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Proposed
WORK PROGRAMME AND PRIORITIES
1982-1983
REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES
(REGULAR BUDGET)

81-3703

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

A. Programme

This programme is administered by the Technical Co-operation Unit of the Economic Commission for Western Asia. Regional advisers under this programme work in close co-operation with the respective substantive programmes. They receive support from the over-all activities of those programmes, and provide some inputs to them on an ad hoc basis. The major objective of this programme is to assist member countries, at their request, in tackling specific developmental issues, particularly in relation to sectoral planning and manpower training and in promoting co-operation among countries of the region. These services, which involve extensive travelling on advisory missions, are related to and supplement the following substantive ECWA programmes: development issues and policies; industrial development; development finance and administration; social development; statistics; and transport, communications and tourism.

The programme of regional and subregional advisory services encompasses six subprogrammes involving eight regional advisers. These subprogrammes and the activities to be carried out under them by the regional advisers are described below.

Subprogramme 241: Development planning

(a) Programme resources: RB \$ 139,300

(b) Reference . GAR 2803 (XXVI)

(c) Programme elements :

The small size of the ECWA countries from the economic standpoint and their resource complementarities make plan harmonization and co-operation in development planning both feasible and essential. Effective measures are still to be taken in this field, especially in the harmonization of investment plans. Thus, the regional adviser will be responsible for the provision of technical assistance in plan formulation, plan implementation, follow-up and the training of technical staff.

In this context, he will be responsible for (a) responding to requests of member countries and analysing their needs; (b) providing advisory services, developing guidelines, and holding training sessions whenever necessary; (c) assisting in the formulation of the five-year plans of member countries; and (d) planning follow-up action.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 6	24
Travel	<hr/>
Other	\$ 27,100

Subprogramme 331: Industrial project identification, formulation and appraisal

- (a) Programme resources: RB \$ 121,400
- (b) Reference : GAR 2803 (XXVI)
- (c) Programme elements :

The responsibilities of the regional adviser in this field will include (a) advice to governments, governmental and intergovernmental development and financing organizations of the region concerning the identification, formulation and/or appraisal of industrial development projects of a national or multinational nature, and the proposal of specific areas and modalities for co-operation and joint investment in industrial development schemes and enterprises on a regional or subregional basis; (b) participation in planning promotional and technical meetings dealing with specific aspects of industrialization in the countries of the region; (c) advice and assistance with training programmes concerning the identification, formulation and appraisal of industrial projects, including the preparation of appropriate training materials.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 5	24
Travel	<hr/>
	\$ 23,000

Subprogramme 511: Public finance

- (a) Programme resources: RB \$ 242,800
- (b) Reference : GAR 2803 (XXVI)
- (c) Programme elements :

Activities under this subprogramme will concentrate, through advisory services, on assessing the immediate and long-term needs of the administrative and financial systems of member countries, designing the necessary reform programmes in line with these needs and the specific circumstances of the countries concerned, developing guidelines for action, and examining policy options and measures to be taken at the national and international levels. In this context, the services of the regional adviser in connexion with development finance shall include (a) the examination of requests received from member countries, including the conducting of brief surveys of the situation, as may be required; (b) the provision of the advisory services needed, including the working out of the measures to be taken; (c) the designing and organization of specific training sessions, if necessary, for the implementation of the measures needed; (d) the planning of follow-up action. In addition, activities under this subprogramme relate to advisory services in all matters pertaining to financial management fiscal and monetary development in relation to the requirements of national development programmes; financial policy and management problems.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 5	<u>48</u>
Travel	\$ 46,000
Other	

Subprogramme 531: Human resources development

- (a) Programme resources: RB \$ 151,600
- (b) Reference : GAR 2803 (XXVI)
- (c) Programme elements :

The responsibilities of the regional adviser will continue to include:

- (a) the provision of advice and assistance to countries in the region in all matters pertaining to social development policies, planning and implementation, in addition to the promotion of co-operation among countries of the region in the transfer and adaptation of knowledge and experience in human resources development policies;
- (b) service as an expert in countries of the region requiring urgent assistance for periods of up to three months;
- (c) the training of civil servants concerned with development planning, especially local counterparts, and assistance in the establishment and development of training institutions;
- (d) assistance to regional organizations, e.g. the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the League of Arab States and its specialized agencies, etc. in inter-country programme and projects.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 7	24
Travel	<hr/>
Other	\$ 27,100

Subprogramme 541: National accounts statistics and household sample survey

- (a) Programme resources: RB \$ 260,700
- (b) Reference : GAR 2803 (XXVI)
- (c) Programme elements :

This subprogramme consists of advisory services in two areas of statistics. In the area of statistics and national accounts, the regional adviser's responsibilities cover, inter alia, (a) advice to member countries on the development of long-term programmes aimed at the establishment or improvement of statistics and national accounts within the context of the statistical programme of the country; (b) advice to countries on the conduct of statistical surveys required for improving basic statistics; (c) advice on and assistance with training programmes and the preparation of appropriate training materials;

(d) participation in seminars, symposia or conferences dealing with various aspects of statistics and national accounts. In the area of household sample surveys the activities of the regional advisor will include the provision of (a) advice on the development of long-term programmes aimed at the establishment or improvement of a continuing national household survey capability within the context of the general statistical programme of the country and based on an assessment of its needs; (b) advice to national statistical authorities on the design and conduct of integrated household sample surveys or survey programmes for the collection of statistics on the social, economic and demographic conditions of the population; (c) advice on and assistance with training programmes, including the organization and conduct of national, subregional and regional training courses on the organization, methodology and operation of household survey programmes, including the preparation of the necessary training materials.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 6 and L 5	48
Travel	
Other	\$ 50,100

Subprogramme 551: Transport and Communications

- (a) Programme resources: RB \$ 121,400
- (b) Reference : GAR 2803 (XXVI)
- (c) Programme elements :

Advisory services in this field include, upon government request, the provision of (a) advice in the development and planning of their national and regional transport networks, i.e. roads and railways; (b) advice and assistance in the technical and economic studies needed for the promotion of an efficient and economical transport network, taking into account existing and planned networks in other neighbouring regions, for the smooth flow of traffic and expansion of trade; (c) advice on the application of standardized technical specifications and equipment, whenever feasible; (d) recommendations on training programmes for all categories of personnel, in both the technical and managerial fields of transport.

Estimated work-months and other resources required for 1982-1983

	<u>Regular budget</u>
L 5	24
Travel	\$ 23,000
Other	

B. Resources

In order to service the eight regional advisers' posts, three local-level posts, expected to cost \$ 84900, are required for secretarial services. The total amount requested, therefore, for the biennium 1982-1983 is \$ 1,122,100, at current 1980-1981 prices.