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STUDY TOUR AND WORKSHOP ON ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL
HOUSING AGENCIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING PROGRAMMES
SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK

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FOOD AID FOR PILOT PROJECTS

(Prepared by the Housing, Building and Planning Branch
and World Food Program Liaison-Office)

1. The World Food Program (WFP) is a joint United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization experiment in using food for development.^{1/} It works through pilot projects in economic and social development and especially through labour-intensive and rural projects. For developmental purposes it disposes of nearly \$50 million worth of food, besides money and services with which to meet transport and other operating expenses, put at its disposal by over 50 countries.

2. In the field of housing, building and planning, it received the following requests up to 10 January 1964:

- AFGHANISTAN: slum clearance and drainage in Kabul; food cost \$456 000; under consideration.
- COLOMBIA: housing project in Buenaventura; food cost \$500 000; under consideration.
- GHANA: 10 000 rural houses in the interior to be built by 2 000 workers paid from the sale, at the port of entry, of about \$500 000 of food: approved by Inter-Governmental Committee.
- IRAQ: ring road at Arbil in implementation of master plan, workers to receive \$94 000 in food: under consideration.
- PAKISTAN: construction of cyclone and flood proof centres in 113 union and thana headquarters towns by 3 million man-days of local labour to be remunerated in part from proceeds from the sale to them of food valued at \$663 000: approved by IGC.
- SUDAN: creation of green belt to supply Khartoum with wood, labour to receive \$29 000 in food: under consideration.

^{1/} General Assembly resolution 1714 (XVI). World Food Program, Rome 1963. World Food Program basic documents, Rome 1963. First report of the ... IGC ... E/3791 and CL 40/5. Pledges received from sixty governments amount to \$66 million in food, of which one-quarter is for meeting emergencies and three-quarters for developmental and training projects, and \$24 million in money and services. Administration is by an Administrative Unit headed by an Executive Director at Rome. Guidance is provided by an Inter-Governmental Committee elected half by the Economic and Social Council and half by the FAO Council.

YUGOSLAVIA: post-earthquake urban reconstruction, 60,000 heavy manual workers to receive supplementary rations costing \$1 230 000: approved by IGC.

3. In addition to these projects which are primarily in the fields of housing, building and planning, there are a number which are in related fields such as rural community development in Algeria, the Sudan (approved) and Togo, urban community development in Bolivia, municipal facilities in Afghanistan and watershed redevelopment in Morocco (approved) and Turkey. There are also some in industrial development in Turkey, which are aimed at enabling the wageearner to devote a higher percentage of his wage to housing.

4. In addition to requests already received, and in some cases approved, there are a number that are under discussion in various countries. Several of these relate to the use of food as a stimulus to self-help housing, particularly in rural areas, small country towns and new industrial centres, while others relate to neighbourhood improvement by the inhabitants of peri-urban slums.

5. The WFP, created by concurrent action of the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference at the end of 1961 came into operation on 1 January 1963. In the first twelve months, it received more than one hundred requests from nearly fifty countries; those that are directly related to housing, building and planning amount to about 7 per cent in number and 10 per cent in value. The possibility of using food for development was immediately obvious in such fields as resettlement, land reclamation, soil conservation, and livestock improvement, whereas a considerable time has been needed to develop pilot food-investing projects in the field of housing, planning and building.

6. The executing machinery for these projects varies greatly; in some instances prime responsibility rests with a central ministry, in many others it is delegated to a local administrator, in some it vests in a local government body or a cooperative group of house holders.

7. In calculating requirements of food aid, the standard practice of WFP is to think in terms of a balanced family basket of provisions distributed in return for each man-day of work. For example, 100,000 square metres of

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housing might require 500 000 man-days and therefore cost \$300 000 in food at \$0.60 per family ration. If families are aided to build their own houses, this assurance of basic daily sustenance enables them to consecrate more of their time and money to the construction and improvement of their homes. If wage labour is employed, the ration may be substituted for part of the wage, provided that at least half of it is still paid in cash; alternatively it could supplement the wage, as a productivity bonus or displacement compensation. In the case of relief workers, it would constitute the greater part of their pay and would serve also as a test of need. In the case of a training programme for building operatives and construction foremen, the food is consumed by the trainees and also, if they are obliged to leave their ordinary source of livelihood while in training, by their families. Exceptionally the food may be sold, provided it (or the equivalent) is bought by the workers whose wages are paid from the proceeds of sale.

8. The use of food aid has been correlated with the provision of technical assistance. Its correlation with financial aid from international lending institutions is also under discussion. It could therefore be thought of as one element in an aid package.

9. Every project implemented under this experimental programme is a pilot project. Technical scrutiny of a request for food aid turns not on whether a project is sure to succeed, but on whether it lends itself to controlled experimentation on a small scale before embarking on a bigger and costlier plan.

10. The increasing of the World Food Program during the latter half of the Development Decade will depend on the experience gained under the present initial experimental programme. Arrangements are therefore being made for the substantive appraisal of individual projects and for the evaluation of the programme as a whole. Technical assistance advisers and national planning agencies, universities, research institutes and professional bodies will all be involved in measuring the effectiveness of food aid for housing, building and planning, as well as for other aspects of labour-intensive economic and social development.

11. The Governments that make food available through the WFP insist on what is called the principle of additionality, that is to say, this food must not interfere with existing production and markets, but must result in additional consumption, additional production and additional employment which would not otherwise have occurred.

