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S U P P O R T

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Report of the Administrator

Summary

The present report highlights, for information purposes only, the main activities undertaken by the United Nations Volunteers programme; in particular, those in pursuit of the development of international voluntarism within the framework of multilateral technical co-operation; the promotion of Domestic Development Services (DDS) programmes; and participatory development. The report is submitted in accordance with biennial reporting established in General Assembly resolutions 36/200, paragraph 11 and 39/217, and includes a financial statement.

I. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

1. The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme experienced sustained growth in 1985. As at 31 December 1985, there were 1,816 established posts, with 1,128 volunteers actually in service; these figures represent an increase of 13 per cent and almost 20 per cent respectively over the figures for 1984. There were 118 volunteers en route to their assignments, and nominations for 380 posts were pending clearance by Governments and agencies.

2. Steps were taken to enhance the overall programme management capacity and to improve the process and procedures for the recruitment, selection and placement of United Nations volunteers. The computerization of the roster of candidates, numbering four thousand, was virtually completed. The evaluation of ongoing UNV-executed projects was undertaken as part of the effort to institute a more systematic and regular evaluation of the programme. Those evaluation exercises established the necessity to take further steps to closely monitor the programme activities, such as (a) the issuance of guidelines for the programming and monitoring of United Nations volunteers; (b) the assignment of UNV programme assistants not only to UNDP field offices in the least developed countries, as has generally been the case, but also to other developing countries with a sizeable volunteer presence; and (c) the posting of a full-time evaluation officer to UNV headquarters. In recognition of its role as a viable, relevant and cost-effective alternative source of qualified and experienced manpower for multilateral technical co-operation activities, UNV is increasingly being involved in the identification, formulation, and implementation of projects spanning the entire spectrum of socio-economic development.

3. The recommendations of the external evaluation on the DDS project in Asia and the Pacific (RAS/82/016) were reviewed by representatives of participating Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at a regional workshop held in Kuala Lumpur. With the continuous strong support and encouragement from participating Governments and non-governmental organizations and at the request of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNV prepared proposals for the continuation of DDS programme activities in the region during the fourth programming cycle. In Africa, DDS activities under a UNV-executed project, RAF/82/058 Technical Co-operation with Youth and DDS Organizations in Africa, got under way with the placement of UNV DDS volunteers in Rwanda and Zambia; the assignment of a UNV management and youth specialist to the regional project office in Lusaka; and the preparation of a subregional management training course for DDS field workers in Eastern and Southern Africa, to take place early in 1986. In the Caribbean, the Government of Jamaica co-sponsored a DDS workshop in April 1985, organized by UNV with the participation of the Government and NGOs from eight countries, with the objective of providing a forum for an exchange of information on ongoing and planned development activities at the local community level and to identify priority areas for the introduction of a DDS programme. The workshop enabled the articulation of a series of needs in three main fields, namely

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stimulating self-reliance through participatory development; the promotion of income-generating activities at the micro-level; and the establishment of a regional mechanism for networking, and disseminating information on development initiatives in local communities.

4. In view of the operational expansion and conceptual evolution of UNV co-operation with DDS organizations; its recognition as a main operational unit of UNDP for work with grass-roots communities and with indigenous organizations; and in order to maintain its close co-ordination with UNDP overall initiatives in grass-roots development and co-operation with NGOs, the Administrator issued a circular to all UNDP field offices and participating and executing agencies of UNDP, stressing close co-operation between the senior advisor on Grassroots and NGO matters in the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation, and UNV.

5. The emergency-related regional project for drought-stricken countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, RAF/84/024, was fully operational at the end of December 1985, with 53 United Nations volunteers in place in 24 countries, 11 en route to assignments and 13 awaiting Government clearances.

6. As the custodian of international voluntarism, UNV arranged the third annual UNV consultative meeting in April 1985, bringing together international volunteer-sending organizations and Government agencies from industrialized and developing countries to discuss and agree upon norms to the approach to international volunteer service. UNV will be holding its second high-level intergovernmental meeting in November 1986 in Maseru, to be hosted by the Government of Lesotho. This meeting will specifically address issues relating to (a) voluntarism and participatory development; (b) voluntarism and youth; and (c) international voluntarism and multilateral technical assistance.

7. The importance of volunteer service for socio-economic development activities was recently reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly at its fortieth session: resolution 40/212 invited Governments "to observe annually, on 5 December, an International Volunteer Day for economic and social development...". UNV will take advantage of International Volunteer Day by creating a setting and providing a focus for some of its normal activities to promote the programme as well as voluntarism in general.

8. The Administrator wishes to bring to the attention of the Governing Council that the marked expansion of the programme has led to a critical staffing situation. While the increasing number of requests for volunteers by Governments and organs of the United Nations system creates an increase in the functions dealing directly with recruitment, placement and monitoring of volunteers, there is also a concomitant increase in basic functions of administration and accounting. Most important, however, is the wider responsibility of UNV for projects where volunteers are the only technical assistance input. UNV is also increasingly called upon to assist in project design and backstopping, and in the preparation of country and intercountry programmes. Finally, UNV substantive activities in the two fields of Domestic

Development Services and participatory development and Youth, as mandated in General Assembly resolutions 31/166 and 31/131, have grown significantly in recent years.

9. These expanded functions have required supervisors to assume operational functions in addition to their managerial duties. This has put undue pressure on programme management and unless remedial action is taken soon, the programme may suffer serious harm.

10. Consequently, the Administrator asked a consultant to review staffing levels in relation to workload, and to make proposals on actions to be taken. At the time of writing, the consideration of this critical problem had not been concluded, and the Administrator will, therefore, revert to the matter in an addendum to this report.

II. GENERAL PROGRAMME FINANCIAL RESOURCES

11. Of the 1,816 established posts as at December 1985, 900 are included in the 89 UNV-executed projects, while the remaining 916 are within programmes executed by various United Nations and other international agencies.

12. The budget resources to finance the UNV-executed programmes during 1985 amounted to \$10.8 million, of which \$7.0 million was obtained from UNDP sources: Indicative Planning Figure (IPF), Special Measures Fund/Least Developed Countries (SMF/LDC) and Special Programme Resources (SPR); \$2.0 million from the UNV Special Voluntary Fund (SVF); and the remaining \$1.8 million was provided by other sources such as Government Counterpart Cash Contribution (GCCC), trust funds and agency funds.

13. UNV continuously negotiates fully-funded joint programmes with donor and other countries under multilateral and bilateral arrangements. These programmes seek to provide United Nations volunteers at no cost to the developing country. The costs for such arrangements amounted to \$1.1 million in 1985. Negotiations with a major developing country for a similar programme, amounting to \$0.41 million, are at a final stage.

III. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE UNV SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND

14. Voluntary contributions to the SVF from 21 countries are estimated at \$0.8 million in 1985. Unpaid, but pledged, voluntary contributions for 1985 and prior years amount to \$0.3 million. For 1986, pledges totalling \$0.8 million have already been made and, based on current estimates, are expected to reach \$1 million.

15. Funds available from SVF in 1985 totalled \$5.08 million, which comprised funds carried over from previous years (\$3.17 million); voluntary contributions received during 1985 (\$0.83 million); and interest and income

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from partial offset of external costs (\$1.08 million). This amount was fully spent or obligated to cover (a) budget estimates of external costs for 1985 and the ensuing years of volunteers originating from developing countries - 95 per cent; (b) internal costs of UNV programme assistants assigned to UNDP offices in eleven LDCs - 4 per cent; and (c) UNV programme development and promotional activities - 1 per cent. The projected levels of expenditure for the activities of the programme for 1986 and funds to be obligated for payment in future years amount to \$5.70 million. Resource availability is estimated at \$5.35 million, which comprises \$3.08 million carry over from 1985; \$1.0 million voluntary contributions for 1986; \$0.30 million from interest and other income; and \$0.97 million in partial offsets of external costs from project budgets.

16. It should be noted that UNV programming, and, therefore, financial commitments, are based on a minimum of a two-year period, since UNVs are normally assigned for two years. Income to the SVF, however, is based on annual voluntary contributions and a partial offset of external costs from project budgets, also calculated on an annual basis. While the anticipated expenditure for 1986 from the SVF is, therefore, well within the estimated availability of resources, the programme has at the same time taken on commitments for future years which currently amount to \$6.30 million. The amount of these commitments is based on the number of volunteers in situ at the end of 1985.

17. As new volunteers are recruited during 1986, new commitments will be added for 1987 and 1988. In view of the fact that the requests for volunteers are showing a stronger upward trend than the contributions to SVF, the Administrator sees no other solution than to make a moderate increase in the charge per volunteer to project budgets in order to maintain the SVF at a reasonable level in relation to commitments. Since the majority of the volunteers are serving in LDCs, the Administrator regrets this necessity, and once again urges member states to contribute to the UNV Special Voluntary Fund to enable the UNV programme to effectively respond to the legitimate requests of the developing countries.

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Annex I

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION
(millions of US dollars)

Table 1. United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund

	Actual		Estimated		
	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
I. <u>Availability of resources</u>					
Balance as at 1 January	3.34	3.38	3.17	3.08	3.06
Voluntary contributions	1.21	0.72	0.83	1.00	1.00
Interest income	0.29	0.33	0.20	0.30	0.30
Partial offset of ext.costs	0.25	0.60	0.88	0.97	1.06
TOTAL	5.09	5.03	5.08	5.35	5.42
II. <u>Utilization of resources</u>					
Project Expenditure	1.71	1.86	2.00	2.29	2.76
III. <u>Balance of resources as at 31 December</u>	3.38	3.17	3.08	3.06	2.66
IV. <u>Commitment for future years as at 31 December</u>^{a/}	4.40	4.95	5.70	6.30	7.26
Estimated Availability/ as at 31 December	(1.02)	(1.78)	(2.62)	(3.24)	(4.60)

^{a/} Includes obligations for serving volunteers, plus commitments for (projected) posts to be established in the year.

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Annex I (continued)

Table 2. UNV Sub-trust Fund contributions
(millions of US dollars)

	Actual		Estimated	
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>
I. <u>Balance as at 1 January</u>	0.02	0.19	0.19	0.12
<u>Additional contributions received</u>	0.29	0.74	1.05	1.00
TOTAL	0.31	0.93	1.24	1.12
II. <u>Utilization of resources</u>	0.12	0.73	1.12	1.00
III. <u>Balance as of 31 December</u>	0.19	0.19	0.12	0.12

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Annex II

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN 1985
(US dollars)

Table 1. Voluntary contributions to the UNV Special Voluntary Fund

Donor	For 1985 and Prior Years				
	Balance	Additions	Contributions	Balance	Pledges
	31 December 1984	and adjustments	collected	31 December 1985	for 1986
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Austria	10 000	-	10 000	-	10 000
Bangladesh	1 212	44	1 256	-	1 210
Belgium	162 602	(11 659)	150 943	-	235 294
Bhutan	1 720	-	1 720	-	990
Botswana	338	(47)	291	-	4 878
Brazil	20 000	-	20 000	-	10 000
Cameroon	42 553	9 666	-	52 219	-
China	20 000	-	20 000	-	20 000
Denmark	50 000	(4 256)	45 744	-	65 934
Germany, Fed. Republic	74 098	7 490	81 588	-	-
India	5 000	35	5 035	-	5 000
Italy	131 579	8 870	140 449	-	145 773
Lesotho	1 412	(136)	1 276	-	958
Morocco	10 000	-	-	10 000	-
Netherlands	72 185	(2 735)	69 450	-	-
Norway	112 994	(2 497)	110 497	-	124 568
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	-	1 515
Philippines	500	-	500	-	1 000
Republic of Korea	10 000	-	10 000	-	9 333
Sri Lanka	3 235	26	3 261	-	3 000
Sudan	2 000	-	-	2 000	-
Switzerland	200 000	(57 274)	142 726	-	153 110
Syrian Arab Republic	-	5 064	5 064	-	-
Thailand	3 000	-	3 000	-	1 500

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Annex II (continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

<u>Donor</u>	For 1985 and Prior Years				
	Balance	Additions	Contributions	Balance	Pledges
	31 December 1984	and	Collected	31 December 1985	for 1986
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tunisia	9 110	138	3 699	5 549	4 357
United States of America	150 000	75 000	-	225 000	-
Zaire	-	-	-	-	500
TOTAL	1 093 538	27 729	826 499	294 768	798 920

Table 2. Voluntary contributions to the Sub-trust Fund

<u>Donor</u>	Contributions received in 1985
Government of Chad/World Bank Assistance	32 200
Government of Sierra Leone/World Bank Assistance	20 000
Government of Finland	29 780
Government of Belgium	37 435
Government of Switzerland	42 032
Government of Sweden	43 736
United Nations High Commission for Refugees	854 270
TOTAL	1 059 453