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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION  
PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
WORK PROGRAMME

Addendum 2

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Executive Secretary

83-0166

The present report covers the progress and development of the secretariat's technical co-operation activities financed from the United Nations regular programme for regional advisory services, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In the paragraphs below the programmes are reported upon according to their source of funding. Progress on activities financed from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) are reported on in E/ECWA/162, "Progress made in the implementation of the work programme".

#### TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED

##### A. Regional advisory services (ECWA)

1. The ECWA regular programme of regional advisory services for 1982 provided for services in the following eight areas: public finance; development planning; human resources development; industrial project identification and formulation; financial development; economic statistics and national accounts; household survey design and execution; transport and communications. During 1982 the post of regional adviser for public finance was vacant.
2. In the area of development planning assistance was provided: to the Government of Democratic Yemen in improving the working mechanism structure of the Ministry of planning in relation to the planning units in Government entities; to the Government of Yemen in the Yemen International Development Conference; to the United Arab Emirates in regional planning; to the Syrian Arab Republic in development planning.
3. In the field of human resources development, advice was provided: to the Government of Yemen on formulating plans for the social sector within the framework of the national development plan; to the Governments of Jordan,

Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and Yemen through regional seminars on social development; to the Government of Jordan on preparing for the ECWA/UNESCO training workshop on communication skills for women in rural areas; to the Government of Bahrain to prepare the three-year plan of the Ministry of Social Affairs; to the Government of Oman on implementing a national community-development programme.

4. In the area of industrial project identification and formulation, assistance was provided to the Government of Jordan in identifying and formulating a project on the manufacturing of cables and steel sheets. The regional adviser also participated in workshop II (ECWA/United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD) regional training programme) and in preparing for a symposium on plastic applications. The regional adviser participated in the second Arab Energy Conference organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) which was held from 5 to 12 March 1982 in the United Arab Emirates.

5. In the area of financial development, advice was provided: to the Government of the United Arab Emirates on evaluating its planning department financial activities; to the Government of Bahrain to survey the country's needs in the field of financial development.

6. In the area of economic statistics and national accounts, advice was provided: to the Government of Jordan on preparing an international trade index study and an industrial survey symposium and on formulating weights for the cost-of-living index.

7. In the area of household-survey design and execution, assistance was provided: to the Governments of, Bahrain and Kuwait and Oman in assessing prospects for initiating national household-survey activities; to the Governments of Jordan, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic in preparing reports on family budget studies. The regional adviser participated in the Council of Arab Economic Unity Statistical Committee meeting held in Jordan from 17 to 25 September 1982 and in the 8th meeting of the Arab League Standing Committee on Statistics.

8. In the area of transport and communication, advice was provided: to the Government of Kuwait on reviewing the draft reports of the transport study for the Arab world; on the technical studies needed for promoting an efficient transport system; on the need for a training programme for personnel in the technical field of transport; and on a course syllabus and related preparatory activities for a regional transportation course to be held in Tunisia. The regional adviser lectured at the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in Amman on evaluation of rural roads and regional project scheduling.

B. Regional advisory services (UNDP)

9. In the context of the UNDP-supported household-survey project, advice was provided: to the Government of Jordan on reviewing the sample designs for the demographic labour force and agricultural household surveys; to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the design that could be adopted for the household income and expenditure survey; to the Government of Bahrain on the planning and execution of the household income and expenditure survey; to the Government of Yemen on the master sample design to be adopted for the demographic survey and on the sub-samples to be used for income and expenditure and labour force surveys.

C. Regional advisory services (ILO)

10. ILO contributed labour force manpower statistics to the household-survey project. Assistance was provided to the Governments of Jordan and Yemen in preparing manpower-survey questionnaires.

D. Regional advisory services (UNIDO)

11. UNIDO provided resources for advisory services on industrialization and mechanical engineering. The regional adviser assisted in the ECWA/UNFSSTD regional training programme workshop II and symposium. The workshop was on technology and processing design update: petrochemicals, fertilizers, oil and gas-processing. The symposium was on plastic technologies and applications.

E. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

12. During the period under review the Commission acted as executing agency for the following UNDP projects: The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait; The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics - Baghdad; Assistance in the development of statistical services in Yemen; The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in the ECWA region; The National Household Survey Capability Programme in the ECWA region; The Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies (preparatory assistance); The Regional Training Programme for the Development of Industrial Technological Capabilities in Petroleum-Based Industries in Western Asia.

F. The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait

13. During the period under review UNDP assistance to the Arab Planning Institute was limited to the provision of funds for fellowships with the objective of establishing the Institute's own research and academic staff. In this connection, ECWA as an executing agency assisted the Institute in administering the fellowship programmes in close collaboration with the Department for Technical Co-operation for Development.

14. In 1982 six fellowships were awarded to nationals from Arab countries to continue their studies abroad in various fields of economics, town and regional

planning, operations research and statistics. Upon completion of their studies these fellows are expected to return to the Institute and undertake lecturing and research activities on selected problems of economic and social development which are of special significance to the participating countries.

15. The Institute continued to offer an annual training programme in comprehensive development planning, as well as a number of short-term courses, seminars and workshops on specialized areas of development planning, administration and management.

G. The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics - Baghdad

16. The regional Institute continued its research and training activities in the areas of economic statistics, agricultural and rural statistics, demographic and social statistics.

17. ECWA as an executing agency continued to participate as a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute, which sets the general policies governing the operation of the Institute and periodically reviews the work programme.

18. In 1982, from funds contributed by UNDP, an international expert was assigned to the Institute to assist in the training programme on agricultural and rural statistics. The present phase of UNDP assistance came to an end in September 1982. The nature and extent of future UNDP assistance is currently being considered both by UNDP and ECWA.

H. Assistance in the development of statistical services in Yemen

19. In accordance with the work programme and priorities outlined in the project, efforts were intensified to strengthen the technical and administrative capabilities

of the Central Planning Organization of Yemen to enable it to meet its growing requirements for planned economic and social development. Assistance provided during the review period includes the following:

- (a) Design of master samples for multi-round multi-purpose surveys;
- (b) Completion of questionnaires on agricultural household activities, the labour force and migration;
- (c) Training of field assistants in data collection for various socio-economic surveys.

In addition to the above preparations were under way for establishing statistical indices including wholesale price indices, quantum index numbers for industrial production, and unit index numbers for foreign trade statistics. Preparations were also made for training counterparts in the relevant fields of activity.

20. UNDP support to this project included the services of a chief technical adviser an expert in economic statistics, and support personnel, as well as the provision of equipment. Arrangements for the purchase of three vehicles for field activities have already been made.

#### I. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in the ECWA Region

21. As a follow-up to the Mar del Plata Action Plan resolutions and recommendations this regional project became operational in 1981. The primary objective of this co-operative action was to assist Member States of the United Nations to accelerate plans and programmes for achieving the adopted Decade goals of "access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities by the year 1990."

22. In the implementation of this project consultancy services were provided to all member States of ECWA with the objective of rendering active support to the process of reviewing their development plans and initiating actions to improve their programme capabilities.

23. The preparatory phase of the project came to an end in 1982 and the final report entitled "The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade: activities in the ECWA region: is ready for publication and subsequent circulation to the member States of the Commission. This report, together with similar studies undertaken in previous years, will constitute the basic framework for the Commission's activities during the Decade.

J. The National Household Survey Capability Programme in the ECWA region

24. As part of the global strategy for the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), this project was initiated in the ECWA region in March 1981. Its objective was to assist participating Governments to develop continuous and integrated household surveys that can provide vital information required for national development plans, policies and programmes. The project also aims at making optimum use of available resources and developing an effective and enduring statistical infrastructure in the area of household statistics.

25. During the reporting period several multidisciplinary missions were undertaken to Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen in connection with the implementation of the NHSCP programmes in these countries.

26. As a result of the technical assistance provided, the Statistics Department of Jordan has started implementing the first phase of the NHSCP proposal regarding a manpower survey; the Government of Democratic Yemen has approved a project proposal and submitted it to UNDP for consideration as a country programme; the Central Statistics Office of the United Arab Emirates has initiated a household income and expenditure survey; the UNDP has already approved the Government of Yemen's statistics development project and the project's NHSCP component has become operational.



27. A joint United Nations Sahelian Office (UNSO)/ECWA team undertook a mission to Oman during the period 28 April to 6 May 1982 and a draft NHSCP proposal was prepared and submitted to the appropriate authorities for approval.

K. The Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies

28. Within the framework of the preparatory assistance project document a consultant was recruited to undertake an extensive field survey and prepare the full-scale project document for the establishment of a regional Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies.

29. During the period under review a field survey was conducted covering seven member States of ECWA: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The main purpose of the survey was to assess the existing and future training needs of the countries concerned in the areas of banking and finance and furthermore, to determine the scope and curriculum of the training programme of the proposed Institute. At present the survey result is being analysed for the purpose of preparing a detailed full-scale project document.

30. The consultant's interim report shows that each of the seven countries covered in the survey supports the establishment of a regional Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies.

L. The Regional Training Programme for the Development of Industrial Technological Capabilities in the Petroleum-Based Industries in Western Asia

31. The objectives of this training programme are to strengthen indigenous scientific and technological capabilities in the region and to promote better control and management of the process of technology transfer the economic and social advancement of the region.

32. The programme consists of these activities: The first activity (workshop I) is a regional workshop on upgrading the capability of industrial planners to assess imported technologies. Work on this workshop in 1982 consisted of field missions for the identification of case studies and lecturers. A number of meetings were held with selected institutions and organizations and arrangements for holding the meeting in the second quarter of 1983 are now under way. The two other activities of the programme consist of workshop II on technology and process design update: petrochemicals, fertilizers and oil and gas-processing; and of a symposium on plastic technologies and applications. Early in 1982 a co-ordinator and an organization committee were assigned to these two activities. The work plans for workshop II and the symposium were completed in April 1982 by this committee, and a mission was subsequently undertaken by the co-ordinator and a consultant to Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia to follow-up on a previous mission undertaken in 1981, to present the final work plans, to select trainees for the workshop and to invite participants to the symposium. By July 1982 lecturers for both activities were identified and contracted. In September 1982 an agreement was concluded with The Royal Scientific Society in Jordan for hosting the two activities. Invitations were extended to institutions, government and non-government organizations, industrial establishments in the private and public sectors, chambers of commerce and industry, universities, and regional and international organizations in the Arab countries.

33. Workshop II was held from 30 October to 2 December 1982 and was attended by 28 trainees from the following countries: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates. The symposium was held from 11 to 15 December 1982 and was attended by 75 participants from the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. There were also participants from Austria, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, India, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

II. Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

34. During the period under review the Commission executed and administered projects financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. In addition, it also provided advisory services to similar women's programmes in Jordan and Oman.

35. The following are the main activities undertaken during 1982:

(a) Preparation of prototype educational materials for a women's extension programme was completed in July 1982;

(b) A project on improving animal and poultry stock and processing food products was completed;

(c) Preparation for a subregional workshop on development of skills for organization and participation in training workshops has been initiated. The workshop is scheduled to be held in April 1983;

(d) A workshop on planning and management of multi-purpose centres was held in March and April 1982 in Beirut. Fifty trainees from 12 multi-purpose centres and non-governmental organizations in Lebanon participated in the workshop;

(e) Fourteen trainees from Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen participated in a workshop that was held in Jordan from 20 November to 16 December 1982. The main theme of workshop was the production of communication and audio-visual materials for rural extension programmes for women.

H. Environmental co-ordination

36. In accordance with its mandate, the Environmental Co-ordination Unit carried out the following activities during the period under review:

(a) Assessment of the state of the environment: a report entitled "The environmental implications of urbanization in the ECWA region" (E/ECWA/ENV/VP.3) was prepared. The report draws attention to the impact of extensive urban sprawl on the deterioration of the environment and to the necessity of incorporating environmental dimensions into the process of economic development. The report provides an interdisciplinary approach to the interrelations between unchecked urbanization and other components of development, such as sanitation, public health, community water supply, housing, transportation and a socially-patterned life-style. The report advises project managers and planners on environmental factors that should be taken into consideration at an early stage in project planning;

(b) The Unit continued to ensure that the Commission's programmes and projects take into account environmental considerations, and that the Commission participates in the formulation and implementation of the UNEP Action Programme;

(c) The Unit participated in the preparation and formulation of the UNEP document "System-wide medium-term plan, 1984-1989" in which certain regional priorities were taken into account in the preparation of the programme budget for the 1984-1985 biennium;

(d) The Unit participated in the UNEP consultative forum for designated officials on environmental matters, in order to co-ordinate between UNEP priority programmes and the Commission's work programme;

(e) Support was provided to the Regional Seas programme, and more particularly to the Kuwait Action Plan. The Unit participated in the inter-agency meeting organized by UNEP and in the inter-governmental meetings for the approval of the Global Seas programme in which regional characteristics were reflected.