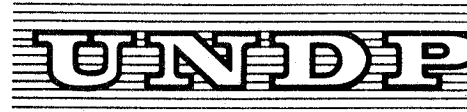


UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME



Distr.
GENERAL

DP/514
13 May 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-eighth session
June 1981
Agenda item 4

PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Administrator

Summary

In this report, the Administrator reviews the progress achieved in implementing the programme of assistance to the Palestinian people authorized by the Governing Council in its decision 79/18 adopted at the twenty-sixth session.

The Administrator is recommending that the Council take the action described in paragraph 8 of the report.

1. The Governing Council, at its twenty-sixth session in June 1979, adopted decision 79/18, which authorized the Administrator to initiate project activities for a new programme of assistance to the Palestinian people and to draw upon the Programme Reserve up to the amount of \$3.5 million for this purpose. This amount represented the notionally estimated costs of 18 proposed projects that had been recommended to the Council by the Administrator. At the twenty-seventh session of the Council, the Administrator reported orally on implementation progress. He described his consultations with all interested parties and the resultant agreement in principle for the more precise identification and formulation of 11 of the 18 project proposals, including 10 in the West Bank and/or Gaza and one in the Syrian Arab Republic, to be followed as quickly as possible by the initiation of actual project operations.

2. As the ensuing preparation for the implementation of projects took place, the Administrator concluded that the extensive programming and managerial requirements of this important and unique activity necessitated the appointment of a Co-ordinator with the direct responsibility of detailed oversight for the projects, working under the immediate and personal supervision of the Administrator. Accordingly, in September 1980, following consultations with the directly concerned parties, he designated a Senior Adviser to the Administrator for this purpose.

3. For all projects, regardless of location, the Administrator and the Co-ordinator have maintained constant and productive contact with the Governments concerned and with representatives of the Palestinian people. Although the consultations required have been necessarily protracted because of the special circumstances in which the programme must operate, the Administrator is pleased to report that the implementation stage has been reached for 4 of the 11 projects currently accepted by all parties. The Administrator anticipates that 2 other projects will be under implementation not later than July 1981, and that the remaining 5 projects will reach the same stage before the end of 1981.

4. At the request of the occupying authorities of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and with the concurrence of the other parties involved, UNDP is undertaking direct execution of projects in those territories. The project "Agricultural Training Centres", to be carried out in the Syrian Arab Republic, will be executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Particulars of the 11 projects (as identified in document DP/410) are as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Notional</u> <u>cost</u> <u>1/</u> <u>(In US \$)</u>	<u>Status</u>
Specific Training in Industrial Management	100 000	Pre-operational
Promotion of Pre-Primary Education	245 000	Under implementation

<u>Title</u>	<u>Notional cost 1/ (in US \$)</u>	<u>Status</u>
Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education	360 000	Implementation beginning July 1981
Health Manpower Development	175 000	Under implementation
Development and Strengthening of Health Institutions	500 000	Under implementation
Specialized Training Programme in Agricultural Development	200 000	Pre-operational
Agricultural Training Centres 2/	200 000	Pre-operational
Strengthening and Development of the Moussa Alami Project	6 000	Pre-operational
Training in Industrial Development	175 000	Pre-operational
Training in Housing	100 000	Pre-operational
Children's Institutions	100 000	Implementation beginning July 1981

5. Throughout the entire preparatory process, the organizations of the United Nations system have generously offered extensive assistance and advice to the Administrator and have responded quickly and effectively to all requests for information and support. The Administrator wishes to record his particular appreciation for the co-operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) which, because of its special status, has exceptionally been accepted by all parties as a source of technical assistance for several of the projects. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA has approved flexible and unique arrangements to make it possible for UNDP to take advantage of services which would otherwise be unobtainable or prohibitively expensive.

6. In order to ensure that project inputs are of maximum benefit to the Palestinian people, the Administrator has enlisted the services of independent and internationally respected consultants to assist in the project formulation process in each case. These consultants have been selected after extensive consultations with the parties directly concerned.

1/ As estimated in June 1979.

2/ This project located in the Syrian Arab Republic; all others in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

7. The Administrator hopes that it will be possible to secure agreement in due course to proceed with the 7 projects of the original 18 which have not yet been acted upon. As the process of agreement is likely to take some time, the Administrator, in addition to seeking the approval of the Council to carry over the unspent remaining balance from the \$3.5 million Programme Reserve allocation (see DP/547, paragraph 17), requests that the Council give to him the authority to exceed, when necessary, the notional project costs for individual projects described in document DP/410. This would only be done in cases when it became clear that the economic and social benefit from such expenditure over the notional amount clearly outweighed the benefit of holding funds in reserve for another project which awaited approval action. For example, the Administrator is considering, subject to the Council's approval, over-expenditure in the "Children's Institutions" project where there is the opportunity to achieve an immediate and beneficial impact on the lives of Palestinian children. Given the lead time required to begin implementation of the projects already approved by the Council, as well as the carry-over of funds into the third cycle, no additional funds will be required during 1982 to properly implement decision 79/18.

Recommendation

8. In the light of the above, the Administrator recommends that:

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 79/18,

- (a) Take note of the progress that has been made in the implementation of this decision;
- (b) Urge all concerned parties to assist in the full implementation of this decision;
- (c) Authorize the Administrator to increase, where necessary, the notional amount of expenditures for projects listed in DP/410, keeping within the overall allocation of \$3.5 million from the Programme Reserve; and
- (d) Request the Administrator to report to the Governing Council on this subject at its next session.

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