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Progress Report to the Thirteenth Session of the
Consultative Committee on ECWA's Voluntary Fund
Activities Covering the Period January-December
1982

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data. It includes a detailed description of the experimental procedures and the statistical tools employed.

3. The third part of the document presents the results of the study, including a comparison of the different methods and a discussion of the implications of the findings. It also includes a conclusion and a list of references.

I. Introduction

The present report covers ECWA Voluntary Fund activities for one year, 1982. The events in Lebanon and ECWA's move to Baghdad caused some delay in the initiation of some of the projects or in the completion of some of the activities within on-going projects. It is planned that 1983 completes all unfinished activities of 1982 and initiates the newly funded projects.

II. Project Implementation Status

Project number : VF/cc.6/ECWA/Bahrain, Proj.11

Project title : Preparation of prototype educational materials for women's extension programme.

Type of activity: Technical assistance

Implementation status: Completed

The activities of this project were completed on 21 July 1982. The project expert submitted the final report which is being reviewed by ECWA. The report, in Arabic, contains a record of the expert's activities throughout the assignment. Its table of content contains the following items:

- Introduction: Role of audio-visual arts and women issues.
- Report of expert's mission to Oman for cooperation with Omani community development audio-visual department
- Report on Audio-Visual Arts Committee - Bahrain:
 - working paper
 - note for the record of meetings
 - categorization of programmes of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
 - material for programmes
 - recommendations of Committee
 - list of equipment available at Ministry
 - recommendation for projects
 - technical report on VF project prepared for TCDC and the government of Bahrain, Feb. 1982
 - conclusion and recommendations of expert.

From studying the above document, the following outputs should be indicated.

A. T.V. Programmes and newspaper articles

1. Preparation of 14 T.V. script which were integrated into the T.V. Family programme. It is to be noted that this particular T.V. programme received prize in the Gulf Festival held in Kuwait. The material introduced by the project distinguished it from other "family" or "women" T.V. programmes in the Gulf countries.

2. Special emphasis on the role of Bahraini women was included in a programme called "20 candles and a congratulatory Card" which celebrated Bahrain's national day.

3. Special report was shown on the T.V. Magazine on the project and its relation to integration of women in development.

4. About 20 articles in newspapers and magazines were printed as part of the project's media output.

B. Film production/Training of technicians

1. Production of a 20 minute film on "Together for rehabilitation and integration" which was prepared by Bahrain staff specifically female production technician who was being trained by the project expert.

2. Short film on teen-age problems especially girls, which was used as material during training of social workers.

3. Short film on training workshops for housewives.

4. Film on the "old" and the "new" on breast-feeding.

5. Film on the meeting of Gulf women, held in Kuwait, Nov. 1981.

C. Cassette recordings

1. Discussion of trainees in one of the UNDP Integration of women in development workshops.

2. Preparation by trainees of texts for T.V. programmes on socio-economic problems of women in Bahrain.

3. Discussion of theme for a play on social problems, such as divorce, polygamy and others.

D. Designs and related productions

These include posters, drawings, and covers of various reports and texts related to the programme of the Ministry of Social Development.

E. Participation in training workshops relevant to social development, in general, and women activities, in particular that have been organized by the ministry in cooperation with UNDP integration of women in development project.

F. Data collection and research

1. Identification and categorization of mass-media audio-visual programmes prepared by all ministries that are relevant to conditions of women. The aim of the study is to initiate cooperation and coordination between ministries concerned.

2. Analysis of above available material and identification of priority programmes according to existing social issues.

G. Equipment and related premises

1. Purchase of audio-visual equipment

2. training of staff in Ministry to use and maintain audio-visual equipment.

3. Organization of small production studio in the social centre in Rifa'a

4. Organization of AV mobile unit.

The report prepared for the Government of Bahrain and TCDC in February 1981 recommended various action; the most important are the following:

1. The two projects (UNDP Integration of women and the VF Prototype Educational Material) "have made satisfactory progress toward their main objectives, and have contributed valuably to the promotion of social development of women in Bahrain".

2. The two projects should be integrated under a new UNDP project, which would be part of UNDP country programme, with government cost - sharing. The integration of both projects is very important due to their inter-disciplinary nature. This recommendation was adopted by the Government and ECWA. However, UNDP did not eventually integrate the two activities. Instead, ECWA extended the project for three months till the end of April and TCDC extended it further to the end of July 1982. This allowed the completion of the project.

As a whole one could conclude that the project had clear outputs, however, more time was required for following up the development of the pilot activities initiated by the project. This is important in view of comments made by the project expert in his report and the TCDC report:

1. There is a need for more suitable AV equipment and supplies for the social centres, with special emphasis to be put on development of production centre in Rifa'a and the mobile unit.

2. The audio-visual aids facilities available at the social centres require more technical staff on a full-or part-time basis.

3. Training of national staff in AV methods is an important issue that must be studied carefully.

Project number : VF/cc.6/ECWA/YAR/Project 15

Project title : Improving animal and poultry stock and processing food products

Type of activity: Technical assistance

The project has been completed. We are awaiting the final report. Further reporting on the project will be included in the fourteenth session report.

Project number : VF/cc.6/ECWA/Reg./Project 16

Project title : Development of Skillss for organization and participation in training workshops.

Type of activity: training

Discussions have been initiated with the Omani Women Association to hold a sub-regional workshop in Muscat in April 1983. The training will be oriented for leaders of women NGO's as well as women from various ministries who attend or are apt to attend or organize workshops. Details of the activity will be contained in the June 83 progress report.

Project number : VF/cc.6/ECWA/Lebanon/Project 13

Project title : Skill development in integrated social work
for NGO workers

Type of activity: Training

As indicated in ECWA's last progress report to the eleventh session of VF consultative committee, phase II of the activity on multi-purpose centres was scheduled in 1982. A workshop on planning and management of multi-purpose centres was held in Beirut 26 March - 4 April 1982. The workshop was organized and implemented by ECWA in cooperation with TEAM international (Transportation, Engineering and Management), and the National Committee for Popular Action.

Fifty trainees participated in this workshop out of which 35 were women, 15 were men working with family services. They came from 12 multi-purpose centres and non-governmental organizations in Lebanon. The training material included many practical activities dealing with management practices, case studies, leadership skills, group dynamics special emphasis was given to the role of the NGO's in the social change and the importance of the quality of their leadership.

The workshop was organized for thirty participants only; however, the interest of NGO's in the workshop and its topic increase the number of the participants to 50 trainees. This increase along with the strict commitment of the trainees to the workshop made the workshop a most serious exercise. The dynamics of the workshop was so high that the group attained a great sense of cohesion, a quality which produced frank and fruitful exchanges of experience. The increase in the number, however, did not allow the trainers to undertake all the practical activities which were designed for small working groups. These exercises were quickly and efficiently adjusted accordingly. It is the success of this particular workshop which prompted ECWA to devise and propose a regional project submitted to the 13th session for consideration.

Project number : VF/cc.11/ECWA/Regional/Project 33

Project title : Production of communication and audio-visual materials
for female rural extension programmes.
Princess Rohma Community Development Centre, Allan,
Jordan, 20 Nov - 16 December 1982.

The workshop was organized by ECWA in close collaboration with UNESCO/UNDEBAS and the Ministry of Social Development. UNESCO provided one rural development expert to participate as a technical resource person throughout the workshop.

Fourteen trainees from Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, PLO, Syria and Yemen Arab Republic participated in the workshop.

The objective of the workshop can be summarized in two main points:

1. The acquisition of skills for preparing and presenting audio-visual material for advancing the impact of rural extension programmes

2. The production of slide/talk material as prototypes.

The workshop was organized so that the participants would complete this exercise by having between their hands a complete slide/talk presentation material which they have produced themselves. The group was divided into three specialized committees: social, health, and agriculture. Each group choose one topic which they then produced as audio-visual material, tested it in surrounding villages and readjusted it accordingly. As is well known, this workshop was funded by the VF as a follow-up to an earlier one (VF.No.9) on methodologies for rural extension programmes. In order to tie these two activities the participants saw a video taping of the first workshop, discussed it, and used its material to formulate their group programme.

In addition to the technical activities of the training, the participants had the opportunity to view, discuss, and evaluate different developmental audio-visual material used in Jordan, and Egypt, example, films on effect of development on work of women, children and summer vacations, the handicapped. In additional other educational films, such as "potato planting" were viewed and evaluated in terms of their objective, impact, techniques, success of message - delivery.

The technical aspects of the training included the use of cameras, photography, sound recording, script writing, all these being part of the production of one set of slide/talk presentation on one specific topic. In addition to the continuous discussions being held to link the technical aspects of production with the substantive content, an open discussion on the importance of audio-visual material in the development process was held with the Minister of Levelopment, Government of Jordan. The final aspect of the workshop included training the participants to use various audio-visual projectors and related machines. Special attention was given to train the extension workers on the use of machines that are commonly available and used by extension programmes in the region.

The trainees submitted two recommendations to ECWA and the consultative committee:

1) Since this workshop was specifically technical, it is important that the same participants attend more advanced training in the same field.

2) Due to the importance of the functional use of audio-visual methods, it is important to organize regional training workshops in use and maintenance of audio-visual machines.

Comments on Projects Executed by DTCD:

Project number : VF/cc.10/DTCD/Oman/Project

Project title : The Participation of Women in the National Community Development, Oman.

The VF programme Officer visited the project in Oman in 1982 as part of ECWA's back-stopping advisory services to the project. Discussions were held with officials in the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour, Health, Agriculture, as well as UNESCO Expert. Continuous consultations on the project development and the women component of it were also held specifically with Director of Community Development (Ministry of Social Affairs), the DTCD project director and VF women programme officer and women programme team. Emphasis was put on women activities with particular reference to:

1. income generating activities
2. agricultural education
3. local village leaders.

The VF programme officer was preparing her work plan for submission to the VF. Aspects of the work plan were discussed. Four main areas of activities were identified.

1. Consolidation of on-going activities for women in three regions of Oman.

- a) evaluation of on-going activities
- b) emphasis on development of local village leaders
- c) develop income-generation activities as established by traditional handicraft programme.

2. Expansion into Dhofar Area

3. Initiation of Wadi Hatal activities as a pilot activity for CD in poor urban sector.

4. Reactivation of Omani Women Association and directing it as participant in community development efforts. A workshop on NGO is to be organized for this NGO.

The VF programme officer began its appointment in September 1982. She was in the process of setting down and preparing the work plan in consultation with the DPCD project director. It is to be noted that during the three months of her assignment she had already established good working relations with the female expatriate and Omani colleagues with whom she is to work. They have also expressed their appreciation of her initial efforts and indicated their confidence in her ability to develop and strengthen women activities.

During the discussions with various officials, it was clear that special emphasis will be placed during 1983 on women activities, inspite of the still existing cultural difficulties. It is after consultation with the government officials and the project staff that ECWA submitted its extension proposal.

Project number : VF/cc.10/DPCD/Jordan/Project 32

Project title : Maintenance Skills for Household Appliances (Jordan)

The VF programme Officer visited the project in Amman in November 1982. Discussions on the project were held with the Minister of Development, the project coordinator, the trainers and the trainees, in addition to the UNDP Programme Officer handling this activity. The work plan for the project was ready for submission to the VF through DPCD.

Phase I (training) of the project began on 21 August 1982, it is scheduled to end on 21 February 1983. The programme is formulated to strike a balance between training, field apprenticeship, and finally production workshop. The training is set up for two years from 21 August 1982 to 1 September 1984, with 9 hour training per week.

Trainees

1. 15 trainees - some married, others are not.
2. educational level as follows:
 - 10 trainees = secondary education
 - 4 trainee = B.A.
3. absence from workshop is nil so far.
4. trainees are looking upon this training as potentially income-generating.

Training curriculum:

1. Training on use of tools related to electricity and basic electrical concept.
2. Repair and maintenance of household equipment beginning with electric bells, circuit boards, heaters, iron, oven, fan, water pump, mixer, juicer, coffee grinder, meat grinder, serving machine, refrigerator, washer.
3. Planning and management skills of small maintenance workshop.
4. Public relations and marketing
5. Using training facilities for repair workshop.

Comments

1. The committee supervising this project (membership from Ministry Social Development, Ministry of Education, and Vocational Training Institute) studied the possibilities of assisting the trainees to establish their own workshops. After examining this issue carefully with the trainees within the light of the society, it was decided to allow the trainees to use the facilities of the workshop for repair jobs, as an initial stage. Such action would introduce the new female technicians into the society in a culturally accepted manner, since they would be backed by the various authorities supporting the project. This decision is proving to be very sound and effective.

2. The training is being held in a girls comprehensive school; therefore, the Ministry of Education and the school added another field of technical education for the secondary school girls: electric appliances repair. 30 girls enrolled in it as part of their school requirement. Such action introduced for the first time a new field into schools which would eventually be replicated in other ones.

3. To make maximum use of the space, equipment, and trainers, the supervisory committee decided to introduce 3 short - term (2 months each training courses for housewives for purely simple household repair purposes.

4. The above three aspects of the project have demonstrated the various possibilities for developing this pilot project. In addition, it is to be noted that this project is utilizing the maximum possibilities for fulfilling its objectives.

5. It is important to point that the trainees are totally committed to the training, though they received initially some resistance from their social surrounding. They point out that through demonstrating some of their newly acquired skill when necessary in their surrounding (such as changing fuse) they have been able to reverse some of the opposition they encountered. This is an important indication of the possible impact of this project.

6. Discussions were held regarding possible accreditation of the programme by the Ministry of Social Development and/or Ministry of Education. The issue is being studied in order to reach a decision prior to the completion of the first full course in September 1984.

7. The trainees have expressed their total involvement in the training; the only problem that was expressed by the trainees and the trainers is a logistic one. The trainees, who do not own cars, have serious problems of coming to their course. In spite of the problems of public transportation, they have organized themselves in such a way to reach the school time. A more serious problem is their return to their homes in the evening. The Ministry has given them some financial assistance to allow them to organize pool-transportation. It would be most important if the VF would provide the project with a flexible fund of five thousand dollars as training stipend for the 15 trainees to cover six months of 1983. ECWA requests this assistance which can be provided directly through the UNDP, Amman.



