

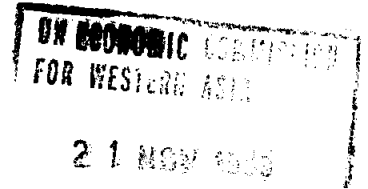


**UNITED NATIONS**  
**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**



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DRAFT

Work Programme for the Biennium 1986-1987\*

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**Programme Staffing Table for the years 1986-1987  
(Professional and General Service Post Requirements)**

**Organizational unit: ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA**

**Programme: STATISTICS**

	Regular budget		Extrabudgetary sources		Total	
	1984-1985	1986-1987	1984-1985	1986-1987	1984-1985	1986-1987
<b><u>Professional category</u></b>						
D-1	1	1	-	-	1	1
P-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
P-4	3	3	-	-	3	3
P-3	1	1	-	-	1	1
P-2/1	-	-	1	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b><u>General Service category</u></b>						
	6	8	-	-	6	8
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>

## STATISTICS

### A. Programme

This programme is intended to provide the ECWA region, within the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, with the required information for national and regional planning. The statistical capabilities in many countries should be strengthened to provide them with a reliable information base, including statistics on resources, economic activities, population, economic and social development, and interrelationships at the national and international levels. The current work of the statistics programme contributes to the development, expansion, improvement and maintenance of those capabilities through the formulation and improvement of statistical methodology and in the expansion of the collection and dissemination of statistics in numerous fields, including national accounts, international trade, raw materials, industry, public finance and prices, energy, transport, environment, human settlements and the social and demographic statistics.

The programme, which is managed by the Statistics Section, consists of three subprogrammes. The programme elements and their related outputs are described below.

#### Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

During the biennium 1984-1985, under subprogramme 1, the Statistical Abstract of the ECWA Region was published. In addition, training programmes on data collection and household sample surveys were carried out for statistical personnel of ECWA member countries with special emphasis on the least developed countries of the region.

Programme element 1.1:

ECWA data base and dissemination of statistics. (Highest priority)

Output:

- (i) Establishment of computerized data base;
- (ii) Technical publications: Statistical Abstract of the ECWA Region 1986 and 1987 (fourth quarter 1986 and 1987); and Study on harmonization of statistics on selected topics (fourth quarter 1987).

This programme element deals mainly with setting up a computerized data base at ECWA. Activities under output (i), a new activity for the section, aim at providing the ECWA secretariat, the governments of ECWA countries and regional and international bodies with a reliable and harmonized statistical computerized data base. The objective of activities involved is twofold: first, to ensure the use of new techniques in collecting data from the member States in co-ordinating the organizational structure of computerized data; secondly, to develop the standardization of collected data by promoting international standards ensuring the comparability of statistics in selected fields.

The study on harmonization of statistics on selected topics (output (ii)) comprises an assessment of existing statistical information systems developed in selected ECWA countries and the feasibility of harmonizing the statistical information systems in selected sectors. The Statistical Abstract (also under output (ii)) aims at disseminating statistics in the ECWA region to be used by the ECWA member States, national planning institutes, research centres, universities and other related bodies. An additional output, "The statistical indicators of the Arab world", might be jointly undertaken with the League of Arab States, provided that extrabudgetary funds are made available for data collection in Arab non-ECWA countries.

Programme element 1.2:

Development of national statistics

Outputs:

- (i) Technical assistance: Participation in training programmes and technical meetings;
- (ii) Substantive servicing of and report to an intergovernmental statistical meeting on activities undertaken and further work to be implemented in specific areas of statistics (third quarter 1986).

Technical assistance in statistics constitutes a continued activity to be undertaken by the Section of Statistics in co-operation with Arab organizations and institutes. It deals with the weaknesses of some of the national statistical systems and aims, in particular, at assisting the least developed countries of the ECWA region and strengthening their statistical capabilities.

The above-mentioned intergovernmental statistical meeting will be convened during the 1986-1987 biennium in fulfilment of resolution 2 (II) adopted at the second session of the ECWA Standing Committee for the Programme. It aims at reviewing the statistical activities of the ECWA secretariat and examining the need for further action in co-operation and co-ordination with regional and international organizations working in the field.

**Subprogramme 2: National accounts and economic statistics**

During the biennium 1984-1985, under subprogramme 2, national accounts covering the period 1974-1984 were published for the ECWA region. In addition a study on real income comparisons for selected countries of the ECWA region was also undertaken. In the forthcoming biennium 1986-1987, basic statistics on trade, energy, industry, finance and national accounts will be continued and expanded. Price indices will be developed for various goods and services and for imports and exports.

**Programme element 2.1:**

**National accounts and related prices and finance statistics**

**Outputs:**

- (i) Technical publication: National accounts studies 1986-1987 (third quarter 1986 and 1987);
- (ii) Technical publication: Bulletin on prices and finance statistics in the ECWA region, 1986 and 1987 (fourth quarter 1986 and 1987).

This programme element aims at assisting countries in the region to introduce and use the United Nations system of national accounts and to develop their price and financial statistics. It includes the development of the standardization of computerized statistical data in this field for the use of the substantive divisions of the ECWA secretariat, regional institutions and research centres.

Programme element 2.2:  
Economic statistics

Outputs:

- (i) Technical publication: External trade bulletin of the ECWA region, 1987 (second quarter 1987);
- (ii) Energy and industry statistics bulletin of ECWA countries 1987 (third quarter 1987).

The first publication presents relevant statistical series on the importance of international trade of the ECWA region, the intraregional flows of commodities and the geographical distribution of trade in individual ECWA countries.

The second publication includes output, value added and manpower in the industrial sector as well as production, consumption and external trade of energy in ECWA countries. These publications are primarily intended for use by national and regional organizations and researchers.

The activities under this programme element include co-ordination with ECWA member States to adopt international standards for better uses of statistical data bases in this field.

Subprogramme 3: Social and environmental statistics

In the biennium 1984-1985, under subprogramme 3, a compendium on social statistics for the ECWA region was completed. Migration statistics and population censuses in the ECWA region were surveyed. In the biennium 1986-1987, the compendium on social statistics for the ECWA region will be continued and expanded.

Programme element 3.1:

Social and environmental statistics

Outputs:

- (i) Technical publication: Compendium on social statistics (fourth quarter 1987);
- (ii) Assessment of the existing environmental statistics in selected ECWA countries (fourth quarter 1986).

This programme element will be implemented in co-operation with the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Arab Central Bureau of Statistics and Documentation. It aims at providing an overall picture of the social situation of ECWA countries. It also aims at determining the available environmental data and assessing their usefulness for statistical purposes. This will be undertaken in collaboration with concerned authorities of three selected ECWA countries and in co-operation with UNEP and WHO.

Programme element 3.2:

Demographic statistics. (Lowest priority)

Output:

Technical publication: Study on population censuses.

This programme element deals with one major source of population data collection: the population censuses. It aims at assessing national experiences of ECWA member States in this field in connection with the world population and housing census programme. It also aims at identifying, standardizing and improving the various methods of data collection used in population censuses in the ECWA countries.

B. Resource requirements

Established and temporary posts

Staff resources required to implement the above mentioned programme are estimated at 144 work-months at the Professional and higher levels (P-1 to USG). One hundred and twenty work-months would be made available from the existing posts (120 work-months) under the regular budget. Twenty four work-months would be provided from extrabudgetary contributions.

The distribution of these staff resources by subprogramme would be as follows:

Subprogramme

Work-months for established

and temporary posts

(P-I to USG)

	<u>RB</u>	<u>XB</u>	<u>Total</u>
Statistical development	50	24	74
National accounts and economic statistics	41	-	41
Social and environmental statistics	29	-	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>144</b>

Consultants

One month of consultancy services requested from extrabudgetary resources is envisaged under programme element 3.1 to prepare a report on the suitability of the environmental data available within national institutions in Kuwait and Egypt.

Travel of staff

Travel of staff required for the delivery of the proposed output is estimated at \$US 18,000 from the regular budget and \$US 33,000 from extrabudgetary resources. This is intended to provide staff travel to selected countries of the region to undertake the following tasks: consultations with statistical offices of ECWA member States and regional and international organizations, analysis and adoption of physical structure of national computerized data bases under programme element 1.1; participation in training programmes, promotion of international statistical standards, and development of co-operation with Arab regional and international organizations in the field of statistics under programme element 1.2. As for subprogramme 2, travel funds are required to consult with statistical offices of ECWA member States, collect unpublished data and standardize statistical information in the field of foreign trade, energy and industry. As for subprogramme 3, travel funds are required to standardize national social statistics to be used in the ECWA statistical data base.

Intergovernmental meetings

During the third quarter of 1986 an intergovernmental technical meeting on statistics will be convened in response to Standing Committee resolution 2 (II) adopted during the Committee's second session in April 1984. The meeting will take place at the Commission's headquarters in Baghdad.

