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ECWA Third Session

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Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

ATTACHMENTS TO THE COMMISSIONS
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES
FOR 1976-1977 ^{1/}

^{1/} The Annex to the second part of this document also contains the "Substantive Actions Envisaged Under the Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977 and the 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan of the Commission in Relation to the Provisions of General Assembly Resolution 3362 (S-VII)".

FOREWORD

This document introduces some revisions into the Commissions "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977", as recommended by the Commission at its second session and as called for by the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII). It comprises two parts.

The first part presents the revised version of the Commission's programme of work for 1976-1977 in the field of Population, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultations for the ECWA region, held in Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975, and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII).

The second part consists of an addendum to the Commission's programme of work for 1976-1977 in the field of International Trade and Development pursuant to paragraphs (3), (6) and (8) of Section III and paragraph 2(c) of Section VI of resolution 3362(S-VII). No further amendments to the programme of work were required. The specific activities and projects envisaged under the 1976-1977 Programme of Work of the various substantive programmes of ECWA already provide the follow-up actions called for by the other provisions of the resolution bearing on the work of the Commission.

The Annex to the second part presents, the specific activities and projects envisaged under, both, the "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" and the "Draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan" of the Commission in relation to the relevant provisions embodied in the first six sections of General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII).

As for the seventh, and last, section of the resolution, dealing with the Restructuring of the United Nations Economic and Social sectors, the secretariat of the Commission has devoted special attention to and examined the needs of the regional structures of the United Nations system bearing in mind the increasing role of the regional economic commissions. In this connexion, the Executive Secretary of ECWA participated in the second meeting, held in New York, from 3 to 11 February 1975, of the

Ad Hoc Committee on the restructuring of the UN Economic and Social sectors, established as called for in paragraph (1) of Section VII of General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII). ECWA's proposals on this issue are also communicated to the Ad Hoc Task Force of the United Nations, created on the implementation of the decisions of the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly.

REVISED WORK PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION, 1976/77.

(Section 7 of the Commission's "Programme of
Work and Priorities for 1976-1977")

I N T R O D U C T I O N

During the second session of ECWA, it was proposed that "recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region, held in Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975 (henceforth called the Doha/Beirut meeting), be taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the population programme"^{1/} These recommendations had not been considered in the work programme presented to the second session because of the very limited time between the end of the consultation meeting and the beginning of the ECWA session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that a revised population programme will be presented to it at this third session. The present document is in fulfilment of this request.

The regional projects that arose from the recommendations of the Doha/Beirut meeting require, for their implementation, significantly more resources than are presently available to the Population Division of ECWA. Therefore, a selection of projects and activities was made which constituted a minimum response to these recommendations and only these projects were included in the present revised work programme (projects 7.1 to 7.10). The remaining projects are placed in the Annex to this revised version of the Population Work Programme for the biennium 1976-1977.

It must be noted that this revised work programme takes into account the results of the sixth and seventh Special Sessions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 3362(S-VII) entitled "Development and International Economic Co-operation". This was done in at least three different ways: by assigning high priority to areas within the population field that received special attention in the above resolution (e.g., migration of qualified personnel), by selecting regional projects that are of special significance to the least developed countries of the region and to countries in greatest need for technical assistance (e.g., data collection and analysis) and by emphasizing activities which promote greater

^{1/} Report on the Second Session, 5-10 May, 1975, P. 7.

direct co-operation between the developing countries of ECWA (e.g., regional population surveys) as recommended in the above resolution.

At the request of United Nations Headquarters, country projects were eliminated from the revised programme since United Nations procedures require that these be submitted by the countries themselves and not be included in the regional programme of work. Where countries specify ECWA as the executing agency, this particular activity of ECWA is included, without specific reference to the individual project, under item 7.1 of this work programme, in particular under sub-heading 3 entitled "Advisory Services and Substantive Support".

Financial implications

The proper implementation of even this minimum programme (excluding the Annex) requires a significant addition in the staff resources of the Population Division. It should be noted in this regard that, before January 1975, the Population Division was a Unit and then a Section; its functions have been expanded to the level of a Division while its resources from the regular budget have remained unchanged at the 1973 level when it was only a Unit. UNFPA has already indicated its willingness to finance at least three new posts (i.e., from extra-budgetary funds). A review of needs will be made in 1976 in the context of the total needs of ECWA and, at that time, demands may be made on the regular budgets if the need arises.

With regard to the Annex, no financial implications for the present budget is envisaged. If the projects in the Annex, in principle, receive the approval of the Commission, financing will be sought from extra-budgetary funds and projects will be implemented as funds become available.

7.1 Programme Formulation and Management and Expert Advisory Services and Support

Expected Completion Date: Continuing

Description:

The management of the programme comprises the following three main responsibilities:

1. Overall responsibilities of a continuing nature:

- Management of the programme including detailed planning of future activities and the preparation of briefs and reports for meetings in population and related fields in which ECWA is invited to participate.
- The organization and servicing of regional seminars and short-term training courses in demographic and population studies.

2. Review and assessment of current developments:

- Overall review of the current population situation in the countries of the region.
- Contributions to the statistical abstract of ECWA, the report on the World Population Situation and other similar international publications.
- Publication of the Population Bulletin of ECWA, a scientific periodical and newsletter on population matters issued twice a year in both Arabic and English.

3. Advisory services and substantive support:

- Provide technical advisory services to governments, upon their request, and substantive support to UN technical co-operation programmes dealing with censuses, surveys, vital registration systems and other population activities.

- Acting, at the request of governments, as executing agency for national population censuses and demographic socio-economic sample surveys.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional n/n	46	101	147
General service n/n	24	90	114
Consultant n/n			
Travel		\$13,600	\$13,600

7.2 Regional Population Surveys

Expected Completion Date: 1976/77

Description:

Four major surveys were requested in the recommendations of the UN/UNFPA Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region which took place in Doha, Qatar, from 24 to 25 March and Beirut, Lebanon, from 1 to 2 May 1975: A survey of Palestinians, a survey of Arab Scholars, a survey of intra-regional migration and a survey of Bedouins. However, resources that can at present be reasonably expected to become available to the ECWA population programme do not permit more than a beginning of activity and this only with regard to the first three surveys:

a) Survey of Palestinians

The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that "ECWA, in co-operation with Arab States and concerned Palestinian institutions, conduct a comprehensive survey regarding the distribution of the Arab Palestinian people inside and outside the region and the demographic and economic characteristics of these people". Unlike

previous recommendations, therefore, the present one is not a request for a research undertaking but for a comprehensive census-type enumeration of Palestinians which would give their size, composition and major socio-economic characteristics. The information thus collected would form the basis for projections and can also constitute an important background for future studies of the socio-economic conditions and problems of the Palestinians. Because of limited funds, only a preparatory meeting for this survey is envisaged which will take place in 1976. The main purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the definitions, concepts and methods of data collection. UNFPA funding (\$10,000) has been requested for this meeting. The survey itself would need to be financed separately and additionally (see Annex).

b) Survey of Arab Scholars

The Doha/Beirut meeting, as well as the Second Session of ECWA, emphasized the need to study the determinants and consequences of the brain-drain in the Arab countries. The Doha/Beirut meeting additionally recommended that ECWA, in co-operation with the Arab League, UNFPA and Specialized Agencies, formulate an integrated plan at the Arab level for the purpose of surveying Arab Scholars inside and outside the region, in order to determine their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Here again, only a preliminary meeting to discuss the definitions, concepts and methods of work is envisaged and for which funds (\$18,030) have been requested from UNFPA. This meeting would take place in 1977 and would include experts on the relevant statistical techniques. The survey itself would need to be financed separately and additionally (see Annex).

c) Survey of Intra-regional migration

This project may be divided into two parts:

- collection and analysis of existing data; and
- a field survey of intra-regional migration to collect new, comprehensive and up-to-date information.

The first phase of this project has already begun and is expected to be completed towards the end of 1976 but no financing has yet been obtained for the survey part of this project (see Annex).

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional n/n	6	11	17
General service n/n	-	9	9
Travel		\$4,000	\$4,000

7.3 Analysis and Presentation of Demographic and Related Socio-economic Data

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description:

An inventory of recent and relatively reliable demographic socio-economic data has been completed and will be updated as part of the overall management of the population programme. Where gaps exist, estimates will be made through indirect demographic and statistical methods to obtain reliable information. The purpose of this project is to undertake indepth analysis of this information and to present it in forms suitable for development planning exercise and other development purposes. Accordingly, four main activities are envisaged: First, the preparation of "country population profiles" in which the demographic socio-economic information on countries of the region will be analysed, supplemented and presented in a brief and simple form. Country profiles will contain,

in addition, information on national policies explicitly aimed at affecting population variables. Second, the preparation of "demographic socio-economic data sheets" in which a simplified tabulation of this information is presented in readily accessible form. Third, the undertaking of projections of population and related socio-economic variables which will go beyond the systematic and standardized projections of UN Headquarters by utilizing methods adapted to the needs of the countries of the ECWA region. Fourth, studies of specific population/development questions in particular a study of population and manpower in the ECWA region to be completed in 1977 containing statistics, estimates and projections of components of population growth, composition and structure of the labour force, educational status and attainment, and other such important variables.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/n	-	69	69
General service m/n	-	42	42
Travel		8,000	8,000

7.4 Study of the Correlates of Differential Morbidity and Mortality in Selected ECWA Countries

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

The Doha/Beirut meeting placed great stress on the need for research on the interrelations between population and socio-economic factors. It recommended that research be conducted "on the levels and trends of demographic variables and their interaction from the standpoint of their effect on the level and nature of economic development and the effect of development on them". Among the

components of population growth, morbidity and mortality received the greatest emphasis at both the World Population Conference and the Doha/Beirut meeting. In some countries of the ECWA region mortality levels remain relatively high and major efforts are underway for reducing them in all countries of the region. Even where average mortality has reached relatively low levels, morbidity and mortality differentials among regions within the country, among social and economic groups, and between the sexes, remain quite significant. Nevertheless, very few studies have been conducted to determine the socio-economic variables most generally associated with these differentials in the ECWA region. The purpose of the present study will be to fill this gap and to determine, as reliably as possible, the social and economic conditions most significantly associated with the relatively high levels of morbidity and mortality. The results should provide significant help in the formulation of national policies in the fields of health, social welfare, income distribution and the distribution of social services. This study is expected to be initiated in 1976 and terminated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/n	10	-	10
General service m/n	-	8	8
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.5 Research into the Socio-Economic Determinants of Desired Family Size and Fertility in the ECWA Region

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

A strong relationship exists between socio-economic levels, for example, educational attainment and fertility behaviour. Nevertheless, the empirical and causal relationship between education and

fertility or, in fact, between any socio-economic variable and re-productive behaviour, is not a simple one and varies between regions and countries. Because of the peculiarity of the development process of most countries of the ECWA region, generalizations obtained from studies outside these countries might not be totally relevant to them. The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that comprehensive studies be conducted "to determine the nature of the relationship between re-production and socio-economic and cultural levels of the family and the individual and to make use of this relationship in drafting population programmes and policies at the local and regional levels". Accordingly, the present study has been designed to collect available statistical information on this particular population/development relationship, to supplement this information with needed estimates and to analyse the results in general as to shed light on the development/fertility relationship in countries of the ECWA region. The study will be initiated in 1976 and is expected to be completed in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional n/n	10	-	10
General service n/n	-	8	8
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.6 Monitoring, Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description:

The World Population Plan of Action recommended that "Monitoring of population trends and policies discussed in this plan of action

should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system beginning in 1977". It further recommended that "comprehensive and thorough review and appraisal of progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of this plan of action should be undertaken every five years by the United Nations system". The Doha/Beirut meeting recommended, in turn, that "ECWA would follow up the execution of this meeting's recommendations within the framework of its work programme and available resources, and coordinate these activities with those of review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action". In addition to the data collection, appraisal and analysis, these activities will require an up-to-date inventory of national policies dealing with population growth, urbanization, international migration and other population variables. Accordingly, a data bank of these policies for all States members of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies has been developed at UN Headquarters based on a literature search of official documentation. This data bank is now being updated and completed with a questionnaire on population policies and related matters which is being developed by UN Headquarters in close co-operation with the regional economic commissions. ECWA's responsibility in this monitoring, review and appraisal activities is to supply basic information at its disposal on a number of population and related socio-economic variables and to assist in the analysis of the results of the policy questionnaire. This contribution would take place during both 1976 and 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional n/n	-	7	7
General service n/n	-	11	11
Travel		\$2,000	\$2,000

7.7 Comparative Study of Decision-making in Population Policy: The Role of National Population Commissions

Expected completion date: 1978

Description:

Population policy is a multi-disciplinary activity having to do with a variety of subjects including statistics, health, education, housing and other social and economic fields. Governments, on the other hand, are organized sectorally and in terms of ministries and organizations dealing with specific functions and disciplines. As with planning, therefore, the need for a multi-disciplinary unit to deal with the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population activities and policies is clear and was strongly emphasized in the World Population Plan of Action and in the Doha/Beirut meeting. Where no national population commissions exist, such commissions may be created with the assistance of ECWA. In all cases, the proper location and functions of these commissions (e.g. within the planning organization), must be clearly identified. The purpose of this research project is to study the location and functions of existing commissions (mostly constituted in conjunction with national preparations for the World Population Year and World Population Conference, 1974), to compare these with existing commissions elsewhere, and to identify models for establishing such commissions that are relevant to the conditions of the countries of the ECWA region. This project will be initiated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/n	-	3	3
General service m/n	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-

7.8 Integrated Population Goals and Inputs in the Development Plans and Programmes of the ECWA Countries

Expected completion date: 1977

Description:

Perhaps one of the most important vehicles to implement population programmes is their incorporation into the development plans of countries. On the other hand, demographic and related socio-economic variables are themselves major inputs in these development plans on the basis of which the needs in education, health, manpower and other social and economic sectors are determined. Nevertheless, development planning and programming exercises, within as well as without the region, generally take these demographic socio-economic factors inadequately into account. The purpose of this study is to analyse the development plans and programmes of the region with a view to determining the ways in which population and related factors have been integrated and to recommend appropriate methods of achieving this purpose. Completion of this study might point out the necessity of having a seminar of representatives of governments to discuss the results and to exchange information on this matter. Work on the study will be initiated in 1977.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional m/n	-	7	7
General service m/n	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-

7.9 Meeting requirements

Type of Meeting(s)	: Short term training course
Year	: 1976
Title	: Regional training course on demographic data collection and evaluation

Place : Beirut, Lebanon
Duration : One month
Type and number of participants : Two government officials from each country of the ECWA region

Justification: The Doha/Beirut meeting placed great emphasis on the need for population and related socio-economic statistics in the region. It has recommended that countries of the region conduct "periodical censuses at least once every ten years and create a permanent government body in each country to supervise census operations". It is, therefore, expected that countries of the region will very actively participate in the UN 1980 round of censuses. However, the Central Statistical Offices of many of these countries are still inadequately staffed by local expertise because of the shortage of statisticians among their nationals. Furthermore, because of the peculiarities of the region (e.g. the existence of nomads and fishermen, and the extent of intra-regional and international migration) training in census techniques of national personnel must contain a strong component that is specifically relevant to regional conditions. The purpose of this course is to train middle to high level national personnel in census operations from the cartographic stage to the stage of data appraisal and analysis. Instructors and the material for the course will be chosen taking account of regional needs and conditions.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated cost		40,260	40,260

7.10 Meeting requirements

Type of meeting(s) : Expert Group Meeting
Year : 1977
Title : Expert Group Meeting on Census Techniques
Place : Beirut, Lebanon.

Duration : 5 days
Type and number of participants : Two participants from each of the twelve countries of the ECWA region.

Justification: The great emphasis placed by the Doha/Beirut meeting on the need for intensifying efforts in the field of data collection and appraisal resulted in a number of recommendations for the assistance of ECWA in this undertaking. The meeting also recommended that the States of the region in co-operation with ECWA and UNFPA formulate an integrated regional plan for data collection which would contain censuses, multi-purpose surveys and specialized surveys; this programme would include the standardization of questionnaires, technical concepts, instructions and tabulation of final results and would make use of regional statistical expertise in an efficient manner. The major purpose of the present meeting is the exchange of relevant information among the countries of the region concerning coordination of their national census activities and the discussion of the most suitable forms that the standardization of census and survey questionnaires, of technical concepts, of census and survey instructions, and of tables of final results and other related activities could be undertaken. It is hoped that this meeting will contribute significantly to the efficient participation of the countries of the region in the UN 1980 round of censuses.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated cost		\$40,670	\$40,670

A n n e x

The ten regional population projects described in this Annex emanate from the recommendations of the Post-World Population Conference Consultation for the ECWA region, held at Doha, Qatar, and concluded in Beirut on 2 May 1975. They have not however been included in the revised regional work programme of ECWA for 1976/77 because of limitation of funds^{1/}. However, once these projects are approved by the Commission, funds will be sought from extra-budgetary sources for their implementation.

The financial requirements stated at the end of each project's description are the best estimates that could be made at this time, and, in most cases, are believed to be fairly reliable. If all ten projects were to be implemented, the total financial requirements for the next two years would be \$2,636,500. After the two-year period, however, the cost of the continuing projects would amount to approximately \$338,000 a year.

1. Regional vital statistics and civil registration programme (Duration: continuing)

There are at least two main reasons for establishing a national civil registration system: to obtain reliable data on vital events such as births, deaths, and marriages; and to secure information for issuing identity cards or other proofs of citizenship. Both of these reasons are of particular importance to the countries of the ECWA region. Not only a vital statistics generally defective, the large volume of migrants relative to national population in most countries raises significant and urgent questions relating to the right to citizenship. The need for developing and assisting civil registration systems has been repeatedly emphasized in regional conferences and particularly in the Doha/Beirut meeting where several recommendations were formulated on this subject. This need is also evidenced by the increasing number of requests originating from the countries of the region for assistance in this field.

^{1/} However, a small part, mostly an initiation of activities, was included in the revised regional work programme for projects 2, 3, 4 and 10.

A regional supporting programme should include: (a) a thorough study of existing civil registration systems, their deficiencies and needs and of methods for improving their effectiveness; (b) a training programme for nationals in establishing and managing civil registration systems as well as in undertaking sample surveys for collecting vital statistics; and (c) direct assistance to countries upon their request to establish or strengthen the collection of vital statistics.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$71,000; meetings \$45,000; travel or other \$8,000; total: \$124,000).

2. Survey of Palestinians (Duration: 2 years)

As was mentioned in project 7.2 "Regional Population Surveys" of the revised work programme, comprehensive census-type enumeration of Palestinians was requested by the Doha/Beirut meeting in which the Palestine Liberation Organization actively participated. This survey would give the size, composition and major socio-economic characteristics of the Palestinian population inside and outside the ECWA region. The revised work programme stipulates only an initial step in undertaking this project, namely the convening of a preparatory committee to discuss concepts, definitions and methods of operation. Further meetings of the preparatory committee and the census operations themselves would need to be financed separately and additionally.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$200,000; meetings \$80,000; survey costs \$600,000; travel \$20,000; total: \$900,000.

3. Survey of Arab Scholars (Duration: 2 years)

As was mentioned under project 7.2, the Doha/Beirut meeting recommended that ECWA, in co-operation with the Arab League, UNFPA and specialized agencies, formulate an integrated plan at the Arab level for the purpose of surveying Arab scholars inside and outside the regions in order to determine their demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Here again, the request is for a census type enumeration and the work programme stipulates

only a first meeting, a preparatory committee to determine concepts, definitions and methods of data collection to be used in this survey. If additional funds are obtained, the survey itself would be undertaken and results would hopefully become available within two years after the funds are obtained.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$94,600; meetings \$36,000; survey costs \$100,000; Travel \$20,000; Total: \$156,000).

4. Survey of intra-regional migration (Duration: 2 years)

The revised work programme stipulates under project 7.2 that the compilation and analysis of intra-regional migration data will be completed in 1976. This exercise should offer, in addition to valuable information on intra-regional migration, a framework for undertaking field surveys. The purpose of these surveys would be to deepen knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the migratory movements among Arab countries of the region as well as to standardize and update information on this important subject. The results of these activities should prove to be of considerable usefulness to development planning and programme activities in the various countries.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$134,000; survey costs \$250,000; travel \$10,000; Total: \$394,000).

5. Survey of Bedouins (Duration: 2 years)

The Doha/Beirut meeting, after long discussions on the situation of Bedouins in the region, decided that the most urgent need in this regard is a clear factual understanding of the volume, trends and characteristics of Bedouins. It recommended, therefore, that "a comprehensive survey be conducted at the regional level and at the level of a group of countries of the region to study the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of Bedouins in accordance with the standardized definitions, in order to improve their conditions and better to utilize their capacities". However, the lack of resources did not permit even a beginning of activity in this field. If resources do become available, it is proposed that, after a

short initial period, sub-regional demographic socio-economic surveys of Bedouins be designed and undertaken in co-operation with the affected countries.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$134,000; meetings \$20,000; survey costs \$200,000; travel \$10,000; Total: \$364,000).

6. Social, economic and legal conditions affecting migrant workers' movements in the ECWA region (Duration: 1 year)

At the Doha/Beirut meeting, it was emphasized that intra-regional migration, and in general migration from one Arab country to another, is different both economically and culturally, from other international migration movements, as for example from Turkey to Germany or from North Africa to Europe. The meeting recommended that the Arab labour market be considered as one market and "to take the necessary measures to facilitate the movements of individuals and technical and scientific skills from one country of the region to another, to coordinate this movement and to take all necessary measures to protect the rights of migrant workers and remove obstacles in the way of family reunions". The present research project is designed to collect and analyse available information on: (a) the legal conditions governing intra-regional migration; and (b) the socio-economic problems facing the migrant workers. The results of this research should contribute to the development of policy guidelines which would promote, coordinate and rationalize these migratory movements as well as protect the migrant workers and their families. (One-year requirements: Project personnel \$37,500; travel \$2,000; Total: \$39,500).

7. Health and socio-economic effects of frequent pregnancies on mother and child (Duration: 1 year)

While countries of the region do not generally consider their rates of population growth excessive, there is concern that repeated pregnancies may have unfavourable effects on the health of mother and child.

Accordingly, the Doha/Beirut meeting recognized "the need to stress the relationship between frequent pregnancies and the health of mother and child and to study this relationship from the standpoint of its socio-economic and cultural implications in society". This research project would utilize existing data on the subject but would use various statistical and demographic techniques, particularly correlation analysis to determine the associative relationships that exist between the relevant variables and to shed light on possible policy measures that the countries concerned may formulate in this regard.

(One-year requirements: Project personnel \$37,500; travel \$2,000; Total: \$39,500).

8. Population education (Duration: 1 year)

Both the World Population Conference and the Doha/Beirut meeting laid great emphasis on the need for creating awareness of population questions among general population. It was noted in the discussions that conventional school and university curricula contain little such questions as historical trends of mortality and fertility, present differentials in mortality among different groups in society, the various types of migratory movements (urban-rural, nomadic, refugee, etc.) and their implications to socio-economic development, and the international migration of workers and of skilled persons and professionals. A number of countries outside this region have begun incorporating information about these population issues into their conventional curricula in the fields of history, geography, the social sciences and others. The purpose of this project is to investigate the possibilities and methods for the application of this new concept to the prevailing curricula in the region. For this purpose, a study would be conducted and presented to an international meeting of experts in order to obtain concrete recommendations in this regard.

(One-year requirements: Project personnel \$37,500; meetings \$25,000; travel \$2,000; Total: \$64,500).

9. Regional training programme (Duration: continuing)

The Doha/Beirut meeting, after emphasizing the need for training in population statistics, demography and population studies, recommended that a regional training programme be set up "in all fields of population under the supervision of ECWA and UNFPA". This programme would take into account the possibility of utilizing existing centres and institutes and would supplement these with new training activities in accordance with the needs of the region. The specific nature of this training programme would be determined after a thorough survey of existing possibilities for training within the region and available fellowships and other kinds of assistance for training outside the region. Nevertheless, it may be already stipulated, on the basis of existing knowledge of gaps and problems associated with training in population in the ECWA region, that the emphasis would have to be placed on graduate level training in the Arab language and in the context of regional conditions. If a small nucleus of training staff is established, this would have the additional function of serving as a pool for quick response to country needs in population matters as well as to fill the gap at existing universities and training institutions when these are short of instructors. Such a regional programme may well be developed in conjunction with an existing undergraduate programme in one of the countries of the region.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$240,000; fellowships \$100,000; travel, equipment and other \$30,000; Total: \$320,000).

10. Population Clearing House (Duration: continuing)

The Population Division of ECWA maintains an extensive library on population related matters. This library is rapidly becoming the major source of research material in the region. It is intended that this library be strengthened and that it becomes the central component of a population clearing house as exists already in other economic commissions, most elaborately at ESCAP. The main functions of this clearing

house would be to help researchers in the region, to assist in developing teaching material and reference centres at the universities and training institutions in the region and to act as a bank for the storing and retrieval of research information and results. These functions were considered very important by the Doha/Beirut meeting which recommended the establishment and support of "scientific libraries specialized in statistical and population sciences". While some modest resources are now available to the Population Library of ECWA, additional sources of funds would be sought for the expansion of its content and functions and the establishment of the other clearing house functions.

(Two-year requirements: Project personnel \$125,000; equipment and supplies \$30,000; publications and other \$30,000; Total: \$185,000).

ADDENDUM TO
THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES
FOR 1976-1977
IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

[/ Proposed action pursuant to paragraphs (3), (6)
and (8) of Section III and paragraph 2(c) of
Section VI of General Assembly
resolution 3362 (S-VII)]

Title of specific activity: Transfer of technology

Expected completion date: Continuing

Description: The heavy dependence of the region on imported technology is expected to be accentuated in the coming years with the disbursement of a significant portion of its recently acquired financial resources on imports with a high technology content. Moreover, the foreign exchange costs involved in technology transfer constitute an additional burden on the limited resources of several countries in the region, notably the lesser developed members, and a serious strain on their balance of payments. At the same time, member countries' efforts to deal with the range of complex issues connected with the transfer of technology process are handicapped by lack of expertise and appropriate policies and institutions.

The purpose of this activity is to study national practices, policies and institutional arrangements relating to transfer of technology, taking into consideration the international setting in this field and measures to improve it in the interest of developing countries. The identification of problem areas and shortcomings, and the provision of background information and documentation, resulting from the surveys will form the basis for action at the national, regional and international levels, including legislation, provision of advisory services and technical assistance, training of personnel and institution building, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the transfer process and strengthening member countries' technological capabilities so as to reduce their dependence on imported technology.

In conducting these studies, close co-operation will be sought with UNCTAD, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other competent international and regional bodies.

<u>Resources required</u>	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Professional man-months		12	12
General service man-months		12	12
Travel	\$ 4,000	-	\$ 4,000

A n n e x

Substantive Actions Envisaged Under the "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" and the "1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan" of the Commission in Relation to the Provisions of General Assembly Resolution 3362 (S-VII)

I. International Trade

The Commission's "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" envisages the following activities in the field of International Trade and Development, relating to the provisions of resolution 3362 (S-VII) of relevance and immediate interest to the region:

- A study on "Liberalization of non-tariff barriers". (Action relating to paragraph (8) of Section I of the Resolution).
- A general survey of "Restrictive business practices in manufacturing in the ECWA region". (Action related to paragraph (10) of Section I of the Resolution).
- In connexion with Paragraph (3-e) of Section I, the substantive action envisaged consists of a project entitled "Study of the Economic Aspects of Mineral Resources Exploitation and Processing in the Region". (The project will be initiated during the first half of 1977 and will be completed in December 1979).

Under the draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan of the International Trade and Development Programme, the relevant provisions of the resolution which fall within the purview of the work of the Commission have been taken into consideration under the following actions:

- Actions (comprising surveys, studies, meetings and training programmes and advisory services) are envisaged in connexion with paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 of Section I of the Resolution under Objective 1 of the Plan aimed at assisting member countries, particularly the lesser developed ones, in expanding and diversifying their export trade.

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- In connexion with paragraph 3(e & f) of Section I, the substantive action envisaged consists of:
 - a) Study on a Strategy for Action on Alternative Uses of Oil. (Expected completion date: December 1976).
 - b) Support Industries and Services for Oil Production and Associated Activities. (Expected completion date: June 1979).
 - c) Objective 3 (and corresponding strategy and output) of the draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan in the field of Energy, which reads: "To develop vertically and horizontally the energy sector in the economies of ECWA countries, through the establishment and promotion of support industries and services for oil production and associated activities, and through the provision of medium and long-term policy guidelines to expand the energy base, including the possibility of producing energy from non-conventional sources." (Expected completion date: December 1979).
- With regard to paragraph 3(f) of Section I, the "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" envisages under the project, in the field of Transport, Communication and Tourism, entitled "Development of Integrated Transport and Communications Network in the ECWA Region", a study on commodity flows, trade routes, nodes of transport and transport costs in the trade of countries in Western Asia with each other and with the rest of the world.

The implementation of the actions envisaged above necessitates close co-operation and co-ordination especially with UNCTAD, GATT, UNIDO, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other organizations concerned. ECWA closely co-operates with UNCTAD and ITC in matters of mutual interest. ECWA and ITC are currently considering arrangements for a more effective co-operation and co-ordination of their export promotion activities in the region.

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II. Transfer of real resources for financing the development of developing countries and international monetary reform.

The Commission's "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" envisages in this field the following main actions relating to the provisions of resolution 3362(S-VII) under this section:

- A study on "Regional financial resources". (Substantive action related to Paragraphs 3, 9, 11 and 16 of Section II of the Resolution).
- A study on "Regional finance availabilities and the capital needs of the deficit countries in Western Asia". (Substantive action related to paragraphs 1, 7, 8 and 13 of Section II of the Resolution).

III. Science and Technology

The Commission's "Programme of Work and Priorities for 1976-1977" and draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan envisage the following actions relating to the provisions of resolution 3362(S-VII) under this subject:

- With respect to Paragraph 2 of Section III, see "A Strategy for Action..." mentioned in connexion with paragraph 3(e and f) of Section I (International Trade) above.
- A general survey of "national policies, practices and institutional arrangements relating to the transfer of technology in the countries of Western Asia. (Action relating to paragraphs (3) and (6) of Section III of the Resolution. A proposed project has been submitted, to this effect, to the current (third) session of the Commission.)
- With respect to paragraph (7), calling for a United Nations Conference on Science and Technology, the Seminar on "Co-operative Research and Technology Projects in the ECWA Region" envisaged for 1976 can be useful for the preparatory phase of the Conference.
- With respect to paragraph (8), the substantive action envisaged consists of the following main activities:
 - a) Regional co-operative research and technology (activity envisaged to be carried out during 1976-1977).

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- b) The application of new technologies to land and water resources development and management. A report will be prepared in 1976 on the selected aspects of the application of new technologies for water resources development and management: regional and national implications.
 - c) The application of science and technology at the farm level. (To be completed in 1977).
- In connexion with this paragraph, actions (comprising surveys, advisory services, etc.) are also envisaged under Objective 3 of the draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan of the Commission in the field of International Trade, with the view to assisting the countries of the region in evolving appropriate policies and establishing institutions to deal with the range of issues connected with technology transfers and strengthening their technological capabilities.
 - In connexion with paragraph (10) of Section III of the resolution dealing with the "brain-drain" and calling for appropriate policies to obviate its adverse effects, ECWA has already launched a study aimed at examining the various aspects of the issue. The scope of the study is planned to extend beyond the ECWA region to also cover the Arab countries of North Africa.

IV. Industrialization

In this field, the General Assembly in its resolution 3362(S-VII) endorses the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development Co-operation. The following substantive activities are envisaged in connexion with the provisions of the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action and General Assembly resolution 3362(S-VII):

- In connexion with paragraph 58(f) of the Plan of Action dealing with branches of industry, the substantive action envisaged consists of surveys and two meetings:
 - a) Development of branch industries - I
Engineering (1976-1977).
 - b) Development of branch industries - II
Petrochemicals (1976-1977),

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- c) Planning meeting - Petrochemicals (1977),
- d) Promotional Meeting - Engineering Industries (1977).

In addition, short-term advisory services on industrial plan formulation, pre-investment studies and project formulation and evaluation, will be made available at the request of Governments on an ad hoc basis.

- With respect to paragraph 58(k), dealing with training of industrial manpower, substantive action consists of follow-up on the 1975 survey of training needs and facilities in the form of a plan of action for the promotion of a co-ordinated approach to training needs and placement of trainees within the region, including the establishment of appropriate inter-governmental machinery for this purpose. (1976-1977)
- With respect to paragraph 58(i) and (k) of the Lima Plan of Action, dealing with Institutions and Least Developed Countries, supplemented by ECWA resolution 16(II) on "A programme of action in favour of the least developed countries" of the region, the substantive action consists of:
 - a) A survey enquiring into the administrative and managerial problems of the industrial sector (1976-1977), and,
 - b) A survey of industrial financing institutions in the region (1976-1977).
- With respect to paragraph 60(c) of the Lima Plan of Action, which calls for regional co-ordination of economic policies, studies are envisaged on co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes. (1977).
- Regarding paragraph 60(h) of the Lima Plan of Action, dealing with review and appraisal of progress under the International Development Strategy, continuous monitoring of industrialization efforts at the national, regional and international levels will be made. This will entail collecting, analyzing and disseminating information, setting up of country files with emphasis on developments at the branch level, and participating in the review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of IDS and the Establishment of a New International Economic Order at the national and regional levels.

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- In connexion with paragraph 3 of Section IV of resolution 3362(S-VII), which endorses the provision of the Lima Plan of Action, calling for the establishment of a system of consultations at the global, regional, inter-regional and sectoral levels within the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, ECWA is co-operating and conducting negotiations with UNIDO and governmental and inter-governmental bodies concerned in the ECWA region for the establishment of the requisite regional machinery. ECWA is participating in the work of the Industrial Promotion Assembly and International Consulting forum between Arab and European countries which was first convened in Berlin (West), from 23 to 26 September 1975, under the joint sponsorship of UNIDO and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE).
- In connexion with paragraph (10) of Section IV of the Resolution, calling on governments to undertake adequate preparations and consultations in view of the importance of the forthcoming World Employment Conference (June 1976), ECWA in co-operation with ECA initiated procedures for the organization of a regional meeting in Tunis, on the invitation of the Tunisian Government, from 30 April to 3 May 1976. The objective of this action is to enable ECWA and ECA member countries to hold consultations at the regional level on employment problems and to examine, in particular, the agenda items of the World Employment Conference.
- In connexion with paragraphs (3) and (5) of Section IV, the substantive action envisaged consists of:
 - a) "Study on Regional Distribution Arrangements for Electrical Energy" (Expected completion date: December 1978).
 - b) See Objective 3 of draft Medium-Term Plan 1978-1981, mentioned in connexion with paragraph 3 of Section I above.

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V. Food and Agriculture

Substantive action envisaged in this field comprises the following:

- In connexion with paragraph (1) of Section V, the action consists of:
 - a) Agricultural sector, sub-sector and multidisciplinary inter-sectoral studies to be undertaken in co-operation with FAO, and if necessary, with the participation of ILO and UNIDO. (1976 continuing).
 - b) Establishment and strengthening of sector review and monitoring system. (1976).
- With respect to paragraph (2) of Section V, the action envisaged comprises a project on the identification and formulation of multinational and national investment possibilities in agriculture. This will be undertaken in co-operation with FAO and IBRD Investment Centre, as well as with the World Food Programme (WFP). The action will be co-ordinated with IFAD. (The project will start in 1976 and will concentrate first on the Yemen Arab Republic and the Democratic Yemen).
- In connexion with paragraph (3) of Section V, the action envisaged consists of studies on Integrated Rural Development: planning, monitoring and evaluation of strategies and programmes, and identification and formulation of IRD projects. (To be co-ordinated with FAO in participation with ILO and UNICEF. The action commences in 1976 and will continue until 1979 and will cover the Yemen Arab Republic as a first country).
- In connexion with paragraph (12) of Section V, the action envisaged is to initiate a programme of pilot studies on food security. Work has already started on the first of such studies covering Wheat Security in Jordan. Other countries of the region will be covered by subsequent studies.

VI. Co-operation Among Developing Countries

- With respect to paragraph (1) of this Section, actions envisaged include:
 - (a) Arrangements that are being worked out between ECWA on the one hand, and some of the Arab Funds, the Arab Labour Organization, the Industrial

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Development Centre for Arab States (IDCAS) and the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) on the other, with a view to delineating areas and modalities of co-operation between ECWA and these regional Arab organizations. (The arrangements are being prepared at the secretariat level for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 3362(S-VII) under this section. (See E/ECWA/32, pp.3 and 4)

- (b) Surveys, studies, meetings, etc., envisaged under Objective 2 of the draft 1978-1981 Medium-Term Plan of the Commission, in the field of International Trade, aimed at contributing to the development and expansion of intra-regional trade and the achievement of a more advanced degree of regional co-operation and integration.
- In connexion with paragraph 2(a) of Section VI, the substantive actions envisaged consist of:
 - (a) A study of the economic aspects of mineral resources exploitation and processing in the region. (Action will commence in 1977 and will be completed in 1979).
 - (b) Studying the possibilities for regional co-operation, including the establishment of a regional mineral development institute to train local personnel and participate in the development of mineral resources through basic mapping and systematic exploration. This activity is part of the 1975 project entitled "Regional co-operation in the development of mineral resources".
 - (c) Investigation concerning the establishment of a mineral resources development council to follow-up mineral activities in the ECWA region, as specified in the 1976 project entitled "Survey of the situation pertaining to mineral resources development in the countries of the region".
- With regard to paragraph 2(b) of Section VI, the action envisaged consists of a study on Arab Payments Arrangements. (1976-1977).

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- With respect to paragraph 2(c), a related action underway comprises surveys carried out in connexion with and assistance rendered in the development and finalization of the proposed project document for the establishment of a regional institute for training in the use of computer and computer-based management techniques for development in Western Asia (see E/ECWA/30, P.3).