

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(84) 660 final

Brussels, 27 November 1984

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT

on the execution of the special programme to combat hunger
in the world

COM(84) 660 final

I. INTRODUCTION

Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1993/83 of 11 July 1983 implementing a special programme to combat hunger in the world¹ stipulates that, one year after the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission must submit an interim report on the execution of the programme to which the Regulation refers.

This paper reports on the execution of the programme up to 31 July 1984.

Given the short time that has elapsed since the financial resources allocated to this programme were actually made available (January 1984), this report will not include any evaluation of the results obtained.

The report consists of two parts :

- (i) the first part describes the measures taken by the Commission and the recipient states to enable the 50 million ECU appropriation entered under Article 958 of the 1983 Community budget to be mobilized within the time frame laid down by the budget rules;
- (ii) the second part sets out broad guidelines for the use to be made of the appropriations entered in the same article of the 1984 budget.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD (1983)

(Article 958 of the budget of the European Communities)

- 2.1. Following the favourable opinion of the Committee for the Special Programme to Combat Hunger in the World (see Article 10 of Regulation No 1993/83) at its first meeting on 14 December 1983, the Commission,

./.

(1) O.J. N° L 196/6, 20 July 1983

on 20 December 1983, took financing decisions involving Community budget appropriations whereby 19 operations (described briefly in the annex) could be implemented.

2.2. These 19 operations represented a commitment of 49 320 000 ECU. The sum committed from the appropriations authorized in the 1983 budget, after including sums already spent to prepare the operation (in Haiti) and the food strategies of four countries receiving Community assistance in this area (Kenya, Mali, Rwanda and Zambia), amounted to 49 412 000 ECU (98.8% of the appropriations entered in the budget).

2.3. These appropriations may be broken down in the following ways :

(a) between the two types of operation provided for :

- support measures to increase the level of self-reliance in food	61 %	(30 000 000 ECU)
- measures to protect natural resources	39 %	(19 000 000 ECU)

(b) geographically

- ACP countries	70 %	(35 000 000 ECU)
- other developing countries (principally Haiti, Nepal and Bangladesh)	30 %	(14 000 000 ECU)

(c) by category of country

- countries classified as least developed	80 %	(39 000 000 ECU)
- others	20 %	(10 000 000 ECU)

2.4. As will readily be seen, most of the operations financed will take much longer to complete than the one year (running from 1 January 1984) in which the appropriations (non-differentiated) have, of necessity, to be spent, in order to avoid their cancellation.

./.

To obviate this difficulty, the Commission has, in its financing agreements with the countries receiving the aid, made provision for one or other of the following :

- the opening of special accounts by the implementing authority, which are monitored by the Commission Delegate in the country concerned and to which the entire allocation for the operation is to be transferred before 31 December 1984, to be paid out later as and when needed to implement the operation;
- the transfer of the funds to the co-financing body associated in the operation (IBRD in the case of Nepal, France in the case of Haiti);
- a speeding up of the procedures for supplies tendering so that suppliers can be paid in full by 31 December 1984, provided that they have lodged a security equal to the sum due between that date and the final date for receipt of the supplies, guaranteeing reimbursement if the contract is not fully carried out.

Within this framework, the amount of expenditure as of 31 July 1984 amounted to approximately 10 000 000 ECU (20 % of the commitments).

The Commission now believes that the whole of the 1983 commitments of 49 412 000 ECU will have been disbursed by 31 December 1984.

- 2.5. Concerning actual implementation in the field, it is still too early - a mere seven months after the funds were first made available - to form any conclusions. However, the overall impression is that, unless something goes drastically wrong, the programme should proceed as expected.

The final evaluation report to be submitted by 31 December 1984 (in accordance with the same article of the Regulation) should reveal whether this first impression is justified.

III. GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE 1984 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD

- 3.1. In the 1984 budget of the European Communities, the following appropriations (differentiated) were entered under Article 958 :

- Commitment appropriations	58 000 000 ECU
- Payment appropriations (to be mobilized in 1984 and 1985)	42 000 000 ECU

- 3.2. The Commission suggest that the following guidelines, which are very similar to those used for the 1984 programme, be adopted for the use of these appropriations.

- (a) dispersion should be avoided so that operations can make a significant impact;
- (b) operations or countries should, generally speaking, be selected in areas where the Commission itself (through a Delegation or suboffice) or other donors associated in the operation have the necessary means for following and monitoring progress ;
- (c) where support measures to increase the level of a country's self-reliance are involved, the country should have expressed a willingness in this direction, there should be a significant Community presence, the country should preferably be classified as least developed and it should be experiencing financial difficulties.

In general, an attempt has been made to achieve continuity with operations launched in 1983 and a larger share of the appropriations is being allocated to developing countries in Latin America and Asia, in accordance with the undertaking made by the Commission in discussions with the Council on the 1983 programme. There will also be somewhat less emphasis on the Sahel than in the 1983 programme, with an increase in the number of operations in eastern and southern Africa.

3.3. Subject to any changes that may be needed in the light of the actual content of the proposals the Commission will examine the programme for the use of Article 958 appropriations will take the following overall form :

Operations Countries	Support for increasing the level of self- reliance in food (1'000 000 ECU)	Protection of natural resources (1'000 000 ECU)	Total (1'000 000 ECU) (percentages in brackets)
ACP	25	8	33 (56.9 %)
SEM ¹		2	2 (3.4 %)
Developing countries in Latin America and Asia	9	14	23 (39.7 %)
Total	34	24	58 (100 %)

1) Countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean which have cooperation agreements with the EEC.

3.4. The continuation of the operations covered by the special programme to combat hunger in the world beyond 1984 will be carried out in the framework of the existing instruments for aid, namely :

- the new Lomé Convention, which, in its chapter "Agricultural cooperation and food security" covers such operations explicitly;
- the programme of financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries (Article 930 of the budget).
- the financial protocoles of the agreements with the S.E.M. countries.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD

Summary of Actions financed under Article 958 of the 1983 Budget.

Various developing countries - 2 700 000 ECU

Operation fuelwood.

The operation consists in helping the countries or appropriate regional bodies concerned to work out comprehensive, consistent strategies for overcoming the shortage of wood and controlling desertification, harnessing the necessary human, technical and financial potential and carrying out the most urgent programmes.

The ground for this operation has been prepared by work already done by the Community in assessing and identifying fuelwood programmes in different regions.

Operations will be undertaken in three parts of the world, taking in a number of the target countries in the campaign against mass hunger.

. Africa :

- the Sahel, and more specifically Niger
- East Africa, particularly Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya
- in southern Africa, under the auspices of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADDC)

. Latin America :

- Haiti

. Asia :

- Thailand, Nepal

./..

Outer regions of the Sahara - 2 000 000 ECU

Use of remote sensing methods to study the desertification process in the outer regions of the Sahara.

This project reflects the major concern of the states bordering the Sahara, which are facing an increasingly serious deterioration in elementary factors of production (arable land and water) while their populations are growing rapidly, with all the social, economic and political implications this can have.

The upgrading of the ESA ground station at Maspalomas (Canary Islands) is intended to supply, from July 1984, MSS images from the LANDSAT satellite of the West African countries not covered by the receiving station at Fucino (Italy).

The research and development measures are designed to devise systems for the use of remote sensing in the following six areas : estimation of rangeland resources, inventory of tree-stocks, location and use of water resources monitoring of the deterioration of the natural environment, town-planning, establishment of a data bank.

Upper Volta - 600 000 ECU

Study on the recharge of aquifers in the crystalline basement.

The purpose of the operation is to evaluate the extent to which fractured aquifers in Africa are recharged by precipitation in the geological, geomorphological and climatic context.

The results of this pilot project in Upper Volta will indicate whether it would be feasible to set up a monitoring network covering all of West Africa, and if so, what its basic characteristics would be.

The method will be based on an analysis of natural isotopes occurring in groundwater (by sampling 100 water points where boreholes already exist) and by establishing 10 stations for measuring isotope content and water level, each of which is to consist of a borehole and a piezometer.

Upper Volta - 2 000 000 ECU

Revolving fund for OFNACER.

The purpose of this operation is to make available to the Upper Volta National Cereals Board (OFNACER) a revolving fund for the purchase and sale of local grains throughout Upper Volta.

The achievement of self-sufficiency in food is one of the fundamental priorities of Upper Volta's development policy. As regards the consumption of traditional grains, Upper Volta is self-sufficient overall in years of normal rainfall. At regional level, however, the north suffers from a structural deficit while the south west produces exportable surpluses. Set up in 1971, the National Cereals Board is responsible for organizing the marketing of grains at national and regional level, and hence

- for establishing security reserve stocks ;
- for giving producers the opportunity to sell their crops at fair prices fixed by the government ;
- for ensuring the stabilization of consumer prices at the level set by the government.

Sahel countries - 3 500 000 ECU

Environmental conservation in Sahel countries.

This programme provides for the protection and development of the Sahel countries' natural resources, and will contribute to the work being undertaken to control the process of desertification. It calls for the informed participation of rural communities at village level.

The operations will concern five Sahel countries :

- Senegal : exploitation of existing boreholes
- Mauritania : support for reforestation programmes
- Mali : support for reforestation and savings on fuelwood
- Upper Volta : promotion of village tree-planting schemes on the Mossi plateau
- Niger : establishment of a forestry fund.

Niger - 3 000 000 ECU

Revolving fund for OPVN.

The action is to establish a revolving fund available for OPVN (Office des Produits Vivriers du Niger) for the purchase of grain storage and distribution to all parts of Niger.

Following the drought in the early '70s, one of the priorities of Niger has been to secure adequate food supply to all its inhabitants.

The OPVN (established in 1970) has become the guarantor of this policy through its role in securing adequate food supply to all parts of Niger and in the maintenance of price stability to producers and consumers which provides incentives for national food production and makes food available at reasonable prices even in the most remote parts of the country.

Mali - 4 000 000 ECU

Support measures for Mali's food strategy.

The aim of this project is to implement a programme of measures in support of Mali's food strategy, which the Commission and the Member States decided to support in 1982.

This programme is intended to facilitate the launching of Mali's food strategy through practical measures to back the efforts being made by Mali and the aid donors.

It consists of measures to support and consolidate the programme for reorganizing the grains market now under way ; technical support measures for the Food Strategy Evaluation Committee, the key instrument of government planning for the food strategy, providing Mali with the means for making agricultural credit more widely and more readily available to producers (small farmers, livestock-farmers and fishermen) and encouraging cooperative initiatives, responsibility and associations, and lastly, providing a line of credit to cover inputs and equipment, to be drawn on as and when a number of current or pending rural development operations are remodelled.

./..

Somalia - 1 290 000 ECU

Forestry Nursery Development.

The devastating droughts of the early 1970s and a massive inflow of refugees have resulted in unbearable pressure on available wood resources. The search for forage and fuelwood is denuding existing forests and causing serious desertification problems throughout the country.

The project provides for the creation of 10 forestry nurseries in the north and south of Somalia and the supply of appropriate equipment for the production of seedlings.

Djibouti - 200 000 ECU

Revitalization and improved use of the doum palm plantations.

This project provides for a study as a basis for proposing ways of preserving and making better use of the doum palm plantations, and also a pilot revitalization operation the details of which will be established by the abovementioned study.

Ethiopia - 2 000 000 ECU

Construction and equipment of one agricultural research station in Gondar and Gojam.

The aim of the project is to strengthen Ethiopia's Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) by constructing and equipping one agricultural research station in an ecologically representative zone which is not yet covered by IAR's research network.

This research station will be located in the northern highlands in Gondar, with substations in Mota and Debre Tabor (Gojam). Research will be focussed on individual crops such as highland pulses, oil crops and grains, which have a high production potential in this region, as well as on farming systems integrating crops and livestock.

Burundi - 1 000 000 ECU

Food strategy in Burundi : priority measures.

Within this project, three measures are proposed to prepare the way for the intensification of agriculture and soil conservation, namely :

- i. the preparation of a soil map for the Mosso region (in the south of Burundi, which is one of the largest areas of open country left. This map will make it possible to classify the soils and rationalize their use for arable and livestock farming and forestry ;
- ii. a pilot project for the protection of plants and the development of seed farms. This project forms part of the programme for the propagation and distribution of selected seeds for food production, introduced by the Burundi Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Farming with the assistance of a number of aid donors ;
- iii. the protection of catchment areas in the provinces of Ruyigi and Cankuzo. This scheme, which is part of the labour-intensive public works programme set up with the assistance of the ILO, will permit the reforestation of hillsides in these two provinces and will have a direct and indirect impact on agricultural productivity.

Food strategy : priority measures.

The operation was designed on the basis of factors identified in the context of Rwanda's food strategy. It consists of a programme of priority measures designed to launch this strategy, which was worked out in conjunction with the EEC-Rwanda working party.

The operations selected are :

- (a) support for and assistance in the organization of food product marketing;
 1. through support for the Food and Animal Products Board (OPROVIA) in extending its network of sales and purchasing points and
 2. through help in building up strategic stocks to provide food security.
- (b) as part of the groundwork for more intensive agricultural production;
 3. through the introduction of chemical fertilizer inputs and extension services.

Tanzania - 2 000 000 ECU

Supply of materials and equipment for increasing food production and reducing post-harvest losses.

On the basis of the "National Food Strategy Report" prepared with FAO and DANIDA assistance in 1982/83 and the "White Paper" on agricultural policy in Tanzania, published in March 1983, the following priority actions are proposed for Community support :

- assistance for the import of raw materials for increasing domestic production of agricultural tools and implements;
- supply of fertilizers to increase food production;
- supply of insecticides for reducing post-harvest losses (control of larger grain borer - *prostephanus trocatus*)

The proposed Community financial contribution for this operation amounts to 2 million ECU.

Tanzania - 1 000 000 ECU

Measures for environmental conservation including provision of a substitute for fuel wood.

This operation will develop the productivity and economic return from the potentially rich agricultural lands in the east Usambara mountains of north east Tanzania in the Tanga region, combined with the protection of an endangered region which is of unique biological and economic value. The first emergency phase will consist in a ring reafforestation around the endangered area.

Kenya - 4 000 000 ECU

Assistance to the NCPB.

This proposal which follows on an initial transfer of 4.600.000 ECU to the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) as an independent source of financing for the Board's grain purchase activities, would make available a second tranche of 4.000.000 ECU to ease the Board's financing situation.

./..

Zambia - 4 000 000 ECU

Assistance to food production and storage

The project aims at increasing food production of farmers already producing for the market :

- through the importing of spare parts for agricultural machinery and other strategic inputs such as agricultural chemicals and drugs, in order to reduce constraints on agricultural production and also to help relaunch local industrial production of farm implements and agricultural chemicals;
- by making available structural steel and other building materials in order to strengthen the storage infrastructure for agricultural production and inputs;
- by mounting a pilot project to help the Provincial Cooperative Unions to put their operations on a sound footing.

NEPAL - 2 800 000 ECU

Forestry development

The aim of the project is to provide backing for the efforts of the Nepalese government to protect forestry resources and improve the manner in which they are exploited.

It will have a tangible impact on subsequent projects implemented by Nepal in its efforts to counter deforestation, which is one of the major obstacles to its development.

The project consists of two parts : the first co-financed with the IDA, entails the reforestation of a total area of 26.150 hectares in the eastern region of the Terai, mainly for the production of firewood but also for the production of timber, fodder and fruit. It also provides for strengthening the departments of the Ministry of Forestry, and includes research, training and technical assistance. The second part, co-financed with the United Kingdom, involves the establishment of a system for collecting and distributing seeds of forest varieties for use in all major reforestation projects in Nepal.

BANGLADESH - 7 000 000 ECU

Production and storage of food grain.

The programme consists in financing imports into Bangladesh of fertilizer originating in the Community, for a total amount of 7.000.000 ECU. This fertilizer will increase significantly the production of grains throughout the country and will help to fill the gap between the country's needs and its total production. The equivalent value of the fertilizers, in local currency, determined on the date they were delivered, will be entered in a special account at the Bangladesh treasury as an EEC contribution earmarked for financing part of the local costs incurred in the improvement of grain storage facilities throughout Bangladesh.

HAITI - 2 230 000 ECU

Assistance for water engineering and soil conservation in Highlands.

Soil erosion in Haiti has reached alarming proportions, and now poses a serious danger to agriculture. It is vital to halt the already very advanced deterioration before the country's food resources grow even scarcer.

The object of the programme, which will be implemented in three areas of the country, is to undertake various demonstration measures aimed at ensuring better water control in the mountain by providing for water storage and also undertaking soil protection measures and boosting agricultural production.
