

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR
(UNDRO)

The Appeal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for
Emergency Assistance to Disaster-stricken Countries in Latin
America: BOLIVIA, ECUADOR and PERU. The Response of the Inter-
national Community.

(10 August 1983 - 31 January 1984)

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* * *

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 10 August 1983, in New York, the United Nations' Secretary-General issued an appeal for international assistance to the victims of natural disasters in three Latin American countries: Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.
2. The appeal was launched during a special donors' meeting, convened by the Secretary-General. He informed the representatives of the International Community that a large number of people in the three countries had been severely affected by the climatic changes associated with disturbances in the ocean current "El Nino" during 1982 and 1983.
3. These climatic changes had led to widespread flooding in extensive areas of the three countries. In addition, the "El Nino" phenomenon had also caused unprecedented drought in the highland areas of Bolivia and Peru, further aggravating the emergency situations in those countries. Earlier in 1983, at the request of the three Governments, UNDRO had launched separate appeals for international assistance for the flood-affected populations of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.
4. The response of the international community to these appeals was very positive. Nevertheless, the intensification of the floods in Ecuador and the appearance of an altogether new emergency situation due to drought in Bolivia and Peru led the Governments of these three countries to seek the help of the UN Secretary-General in mobilizing additional aid from the UN System and from the international community.
5. The Secretary-General responded promptly by appointing, as his Personal Representative, Mr. Hugo Navajas-Mogro, UNDP Assistant Administrator, with the specific mandate of organizing an on-the-spot assessment of the emergency situation in the three affected countries and of drawing up a plan of action in close consultation with the Governments.
6. A mission, led by Mr. Navajas-Mogro and composed of representatives of UNDRO, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) visited Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru from 30 June to 21 July 1983.
7. Upon its return to New York, the mission provided the Secretary-General with detailed information on the effects of the natural disasters in each country, as well as with an evaluation of the needs of the affected population during the immediate emergency period. Recommendations concerning medium and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes were also submitted.
8. At the donors' meeting on 10 August 1983, the following programme of action, based on the recommendations of the mission, was drawn up. The Secretary-General requested the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to act as the focal point for the co-ordination of international assistance to the drought-affected populations of Bolivia and Peru and to the flood-affected people of Ecuador during the emergency phase. The Secretary-General further assigned the responsibility of co-ordinating the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases to

the Unit for Special Economic Assistance Programmes in the Office for Special Political Questions. Plans were also announced for another multi-agency mission, led by ECLA and financed by UNDP, to visit the three countries for consultations with the Governments and to report on the rehabilitation and reconstruction requirements of the disaster-stricken regions.

9. This report deals essentially with the actions undertaken by UNDR0 to co-ordinate the international relief effort, in the wake of the Secretary-General's appeal, including the dissemination of information on all disaster-related matters in the three countries through "situation reports" to the international community and a follow-up mission to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru in September 1983.

10. The value of the combined response of the international donor community to the Secretary-General's appeal exceeded US\$ 87 million, (as at 31 January 1984): The breakdown of this assistance, per country, is as follows:

Bolivia:	US\$ 49,591,996
Ecuador:	US\$ 5,073,876
Peru:	US\$ 33,109,105

II. GENERAL BACKGROUND

a) "El Nino" and the natural disasters in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

11. The meteorological disturbances experienced by Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru as well as by many other Latin American countries throughout 1983, are closely associated with changes in the ocean current known as "El Nino", along the Pacific coast of the continent. Variations in the current's temperature have paradoxically caused both extensive flooding and drought in different geographical areas of the same countries, (for a detailed analysis of the "El Nino" phenomenon, see the article "The Major Pacific Warm", UNDR0 News, September-October 1983, pp. 10-14).

12. Ecuador: In December 1982 several coastal provinces of Ecuador in the hydrographic basin of the river Guayas were flooded. In view of the magnitude of the disaster, the Government of Ecuador requested UNDR0 to launch an appeal for international assistance. In the first days of January 1983 a relief co-ordination officer visited the affected areas and assessed the relief needs. Since then UNDR0 has monitored the situation and has kept the international community informed through the periodic dissemination of "situation reports". By early August 1983, (prior to the Secretary General's initiative) the international response amounted to some US\$ 7 million.

13. Northern Peru: The departments of Piura and Tumbes experienced torrential rains and floods from mid-January to May 1983. The Government of Peru, through UNDRO, appealed to the international community for assistance for up to 800,000 persons, severely affected by the floods. Between February and May 1983, UNDRO issued 15 "situation reports". By the end of 1983, contributions from bilateral and multilateral sources for the flood victims in Peru totalled more than US\$ 15 million. As in the case of Ecuador, an UNDRO delegate visited the affected areas in the early stages of the emergency.

14. Bolivia: The city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and surrounding areas, were hit by "flash" floods in March 1983. More than 20,000 persons lost their homes and were resettled in temporary emergency structures. Damage to agriculture and to the transport sector (especially roads and bridges) was severe. At the request of the Government, UNDRO launched an appeal for international assistance in March 1983. A relief officer was sent on mission to assist the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative in the evaluation of needs. By late October 1983, some time after the emergency appeal was closed, international assistance to Bolivia exceeded US\$ 2 million.

15. Although the overall losses resulting from these disasters greatly exceeded the value of the combined response of the international donor community (some US\$ 25 millions for the three countries), the international relief effort in the context of the appeals launched by UNDRO helped to alleviate the plight of the flood-affected populations.

16. However, emergency conditions, instead of improving, were further aggravated by the continuing climatic disturbances. This was particularly the case in Ecuador and in May and June 1983 UNDRO renewed the appeals for emergency assistance to the flooded regions, at a time when, had the weather conditions improved, the rehabilitation phase should have been well under way.

17. Simultaneously, as early as February 1983, an exceptional drought started affecting the highland areas of Bolivia and Peru.

18. The worsening of the floods in some areas coupled with the occurrence of drought in previously unaffected regions and the urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction needs many parts of their national territories prompted the Governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to request the help of the UN Secretary-General in mobilizing international assistance on a larger scale. Indeed, the magnitude and complexity of the disasters required an additional and exceptional effort on the part of the international donor community.

19. In view of the worsening conditions of a large number of people in the three affected countries and the concern shown by the international community, the Economic and Social Council at its 40th Plenary Meeting (2nd Session, 28 July 1983) passed a resolution (Res. 1983/45) concerning assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The Resolution (see Annex I) while noting that international assistance had already been provided to the three countries during the initial emergency period, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to assist the Governments concerned in preparing a broad programme for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas and sectors affected, as well

as to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources for special international assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

b) The Mission of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-

General to the disaster-stricken countries in Latin America,

(Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru).

20. From 30 June to 21 July 1983, a special mission headed by the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General visited Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Representatives from UNDRO, ECLA and UNDP also participated in the mission.

21. The main objective of the mission was to explore, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the ways in which the United Nations System could provide additional assistance to the disaster-stricken states. In addition to assessing the emergency relief requirements, the mission was to consult with the Governments in order to identify and map out the future implementation of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. As a follow-up action to this mission, concerted programmes would be devised by a second technical inter-agency mission which would draw up rehabilitation and reconstruction project profiles to be carried out in coming years. In view of the formidable emergency problems, requiring urgent solutions, which the Governments of the three countries had to tackle at the time, the mission devoted most of its efforts to assisting the national authorities in devising concerted relief programmes for immediate implementation in the affected areas. The questions related to rehabilitation/reconstruction programmes were left to the second technical mission, which was to take place in August and September 1983.

22. The identification of relevant actions to be implemented with international assistance through a concerted relief programme, necessitated, as a precondition, that a clear picture of the disaster situation be established. The extent of damages resulting from the disasters, the number and geographical distribution of the affected population, the relief requirements and the logistical aspects related to the planned execution of the relief programmes, were amongst the topics dealt with during the various meetings with the Governments, representatives of agencies of the UN System, diplomatic representations and national and international non-governmental organizations.

23. At the end of each country visit, the members of the mission assisted the Governments in the elaboration of detailed documents in which the extent of damage and relief requirements were identified. These documents, which were later to serve as background information for the Secretary-General's appeal, are reproduced in Annex II, at the end of the present report.

24. On completion of the mission, a clearer picture of the magnitude of the disaster damage in each country emerged.

25. In Bolivia, an extreme drought accompanied by frost and hailstorms, had affected the southwest regions of the country, primarily the Departments of Cochabamba, Oruro and Potosi. The drought had created a situation of national emergency which required an urgent response from the International donor Community. Some 1.6 million persons in the rural areas of the country were directly affected. It was estimated that some 900,000 metric tons of grain, potatoes and vegetables the value of which was put at US\$ 300 million had been lost. A shortage of seeds for the planting of new crops was developing as the rural populations were using them for nourishment. In the stock-raising sector, the lives of several million animals were endangered by lack of fodder and many were being slaughtered for food.

26. In addition to food, the needs of the affected population were identified as being seeds, water pumps and drilling rigs, as well as cash and spare parts for vehicles, for the immediate purchase and transport of food supplies from neighbouring countries. The Government requested that the international assistance be channelled through the National Civil Defence Committee.

27. In Ecuador, widespread floods which had started in late 1982 continued to affect the provinces of Guayas, Los Rios, El Oro, Manabi, Esmeraldas, Azuay, Canar and Loja, and about 200,000 persons were still in need of emergency assistance. Although, as stated in paragraph 12, UNDR0 had earlier launched an appeal for international assistance at the request of the Government, the situation now required a full reassessment of damages and needs.

28. The transport sector had been totally disrupted with several thousand kilometres of main roads, secondary roads, production roads and railway tracks as well as many bridges virtually destroyed. The agricultural sector had also been badly hit and production had declined sharply. Irrigation and drainage systems were eroded and blocked. The fisheries subsector had also suffered substantial infrastructural damage and consequent production losses. In short, the mission noted a marked deterioration in the living conditions of the flood-affected population: shortages of food; unemployment; deterioration of health conditions (up-surge in gastrointestinal, respiratory and dermatological diseases, as well as malaria and onchocercosis); and damage to housing.

29. The relief requirements were identified as food, inputs for agricultural production (seeds and fertilizers), medicines, insecticides, as well as bridges, equipment and spare parts for transport. The Government informed the mission that the national relief effort was being co-ordinated by the Minister of Social Welfare.

30. In Peru, drought had developed since the end of 1982 in the departments of Puno, Arequipa, Cuzco, Apurimac and Tacna in the highlands of the southern part of the country. The drought was followed by severe frosts and hailstorms. Up to 450,000 persons were directly affected, and required emergency assistance. The overall disaster damage resulting from the drought was estimated at US\$ 174 million. In addition, as in the case of Bolivia, other areas of Peru had been simultaneously hit by floods. The drought, therefore, placed an even greater strain on

the national resources, at a time when the authorities were already engaged in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas.

31. The farming sector was acutely hit by the drought, with direct losses in the potato, rice, cotton, banana, soya, sugar cane and fruit crops, and a reduction in livestock production. The drought affected about 2.6 million heads of livestock of various kinds. Future crops were also threatened as food shortages in the rural rural areas had led the people to eat much of the seed grain.

32. The mission identified relief requirements for the drought-affected population as seeds, medicines, insecticides, cattle fodder, logistical support such as trucks and emergency warehouses, fertilizers and pesticides, cash for internal transport and for financial aid to small holders. The recently created National Development Institute (INADE) was entrusted by the Government with the national co-ordination of the relief effort.

c) The Secretary-General's appeal of 10 August 1983

33. Upon the return of the mission to New York, preparations were made for a donors meeting. It was felt that only a direct appeal to the donor community by the Secretary-General himself could mobilize sufficient resources, in a timely manner, to meet the critical situation facing the disaster-stricken populations of the three countries.

34. The meeting was convened on 10 August 1983, at UN Headquarters in New York.

35. In his statement, the Secretary-General reminded the participants of the widespread human suffering, loss of life and material damage resulting from the adverse meteorological phenomena in the three countries. In a brief reference to the assistance already provided by the donor community to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, in particular through UNDR0 as far as the United Nations System was concerned, the Secretary-General acknowledged with satisfaction that the response of the International Community had been generous and prompt in meeting the requests from the disaster-stricken nations. However, he recalled, the magnitude of the disasters was such that the response of the international community, generous as it had been, had fallen short of the emergency requirements.

36. Information on the organization of the mission of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General was provided to the participants. This information illustrated the two principal objectives of the mission: assessing emergency needs; and conducting preliminary consultations with the Governments concerned with regard to the organization of a second, interdisciplinary mission to assist them in updating damage assessment and in formulating a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme. The Secretary-General recalled the adoption in July 1983 by the Economic and Social Council of Resolution 1983/45 concerning assistance in reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes as well

as special economic assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. He informed the participants that he was assigning the responsibility of co-ordinating these programmes to the Unit for Special Economic Assistance Programmes in the Office for Special Political Questions. He further announced that the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme had agreed to fund the second multi-agency technical mission mentioned above. The mission was to be led by a senior staff member of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

37. In issuing his appeal for emergency assistance to the affected populations of the three countries, the Secretary-General referred donors to the relief requirements listed in documents provided by the three Governments and distributed at the donors' meeting. A brief indication of immediate priorities in each country was provided. The Secretary-General assured the participants that, in the case of Bolivia, the emergency assistance sought by the Government would be closely linked with its medium and long-term development plans. These were being co-ordinated at the international level, since the end of 1982, by Ms. Margaret Anstee, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development.

38. In concluding his intervention, the Secretary-General advised that he had requested the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Under-Secretary-General Mr. M'Hamed Essaafi, to mobilize his Office to act as a focal point for the co-ordination of the international assistance during the emergency phase. Donors were requested to keep UNDRO constantly informed of their respective contributions.

39. The meeting in New York was concluded by presentations by Special Representatives of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Numerous delegates expressed their solidarity with the disaster-stricken countries and informed participants of assistance already provided, or projected, to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

III. THE RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THE SECRETARY- ----- GENERAL'S APPEAL OF 10 AUGUST 1983 -----

40. After the appeal was launched at the donors' meeting in New York, UNDRO was active in mobilizing and co-ordinating the international relief effort to meet the urgent needs of the disaster-stricken populations of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The International Community was kept permanently informed of the evolution of the disaster situation in each of the countries, through the periodic issuance by UNDRO of "situation reports". These "SITREPS" also provided donors with an update on pending needs, new pledges and contributions and information on the implementation of various relief programmes by national and international organizations involved in the relief effort. As at 31 January 1984, 10 "sitreps" had been issued for Bolivia, 5 for Ecuador and 7 for Peru. These "situation reports" are reproduced at the end of the present report in Annex III. It should be noted that in the case of Ecuador

(floods), bearing in mind the fact that UNDR0 had issued a separate appeal for the same disaster as early as December 1982, (12 "sitreps" had already been issued before the Secretary-General's appeal), the response of the International Community after 10 August 1983 is recorded as from "Sitrep" 13 only. (Previous "sitreps" have deliberately been left out of the present report because they were issued before the Secretary-General's appeal).

41. It has already been mentioned that the urgency and magnitude of the situation required an immediate response. Immediately upon having been requested by the Secretary-General to play its co-ordinating role, UNDR0 issued "Sitreps" on 10 August 1983, the first for the drought in Bolivia and Peru and No. 13 for the floods in Ecuador while the New York meeting was still in session.

42. In order to reinforce local co-ordination of the international relief effort, UNDR0 delegated a relief co-ordination officer to assist the UNDR0/UNDP Resident Representatives in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru in late August and September. Amongst other things, the delegate pursued contacts with the national authorities and non-government organizations in the three countries. In particular, the UNDR0 delegate assisted the UNDR0/UNDP Resident Representatives in briefing the representatives of the donor community, in La Paz, Quito and Lima. In fact, donor meetings were convened in each capital, in order to provide the diplomatic representations with additional information on general and specific aspects of the relief programmes, including the identification of possible bottlenecks to their smooth implementation.

43. This was the case in Bolivia and Peru, for instance, where donors were informed of the need to reinforce the national logistical and transport capacity in order to adequately provide the affected population with the necessary relief supplies, mainly food.

44. As a result of this mission, and at the request of the Government of Bolivia, UNDR0 identified the urgent need for a logistics advisor, during the six-month emergency phase, to be based in La Paz throughout the period. In a matter of a few weeks, UNDR0 recruited a candidate with previous extensive field experience in the management of relief operations. The expert arrived in La Paz on 15 October 1983. The recruitment of this expert constitutes a good example of international co-operation for disaster relief in that the costs of the consultant are borne jointly by UNDP and by the Government of Norway, through UNDR0.

45. Since his arrival in La Paz, the expert has been closely assisting the UNDR0/UNDP Resident Representative in his capacity as the local co-ordinator of the international relief effort. He has also provided assistance to the Director of the Governmental agency in charge of the distribution of food to the affected population, OFINAAL (Oficina Nacional de Asistencia Alimentaria).

46. More recently, in November 1983, UNDR0 sponsored a disaster preparedness seminar in Cochabamba, during which the expert made a presentation on logistical aspects of relief operations. The aim of the seminar was to reinforce the operational capacity of the Bolivian Civil

Defence in disaster preparedness. Civil Defence representatives from all departments of the country attended the seminar.

47. The response of the donor community was prompt and generous. In the case of Bolivia, by September 1983, UNDR0 had recorded food contributions exceeding 110,000 metric tons, although part of these contributions were not specifically intended for disaster assistance in the rural areas (see Annex III, Bolivia Sitrep No.4, paragraph 3). Ever since, additional food contributions have been made, and the total amount of food assistance provided to Bolivia may now be said to be sufficient to cover the needs of the affected population during the emergency phase. The major donors contributing food supplies to the emergency in Bolivia are the Governments of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany (Fed. Rep.), Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. The European Community and the World Food Programme have also made important contributions in this field.

48. The response to the appeal for flood victims in Ecuador was also immediate. The Secretary-General's appeal identified, for instance, the need for some 3,700 metric tons of food, to meet the urgent needs of the affected population. Following the appeal, a generous contribution by the Government of Italy of 6000 metric tons of rice more than satisfied the original requirements. In addition, many donors contributed cash, often through voluntary agencies and other non-governmental organizations, to the various emergency programmes in the country.

49. In the case of Peru, food contributions were also substantial from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and from the Governments of Canada, Germany (Fed. Rep.), Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America. Besides, important contributions to transport-related needs were also made, such as those by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (trucks, scrapers and bulldozers) and Sweden (truck/mobile workshop).

50. The value of combined response of the international donor community to the disaster-stricken countries, after the Secretary-General's appeal, has exceeded US\$ 87 million. The breakdown of the contributions, as announced to UNDR0, is contained in Annex IV, at the end of the present report. It may be noted that the breakdown by recipient country of the value of these contributions is as follows:

Bolivia:	US\$ 49,591,996
Ecuador:	US\$ 5,073,876
Peru:	US\$ 33,109,105

51. It is important to stress, however, that many contributions were announced prior to the Secretary-General's appeal. This is particularly the case for the drought in Bolivia and the floods in Ecuador. In Bolivia, drought-related contributions were announced earlier in 1983. For instance a contribution of approximately 9000 metric tons of cereal and vegetable oil by the World Food Programme was not included in the contribution report for Bolivia reproduced in Annex IV since it was announced before the Secretary-General's appeal.

52. In fact, if all contributions to the emergency situations in the three countries were taken into account, regardless of the date of their approval, since the beginning of the disaster situations (which in all three cases can be identified as the beginning of 1983), the combined response of the International Community would exceed US\$ 110 million.

IV. THE EVOLUTION OF THE RELIEF EFFORT

53. The implementation of the various relief programmes in the three countries was monitored by UNDRO through regular contacts between the Office in Geneva and the Offices of the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representatives in La Paz, Quito and Lima. Information concerning the implementation of these relief programmes was transmitted to the International Community through UNDRO's "situation reports". The full texts of these "sitreps" have been included in Annex III, at the end of the present report. In the case of each country, the "sitreps" show the evolution of the relief effort, both nationally and internationally, and the extent to which the relief programmes have gradually covered the needs of the affected population.

54. Efforts were undertaken consistently by the Governments concerned in order to cope with the critical situations arising from the disasters. In Bolivia, the National Civil Defence Committee was strengthened in early 1983; the negative impact of the floods in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in March last year, further led to the development of the operational capacity of the Civil Defence system. Later in 1983, the Government also established OFINAAL (Oficina Nacional de Asistencia Alimentaria) which was entrusted with the overall co-ordination of the distribution of internationally-donated food aid. Ever since its establishment, OFINAAL has been strengthened as the focal point for food distribution programmes. The UNDRO logistics expert has been assisting the Director of OFINAAL since the beginning of his assignment in October 1983. More recently, UNDRO has transmitted to the donor community a request by the Government of Bolivia for cash assistance to cover the transport, storage and distribution costs of the various food donations to Bolivia. In response to this request, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany made a contribution of DM 100,000 to OFINAAL.

55. In Ecuador, the national relief effort has been co-ordinated by the Minister of Social Welfare. The Ecuadorean Civil Defence, on the other hand, has also been strengthening its operational capacity to meet disaster situations. UNDRO has recently approved an additional cash grant of US\$ 10,000 which is being channelled through the Office of the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative for the construction of emergency warehouses for Civil Defence.

56. In Peru, the Government established INADE (Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo) in 1983, with responsibility for conducting the emergency

operations in the country. The co-ordination of the programmes for rehabilitation and reconstruction, however, has remained the responsibility of INP (Instituto Nacional de Planificacion).

57. As far as the international relief effort is concerned, many emergency-related programmes have been implemented in the three countries. Assistance from bilateral sources (Governments) was provided in all fields of emergency relief. Besides the food assistance mentioned previously, Governments supported a wide range of projects such as the water drilling emergency project in the Bolivian "Altiplano", (Sweden); an emergency drainage project in Guasmo, Ecuador, (United States of America); and also provided direct cash contributions as in the case of Peru, (Japan, Republic of Korea).

58. The mobilization of the United Nations system in response to the Secretary-General's appeal was immediate, the value of its contributions totalling approximately US\$ 2.3 million for the three countries. Furthermore, before the appeal was launched many agencies of the United Nations system had already provided emergency assistance to the three countries, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNDP.

59. The Economic Commission for Latin America, although not directly involved in the relief effort, took part in the mission of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General and played a key role in the later technical inter-agency mission for rehabilitation and reconstruction financed by UNDP. This second mission was also part of the Secretary-General's initiative for Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. As was indicated in paragraph 36 above, a senior staff member of ECLA was designated in August 1983 as leader of this second mission.

60. The ECLA-led mission visited the three countries from 22 August to 30 September 1983. It was composed of representatives of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, FAO, ILO, UNIDO, PAHO/WHO, WFP and UNICEF, and supported locally by the UNDP Resident Representative in each country. Its objectives were: to quantify the damages caused by the disasters; to determine the effects of the disasters on the economic development of the countries; and to identify rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

61. As a result of the mission, a comprehensive report* was produced by ECLA in December 1983 in which estimates of the overall value of damages were provided. The total value of damages resulting from the disasters in the three countries in 1983 was estimated at US\$ 3,480 million, corresponding to losses in the productive sector, losses and damages in the physical infrastructure, and losses in the social sectors.

* See ECLA, Los Desastres Naturales de 1982-1983 en Bolivia, Ecuador y Peru, document No. E/CEPAL/G.1274, 27 de Diciembre de 1983.

62. A series of project profiles for rehabilitation and reconstruction involving a total cost of US\$ 424 million for the three countries was drawn up by the mission. Details of each project were included in the above-mentioned document.

63. Assistance to the disaster stricken countries was also provided by inter-governmental organizations which participated actively in the overall response of the International Community. The European Community, for instance, made significant contributions to the three countries, although these were announced before the appeal of the Secretary-General.

64. Also noteworthy was the role played by the non-governmental organizations in the three countries. The International Red Cross, Caritas Internationalis, Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry International, World Vision International, Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service were amongst the international voluntary agencies which responded to the countries' appeals for international assistance. National Voluntary Agencies were equally prompt in providing assistance: OXFAM, various national Red Cross Societies, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, CARE and CEBEMO were among the agencies most active in disaster relief.

65. The action of the non-governmental organizations often developed in direct consultation with existing voluntary agencies in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, such as the Red Cross Societies of each country, Caritas and other religious organizations, as well as other consortia of voluntary agencies which were formed in the aftermath of the disasters: Sequia '83 and UNITAS in Bolivia and Unidos Somos Mas in Ecuador.

66. On a smaller scale, private enterprises also made contributions to the three countries, some directly, some in the form of services. In one instance, at the request of UNDR0, the airline Lufthansa transported 200 kilogrammes of medicines free of charge from Geneva to Lima. The medicines had been purchased by WHO with voluntary donations by the staff of the United Nations Office at Geneva, channelled through UNDR0.

67. Direct relief assistance by UNDR0 following the Secretary-General's appeal consisted of cash grants totalling US\$ 55,000 for Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Taking into account all grants approved by UNDR0 in 1983 for natural disasters in the three countries, the Office provided a total of US\$ 115,000 for Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Part of these grants were channelled through the Offices of the UNDR0/UNDP Resident Representatives in La Paz, Quito and Lima, and part of them were used by UNDR0 for direct purchases outside the affected regions. All grants were for the provision of emergency items to the affected population.

68. After the appeal was launched by the Secretary-General, some donors channelled cash grants for the three countries through UNDR0. A total of US\$ 135,092 was contributed through the Office of the Co-ordinator by the Governments of Australia, Chile and Norway. With the exception of the Norwegian contribution, which was for expenses related to the consultancy of the logistics expert in Bolivia, all other contributions were used for the purchase of relief supplies and emergency-related items. Thus, the contribution by the Government of Australia for

Ecuador, for instance, has been used by PAHO/WHO for the purchase of insecticide spraying equipment for use in the affected areas where malaria problems developed in 1983 as a result of the floods. Contributions by the Governments of Australia and Chile for Bolivia are being used for water pumps and drilling equipment, to meet the urgent needs in potable water of the drought-affected population in the Bolivian highlands. Cash grants to Peru were transferred to the Office of the the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative in Lima for the local purchase of relief items.

69. It should be noted, however, that prior to the Secretary-General's appeal, UNDRO had already served as a channel for other cash contributions totalling US\$ 513,431 to Ecuador and Peru in 1983. Of this total (which corresponds to cash grants by the Governments of Australia, Italy and Switzerland and by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), US\$ 478,131 came from the Government of Italy for the flood-affected populations of Ecuador and Peru. As in the case of cash grants channelled after the Secretary-General's appeal, the greater part of these grants was used for the purchase by UNDRO of emergency-related items, while the remainder was transferred to the Office of the UNDRO/UNDP Resident Representative in Lima for local purchase of relief items, and to WHO for the purchase of medical equipment for Ecuador.

V. CONCLUSION

70. In 1983, large population groups in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru suffered the adverse effects of a series of natural disasters caused by significant disturbances in the ocean current "El Nino", in the Pacific coastal areas of South America: floods in Ecuador; drought and floods in Bolivia and Peru. The Governments of the three countries were suddenly faced with the combined problems of providing emergency assistance to the affected population and of devising and implementing programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the disaster stricken regions. The magnitude of the disasters was such that overall losses exceeded US\$ 3,480 million, according to recent estimates by the Economic Commission for Latin America. The negative impact on the processes of economic development in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru are self-evident.

71. The initiative undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which began in June 1983 and culminated with the launching of an international appeal in New York on 10 August 1983, resulted in a very prompt and generous response by the International Community to the requests for emergency assistance for the three affected countries.

72. At the request of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator monitored, mobilized and co-ordinated the response of the donor community on an international scale. As at 31 January 1984, after having co-ordinated the response of the International Community for over five months, information gathered by UNDRO from various sources indicates that the donors' response to the Secretary-General's appeal has exceeded US\$ 87 million.

73. At present UNDRO continues to monitor the emergency situations in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The emergency, however, is currently phasing out into the medium and longer term phases of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The co-ordination of programmes, in the context of the United Nations system, is to be the responsibility of the Unit for Special Economic Assistance Programmes in the Office of Special Political Questions, according to the decision taken by the Secretary-General on 10 August last year.

74. The prompt and generous response of the donor community to the requests for emergency assistance made by Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru has contributed, to a large extent, in alleviating the plight of the victims, the majority of whom by virtue of their low socio-economic status, are most vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, and least prepared to face the exceptional conditions arising from disasters. The provision of large quantities of food, medicines, water-related equipment, transport, building materials, cash for local purchases of relief items, logistics support and other emergency supplies mitigated the extremely adverse effects of the natural disasters in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

75. In his intervention during the donors' meeting of 10 August 1983 in New York, the Secretary-General had told the participants that he was convinced that Governments and International Organizations would respond, once again, in a prompt and generous manner, to his appeal so as to alleviate the human suffering in the three countries "in the best tradition of international and human solidarity". The response of the International Community widely confirms the confidence expressed by the Secretary-General when formulating his appeal for urgent assistance to the disaster-stricken populations of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.