, where a multisectoral project involving 16 United Nations volunteers was approved in December 1984.

59. United Nations volunteers have been fielded within RAF/82/059 to provide assistance to regional and subregional intergovernmental institutions and programmes, notably in the ECA-sponsored Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC) programme in Ethiopia and Zambia, and the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO) in Tangiers. Participation also continues in field trials in Kenya, Malawi, Burkina Faso and Ghana of "Field Testing and Demonstration of Rural Water Supply Hand-pumps", a programme conducted by IBRD.

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Latin America and the Caribbean

60. Eleven countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have UNVs assigned to their programmes, although numerically the overall input is modest. The largest presence is in Jamaica where an additional 20 UNVs in the health field will complement the present 17. In Honduras, four UNVs are assigned near border areas for handling work related to asylum and resettlement. In Haiti, the second phase of an ILO project for artisanal development and employment promotion in the southern peninsula is being prepared involving a team of seven UNVs as the only internationally recruited personnel.

Arab States and the Middle East

61. Within the Arab States region, requests for posts registered a 46 per cent increase over 1983. Three countries, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Turkey participated in the programme for the first time, with the establishment of posts in education, meteorology and vocational rehabilitation of the disabled. The programme in Democratic Yemen is undergoing an expansion, focused on Socotra island, with an initial request for an additional 10 UNVs in horticulture, veterinary science, land surveying, low-cost housing and health.

62. In Yemen, a self-help housing project based on appropriate technology was evolved with the immediate fielding of 13 volunteers in civil engineering and surveying to assist in the priority task of reconstructing some 15,000 homes devastated by the earthquake.

63. The UNHCR refugee assistance project in Somalia, with bilateral funding from the United States and Finland, was expanded through an agreement signed between UNHCR and UNV calling for additional volunteers, primarily to assist the National Refugee Commission towards achieving a degree of self-sufficiency within the refugee community.

64. A UNV-executed regional project for LDCs in the Arab States region was also approved, with an allocation of 20 posts to fill technical manpower gaps.

Fully funded volunteers

65. During 1984 the number of UNV posts fully funded by donor Governments peaked at 40. An interregional UNV project fully funded by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), provides for 10 UNVs, most of whom are being assigned as Programme Assistants in UNDP field offices in the LDCs of Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Arab States. Moreover, SIDA undertook, with effect from 1 January 1985, to fully finance three volunteers

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to serve in an agricultural development programme of the Government of Lesotho as cartographer and soil surveyors. The Governments of the United States, Finland and Norway fully funded a total of eight posts in the UNV-executed programme of assistance to refugee relief activities in Somalia, providing a valuable addition to the assignments financed by UNHCR.

66. The Government of Finland also financed four more volunteer assignments in Bhutan and Kenya. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany continued to provide funding for eight posts in Guinea-Bissau. Switzerland's contribution reached a total of six posts during the year; three in Benin, one in Thailand and two being programmed. Belgium joined the list of donors by providing full funding for one post in Jamaica.

67. The Administrator wishes to address a special note of gratitude to these Governments and to appeal, once again, to the donor community to make wider use of this cost-effective means of assisting developing countries.

D. Youth and domestic development services (DDS): participatory development

68. UNV's conceptual approach to participatory development is described in full in section I above. In operational terms, the programme's main thrust continued to be the regional IPF-funded activities in Asia and the Pacific. A two-year extension to 1986 of RAS/82/016 was agreed, bringing the total allocation to \$2 million. By the end of 1984 a total of 260 UNV/DDS volunteers had been assigned; geographically, the programme expanded to include, under the volunteer exchange programme, an additional six countries - Bhutan, Fiji, India, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu - as recipients of DDS volunteers. Together with Papua New Guinea, which endorsed the project in 1984, a total of 16 countries now participate in this programme. The external evaluation referred to in section I recommended continuation of the programme at the current level to permit its consolidation.

69. In order to involve an even larger number of NGOs, workshops were co-hosted by UNV in Fiji, Thailand and Vanuatu, which resulted in additional requests for the training of NGO workers and the assignment of UNV/DDS volunteers to DDS NGOs.

70. For the mobilization of additional funding from national IPFs for the regional programme, discussions were held with a number of recipient Governments. With the donor countries, discussions are being held for additional allocations for implementing micro income-generating and social welfare projects in conjunction with UNV/DDS volunteer assignments. Noteworthy contributors were the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Government of Switzerland, the One Per Cent for Development Fund and the Trickle-Up Programme.

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71. The Administrator is pleased to inform the Council that UNV's participatory development programme for Africa is now fully operational with the approval of an additional \$300,000 from the regional IPF, bringing the total budget of RBA/82/058 to \$500,000. The Project Manager was fielded and the project office opened in Zambia in December 1984. The assignment of three UNV specialists and of the first group of DDS volunteers in Mali, Rwanda and Zambia is scheduled for early 1985. The Africa programme, the Administrator believes, will be a significant contribution to increasing self-reliance of the most disadvantaged groups at a critical juncture in that region's development.

E. Youth participation in development

72. UNV's execution of its mandate in this field was closely related to the interest generated following the designation of 1985 as International Youth Year (IYY). The main element of UNV's activities continues to be promoting productive employment opportunities for young people. The modalities include introduction of appropriate skills training, particularly for self-employment, and the identification and implementation of corresponding work opportunities. During 1984, project documents for new projects were signed for Bangladesh and Zaire, and negotiated for Mali. UNV's co-operation with UNESCO in Indonesia continued and a similar collaboration in Madagascar started. At the regional level, UNV provided support to the Youth Section of ESCAP.

73. Regarding IYY proper, a preparatory workshop for a national seminar in 1985 was co-hosted in Zaire. UNV also participated in the meetings of the core group of United Nations agencies established to promote, organize and implement IYY-related programmes. Resident representatives have been informed of developments and each office is expected to function as the co-ordinating point for IYY activities under United Nations system auspices. Work started on the first issue of the UNV/IYY Newsletter, to be published in 1985, to highlight UNV's and other organizations' role in IYY.

IV. PROGRAMME FINANCE: THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND

The Special Voluntary Fund in 1984

74. The Administrator wishes to express his gratitude for the increasing participation of developing countries in the UNV Special Voluntary Fund. Although modest, this clearly demonstrates the confidence of these countries in the programme and an appreciation of the effective services which the volunteers are rendering. Efforts are continuing to get an increase in the overall level of contributions.

75. The expenditure during 1984 was about \$2.75 million. Approximately 94 per cent (\$2.58 million) of this was utilized to meet the external costs of volunteers from developing countries for whom no other financing is available. The balance, approximately \$175,000, was spent to meet the costs of some Programme Assistants assigned to LDCs, as well as the costs involved in programme development and other programme activities (IYY, DDS, etc.).

76. The overall resource situation of the Special Voluntary Fund calls for increased support by Governments. Notwithstanding developing country pledges, the major bilateral donors are expected to remain the mainstay of the Fund. The Administrator is especially grateful for the substantial increases in the pledges of some of these donors, and invites others to make new or increased pledges, as the continued development of the programme will depend to a large degree on the level of this support.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Emergency operations

77. Taking into account the information provided in paragraphs 10-14 above, the Council may wish to consider adopting a decision which would, inter alia, urge the Administrator to continue assisting the Governments of those African countries affected by the present emergency through the assignment of United Nations Volunteers beyond the duration of the regional emergency project (RAF/84/024); and which also would encourage donor Governments, United Nations system organizations and UNDP resident representatives, when making additional allocations to assist in the current emergency, to consider the particular advantages of flexibility, speed and cost-effectiveness which can accrue from the use of United Nations Volunteers in emergency-related activities.

B. Participatory development

78. Taking into account the information provided in paragraphs 15-36 above, the Council may wish to consider adopting a decision which would, inter alia, encourage Governments and UNDP field offices, as they carry out country programme reviews and new country programming exercises, to give full consideration to the allocation of an increased volume of IPF resources for cost-effective participatory development activities aimed at helping the least advantaged communities to advance more decisively towards self-sufficiency by a more active participation in their own development.

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C. International volunteer day

79. Taking into account the information provided in paragraphs 37-44 above, the Council may wish to consider adopting a decision which would, inter alia, propose to the General Assembly that it consider designating 7 December for an annual observance of what would be known as "International Volunteer Day".

