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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION**

**PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORK PROGRAMME**

Part II

Development Issues and Policies

II. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

The programme is mainly concerned with the monitoring, analysis and implementation of the international development strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The programme consists of three subprogrammes. One deals with medium and long-term planning models for ESCWA countries. Another concentrates on problems facing the least developed countries in the region. The third surveys annually economic and social developments in the region.

The three subprogrammes covered four programme elements. Two were fully completed, one was terminated and one was partly implemented.

The resources allocated and utilized during the biennium were as follows.

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	168	-	168	105	-	105	63	-	63
General Service	72	-	72	72	-	72	0	-	0
Consultancy (w/m)	4	-	4	4	-	4	0	-	0
Consultancy (\$US)	22,500	-	22,500	19,907	-	19,907	2,593	-	2,593
Travel (\$US)	27,600	-	27,600	27,600	-	27,600	0	-	0
Meetings (\$US)	14,900	-	14,900	0	-	0	14,900	-	14,900

A. SUBPROGRAMME 1: PERSPECTIVE PLANNING

This subprogramme consists of one programme element which was reformulated. Two out of three outputs were completed as explained below.

Programme element 1.1: Medium-term and long-term planning models for ESCWA countries

The output of this programme element was reduced in scope and reformulated to consist of three country models to serve as an input into a regional model. Two country models, initiated in 1984 on Bahrain and Syria, were completed. The model on the United Arab Emirates which was started in 1985 is well under way. Delays in completion of outputs were mainly due to lack of appropriate computer facilities in ESCWA as well as to delays in response of concerned Governments.

The final study on Bahrain, entitled "A macro-econometric planning model for Bahrain", reflects the observations of the Government authorities concerned.

With respect to the econometric model on Syria, the Government was interested in the projected data for two benchmark years, namely 1985, which will be used as a base-year projection, and 1990, which will be used as a last-year projection in the preparation of the sixth five-year development plan (1986-1990). Simulation results (historical and projections) were submitted to the Syrian authorities in September 1985. Those results reflect comments and observations of Government officials. In addition to the modelling exercise, a case-study was undertaken and expected to be finalized during the first quarter of 1986.

A revised draft model of the United Arab Emirates has been completed. The model will be finalized upon receipt of comments and suggestions from the member State.

Under this element, a draft proposal on Debt Monitoring and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) was prepared. The implementation of DMFAS will be conducted jointly with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The actual project is scheduled to start during the last quarter of 1986.

Resource use during the biennium was as follows:

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	56	-	56	44	-	44	12	-	12
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

B. SUBPROGRAMME 2: SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

Two programme elements were planned under this subprogramme. One was completed and the other terminated.

Programme element 2.1: Review and analysis of trends, policies and measures for the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA)

The main objective of this programme element is to monitor the progress in the implementation of the SNPA in the two least developed countries (LDCs) in the ESCWA region. In this connection, a report was submitted to the twelfth session of the Commission.

In 1985, a report on the Mid-term Global Review of progress towards the Implementation of the SNPA in the ESCWA region was prepared and sent to UNCTAD as the ESCWA contribution to the mid-term global review meeting which was held in Geneva during September/October 1985. The report was issued as document E/ECWA/DPD/85/2.

A second output under this programme element was merged with the first output. Follow-up activities and measures to be taken in response to ECWA resolution 107 (IX) on international assistance to flood stricken areas in Democratic Yemen appeared within the above-mentioned report on the SNPA.

Resources allocated and utilized during the biennium were as follows.

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	24	-	24	15	-	15	9	-	9
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Programme element 2.2: Improving national/regional capabilities in project formulation and implementation

Work under this programme element was planned to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. Since no extrabudgetary resources were made available, the programme element was terminated. Resources allocated were 6 Professional work-months under the regular budget.

C. SUBPROGRAMME 3: REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC TRENDS

This subprogramme, which consists of one programme element, was completed as planned.

Programme element 3.1: Survey and analysis of economic and social developments in the countries of Western Asia

The annual survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region reviews, analyses and projects the developments in the economic and social sectors of the economies of member countries. It also includes in-depth studies of special economic and social problems facing these countries. The 1985 issue of the survey was completed and issued (see document E/ECWA/DPD/85/6). A summary of the survey was prepared and issued as document E/ECWA/DPD/85/3.

Additional ad hoc activities undertaken in 1985 consisted of preparation by a consultant of a study on external debt and its implications for both debtor and creditor countries in the ESCWA region (E/ESCWA/DPD/85/12) and consolidation of preparation for selected studies on development problems facing the countries of the region. These studies in their final stage will be issued in 1986.

The 1986 survey of economic and social developments in countries of Western Asia will be submitted to the Commission at its thirteenth session (E/ESCWA/DPD/86/1).

Resource use during the biennium was as follows:

Description	Allocated			Utilized			Balance		
	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total	RB	XB	Total
Professional (w/m)	82	-	82	46	-	46	36	-	36
Consultancy (w/m)	4	-	4	4	-	4	0	-	0

APPRAISAL

The main problem facing this programme was the filling of vacant posts especially under subprogrammes 2 and 3. Another problem was the lack of needed computer facilities from January to June 1984 which delayed the work on subprogramme 1. A third problem was the unavailability of extrabudgetary resources planned for the implementation of programme element 2.2, which consequently was terminated.