



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

26 MAR 1985

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Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECWA/XII/8/Add.1
13 March 1985

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

Twelfth session
20-25 April 1985
Baghdad

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMMES

Extrabudgetary Resources Supporting the
Commission's Programmes

Note by the Executive Secretary

85-0326

During 1984, the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) disbursed extrabudgetary resources from different contributors in support of programmed activities. These are estimated at \$ US 1,523,545, excluding the "Trust Fund for ECWA Regional Activities" which is submitted separately under document E/ECWA/XII/3/Add.2.

The main contributors of the extrabudgetary resources for the year 1984 were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFUNDW) and the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD) in addition to the Government of the Netherlands, the Government of France and the European Economic Community (EEC). Furthermore, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supported ECWA with the provision of posts for strengthening different programmes.

The activities and the resources provided were as follows:

I. UNDP

The UNDP contribution for the year 1984 is estimated at \$ US 802,424. This cost included the provision of five Professional posts and three General Service posts.

The programme of activities supported by UNDP is detailed below:

(a) The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait; training courses, seminars and lectures on development planning, administration and management;

(b) The Development of Statistical Services - National Household Surveys covering ECWA countries. Advisory services to provide technical assistance to develop integrated household surveys.

Three training programmes were conducted in the fields of:

(i) Household Income and Expenditure Surveys in Damascus;

(ii) Labour Force Surveys in Amman;

(iii) Sampling and Survey Methods in Cairo.

(c) Development of Statistical Services in the Yemen Arab Republic. Providing assistance to strengthen the technical and

administrative capabilities of government organizations mainly the strengthening of the Department of Statistics (DS) through training and to undertake an integrated programme of household surveys to provide basic data in various socio-economic fields;

(d) Preparatory assistance for establishing an intraregional maritime information system in the ECWA region to study the feasibility of creating an intra-regional Maritime Information System (MIS) and to prepare a full-scale project document.

II. UNEPA

The costs of activities financed by UNFPA for the year 1984 are estimated at \$ US 486,560.

These activities are described below:

(a) Regional Population Conference in the Arab World

The above Conference is mentioned in connection with the "Workshop on Demographic Estimates and Projections". It is worth noting that financing resources earmarked for the said project were redeployed and utilized for convening the Regional Population Conference in the Arab World held in Amman, Jordan. This Conference was held in preparation for the International Conference on Population in Mexico.

(b) Information, research and training

Establishing an information base for population research already undertaken and publishing and disseminating books and monographs of direct relevance to policy-making and training in the region.

(c) Regional Advisor in population statistics

Advisory services to assist governments in the formulation of projects related to population data collection and demographic analysis; providing experts to build up national capacities in population matters.

(d) Regional Advisor in Population Demography

Advisory services to ensure the adequate substantive support needed for projects and to produce data relevant to multiple demographic and related socio-economic variables necessary for development planning and policy-making and updating information on a periodic basis, undertaking in-depth studies on population conditions in the region.

(e) Population Education and Information

Printing a scientific journal "The Population Bulletin of ECWA", disseminating the results of research relevant to population policy-making and training to governments and training institutions.

III. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations
Decade for women

For the year 1984, disbursements for activities funded by VFUNDw are estimated at \$ US 92,021.

The programme of activities is detailed below:

(a) Assisting the activities of women's organizations in promoting functional literacy and income generation skills: assisting in training women in measures and means to help to decrease illiteracy;

(b) Developing within the context of national planning for women: meeting to evaluate status and trends of development plans and policies in the region, to reorient planners towards a planning concept that considers women as an integral part of the process of planning for human resources;

(c) Undertaking a feasibility study on application of structure of the Baghdad Branch of the General Federation of Iraqi Women to other branches;

(d) Identifying priority services for development planning for women: assessing the social and economic conditions of women in Bahrain in order to identify major obstacles encountered in the efforts to integrate women in development; identifying and formulating priority needs for development planning for women in terms of governmental programming;

(e) Education and training for income generation: assisting deprived women in southern Lebanon in developing income generation skills; setting-up a literacy programme to acquire functional learning skills;

(f) Institutional development for rural women in southern Lebanon: training village women in agricultural productive skills and in skills of management and co-operative organization;

(g) Women workers in national handicraft in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen: assessing the social and economic conditions of women in Democratic Yemen to come out with recommendations for their development and for the integration of women into governmental plans;

(h) Programme for self-reliance and community participation for female industrial workers in Egypt: assisting women in industrial urban areas by providing training in co-operative organizational skills;

(i) Providing technical assistance in national planning: analysing national policies and plans of certain ECWA countries to assess the position of women in these plans and present advisory services and recommendations;

(j) Role of rural women in economic development: improving conditions of rural women and developing their potentialities for collective self-reliance and outlining direction for field action activities in the area of self-reliance.

IV. The United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development (UNFSSTD)

The United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development provided, for the year 1984, a consultant for implementing the mid-decade review during two months and for supported travels. This contribution was made in kind. Disbursements for activities are estimated at \$ US 3,507.

V. The Government of the Netherlands

The disbursement from the Government of the Netherlands Trust Fund for the year 1984 is estimated at \$ US 96,208.

Activities financed by the Fund are described below:

(a) Expert Group Meeting on Micro-Electronics and Informatics for the Arab Countries: promoting micro-electronics and informatics industries in Arab countries;

(b) Assistance in perspective planning: country and regional models - study entitled "A Macro-Econometric Planning Model for Bahrain";

(c) National planning and regional co-ordination of the industrial sector; development of capital goods and automotive industries: provision of a consultant to prepare automotive industry profiles. Activity includes a report on the automotive industry incorporating the analysis of existing status of the size of each category of equipment in different countries of ECWA;

(d) Strengthening of national scientific and technological capability: promoting co-operation between countries of the ECWA region;

(e) Financial resource mobilization and management; regional financial institutions and development finance need of selected ECWA countries in the 1980s; Examining resource availabilities and gaps in selected countries of the region; analysing present regional funds; and presenting recommendations for the strengthening of the role of regional funds within the socio-economic development of the region;

(f) Development of statistical services: Expert Group Meeting on Income Institution Statistics held in 1983; expenditures for 1984 cover the publication of the final report.

VI. Government of France

For the year 1984, disbursements for activities funded by the Government of France are estimated at \$ US 42,825. This cost included the provision of one Professional post. Additionally other activities were undertaken as detailed below:

(a) Strengthening urban environmental management capabilities: assessing environmental management capabilities of the municipalities of Alexandria and Amman, identifying priorities for action and proposals for technical co-operation;

(b) Development of statistical services:

- Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
- Supporting the Statistics Section in establishing an ECWA computerized statistical data base; provision of an associate expert;

(c) French Language Teacher: Organizing and providing material for teaching the French language;

(d) Industrial development, micro-electronics: Provision of an expert for a three-month period;

(e) Solar Energy Applications and Energy Conservation in Western Asia: Undertaking activities and studies in the field of solar energy applications and energy conservation in western Asia.

VII. The European Economic Community (EEC)

The EEC contribution was made in kind in the form of an expert sent on mission to work with the ECWA secretariat on a project on energy Planning in Western Asia. This contribution in kind for the year 1984 amounted to \$ US 50,000.

VIII. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

For the year 1984 UNIDO provided two Professional posts and one General Service post. FAO provided four Professional posts, two of which were incumbered. Likewise Habitat provided two Professional posts and one General Service post for the ECWA programme on human settlements and UNEP provided two Professional posts for strengthening the environmental dimension in the ECWA programme of work and priorities.