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PROGRESS REPORT
ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

Technical Co-operation Activities

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report covers the progress of the secretariat's technical co-operation activities financed from the United Nations regular programme (Regional advisory services), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report further reviews technical co-operation projects which are not yet operational or still under consideration.

The value of regional technical co-operation projects administered by ECWA reached at the end of 1980 a total of \$2,231,487.

In the paragraphs below, the programmes are reported upon according to their source of funding.

II. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED

A. Regional advisory services (ECWA)

2. The United Nations regular programme for 1980-1981 for ECWA provides for regional advisory services in the following eight areas: development planning; industrial project identification; public finance; financial management; human resources; national accounts; household survey services and transport and communications. During 1980 the post of regional adviser in financial management remained vacant; hence, no advisory services were undertaken in this area. However, available funds were utilized to provide services in two additional areas, namely those of Customs administration and external trade.

In paragraphs 3-12 below, the advisory services undertaken during the review period are listed.

3. In the field of development planning, advice was provided to the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen and Yemen in connexion with the formulation of their forthcoming five-year development plans.

4. In the area of industrial project identification, advice was provided to the Governments of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates on the industrial use of gas; to the Government of Yemen in connexion with tenders for electric power projects.
5. In the area of public finance, advice was provided to the Government of Jordan on administrative matters pertaining to the budget; to the Government of Democratic Yemen regarding training needs in public finance; and to the Government of Iraq on the preparation of budgets.
6. In the area of human resources development, advice was provided to the Government of Jordan in connexion with social aspects of its next five-year development plan; to the Government of Oman on the strengthening of community development programmes; to the United Arab Emirates on the development of the educational sector; and to the Government of Lebanon on the basic needs of the population in Southern Lebanon.
7. In the area of national accounts, advisory services were provided to the Government of Bahrain on the preparation of national accounts estimates and staff development for the Ministry of Finance; to the Governments of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Yemen, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen on the development of their national accounts; also to the Government of the United Arab Emirates in connexion with its 1975-1980 national accounts plan.
8. In the area of household survey services, advisory services were rendered to the Governments of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Democratic Yemen on the development, formulation and execution of household surveys.
9. In the area of Customs administration, advice was provided to the Governments of Democratic Yemen, Oman and Yemen on Customs law and the training of Customs officials and to the Government of Qatar on the operation of the Customs Department and administrative matters connected therewith.
10. In the area of external trade, advisory services were made available to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on planning aspects of the foreign trade sector, trade policies, and the development of trade statistics.

11. In addition to the above services, regional advisers participated in various national seminars, training workshops, and evaluation missions in their respective fields of competence.

12. With regard to advisory services related to the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Least-Developed countries, reference is made to paragraph 19 of document E/ECWA/120.

B. United Nations Regular Programme (UNIDO)

13. UNIDO continued to make available resources for advisory services in the area of industrial sector development. Advice was provided to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the preparation of projects to be included in its fifth five-year development plan. Discussions were held with the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) regarding industrial projects for petro-chemical and refining equipment and the feasibility of manufacturing pistons and valves.

C. Advisory Services funded by UNFPA

14. The secretariat's programme funded by UNFPA covers the areas of population statistics and demography.

In the area of population statistics, advice was provided; to the Government of Egypt on the development of family planning statistics; the Government of Oman on socio-economic surveys; and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the utilization and collection of vital statistics and civil registration, preparations for the 1980 population census and on the utilization of population statistics in national planning.

In the area of demography, advice was furnished to the Government of Bahrain on the assessment of evaluation of demographic data, population studies and reports for planning purposes; the Government of Egypt on technical assistance needs in the area of demographic analysis; and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the assessment of the analysis and interpretation of demographic data.

D. Other advisory services

15. Within the context of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to be held in August 1981 at Nairobi, the secretariat assisted the Governments of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, with substantive preparations for the Conference. Further reference to the secretariat's activities is contained in document E/ECWA/116, to be considered under item 7(c) of the provisional agenda.

E. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

16. During the period under review, the Commission acted as executing agency for assistance provided by UNDP to the following three projects:

- (a) The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait;
- (b) The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics in Baghdad;
- (c) Assistance in statistical development in Yemen.

The value of technical co-operation activities administered and supported by the Commission for these three projects during the period amounted to \$ 647,965.

(a) The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait

17. The Commission acting as executing agency for UNDP assistance to the Institute continued to provide administrative and technical support during the period under review. The secretariat supported the following activities during 1980.

Training: The Institute offered in the programme year 1979/1980 two long-term and five short-term courses. The annual courses one on development planning and the other on advanced planning techniques, commenced in September 1979 and ended in July 1980. Thirty participants from eleven countries completed the development planning course, while ten participants from six countries completed the course in advanced planning techniques. Both courses were held in Kuwait. The annual course in development planning started again in September 1980 and thirty-one participants from twelve countries are at present attending this course.

The short-term courses are conducted in locations other than Kuwait (the Institute's headquarters). The five courses offered in 1980 were:

<u>Title of the course</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>	<u>Number of countries</u>
(i) Training of Planners in the Emirates	United Arab Emirates	January 1980 (2 weeks)	43	1
(ii) Financial planning and budget preparation in the Gulf countries	United Arab Emirates	February 1980 (2 weeks)	42	5
(iii) Implementation and follow-up of development plans	Amman	April 1980 (4 weeks)	24	10
(iv) Project identification and preparation	Damascus	April/May 1980 (4 weeks)	29	10
(v) Plan preparation and planning techniques	Kuwait	April/May 1980 (5 weeks)	19	9
Total			157	

In addition to the courses offered above, the Institute held a bi-weekly seminar, up to May 1980, on the prospects of Arab development in the 1980s. A seminar on problems of housing and human settlements was held in Qatar from 29 to 31 March 1980. During the period, individual fellowships were awarded to three counterparts in 1980.

Research papers were prepared by the Institute's staff on various topics and were presented at various seminars.

(b) The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics in Baghdad

18. During the period under review, the secretariat provided technical and administrative support to the following activities undertaken by the Institute.

Training: The Institute offers two long-term courses in applied statistics and a number of short-term courses.

The advanced course in applied statistics commenced on 15 October 1979 and was concluded in July 1980. Twenty-three participants from four Arab countries attended this course.

The other course in applied statistics was held in Amman from 1 October to 30 June 1980; seven participants from four Arab countries attended this course. Short-term courses were conducted as follows:

<u>Title of the course</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>	<u>Number of countries</u>
(i) Livestock statistics	Baghdad	7-31 Jan. 80	21	9
(ii) Middle-level country course in applied statistics	United Arab Emirates	12 January- 7 February 80	29	4
(iii) Family budget	Baghdad	17 May -14 June 1980	20	10
		Total	<u>70</u>	

(c) Assistance in statistical development in Yemen*

19. This project has been established in order to strengthen the capabilities of the Statistical Department in Yemen with the object of producing statistical data prepared according to international methods by the use of internationally accepted definitions and classifications. It will also enhance the capabilities of the Central Planning Organization conducting necessary studies on economic and social aspects of planned development.

The budget provides for two international advisers on sample surveys and economic statistics, as well as training and equipment.

The adviser in economic statistics reported to his duty station at Sana'a in October 1980, while the adviser on sample surveys is expected to report at the beginning of 1981. Training and the procurement of equipment have not been initiated as yet, owing to delay in recruitment.

* This project is executed by the United Nations Department for Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCO). However, ECWA, as the associated agency, has full technical, operational, managerial and administrative responsibility.

F. United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

20. The Commission is the executing agency for the following projects financed by UNFPA which were completed or in progress during the year:

- (a) Advisory services in demography;
- (b) Advisory services in population statistics;
- (c) ECWA publications and clearing house;
- (d) Translation into Arabic of the book on basic data on population and international migration;
- (e) Census of the Palestinian people.

21. In addition, the Commission administered during the period the following two projects executed by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) but decentralized to ECWA.

- (i) Arabic Manual of Population Terminology;
- (ii) Regional census training workshop.

22. Progress in the provision of the advisory services is reported in paragraph 14 above, while progress with regard to ECWA publication and clearing house services is in paragraph 70 of document E/ECWA/120. During the period under review, the translation into Arabic of the publication Basic Data on Population and International Migration was completed and the book has been published. With regard to the census of the Palestinian people reference is made to document E/ECWA/129 reporting the progress made in the implementation of Commission resolution 85 (VII).

23. During the period under review, the secretariat implemented the two decentralized projects referred to in paragraph 21 above, as follows:

An advisory committee consisting of a number of experts was established to discuss and advise on different population terminologies; it met three times during the period under review. Preparations are now under way for the publication of the manual.

A census training workshop for Arabic-speaking countries was organized by the secretariat at Damascus from 4 January to 6 March 1980. The workshop, which was attended by 23 persons from 12 Arab countries, was designed to train personnel in the conduct of population censuses.

G. Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW)

24. During the period under review, the Commission executed and administered 16 projects financed from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW). The total value of these projects amounts to \$ 730,000. Of these projects, 5 were completed, while 11 were in progress at various stages of execution.

25. The five projects completed were the following:

- (a) Eight country training workshops in project formulation;
- (b) Integrated rural development and co-operatives in Democratic Yemen;
- (c) Radio for women's non-formal education in health;
- (d) Improvement of animal poultry stock and the processing of food products;
- (e) Workshop on experimental training methodologies for trainers of rural development workers.

For details regarding these completed projects, reference should be made to document E/ECWA/117/Add.1.

26. Projects in progress are:

- (a) Training in child care for housemothers/teachers/administrators in Lebanon;
- (b) Provision of appropriate social services for rural areas;
- (c) Supplementary technical assistance to country projects;
- (d) Establishment of a training centre for women working in nurseries and day-care centres in Lebanon;

- (e) Preparation of prototype educational materials for women's extension programmes in Bahrain;
- (f) Women's contribution to community development and primary health services in the rural areas of Oman;
- (g) Development of skills in integrated social work for workers of non-governmental organizations in Lebanon;
- (h) Development of skills for organization and participation in training workshops;
- (i) Community self-help activities in urban communities;
- (j) Policy formulation for development images of women in the mass media and in literature;
- (k) Logistic support to the ECWA women's development programme.

For details regarding the progress of the above projects, reference is made to document E/ECWA/117/Add.1.

H. Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

27. The Commission executed two projects financed from the Fund of UNEP during the year:

- (a) Strengthening of the environmental capabilities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia;
- (b) Alternative patterns of development and life styles in Western Asia.

(a) Strengthening of the environmental capabilities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia

28. The immediate objective of this project is to promote the environmental dimensions of the programmes carried out by the Commission. For this purpose, the Fund of UNEP assisted in the establishment of an Environmental Co-ordination Unit (ECU) within the ECWA secretariat. This Unit is being funded until the end of 1982. During the review period, the ECU has continued to review and analyse

the Commission's programmes and projects at the planning stage, so as to ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account. In this context, the Unit contributed to the major surveys undertaken by the secretariat, initiated research on the state of the environment in countries of the region, contributed to UNEP policy-making in the area of the environment and participated in meetings concerning environmental projects within the ECWA region.

(b) Alternative patterns of development and life styles in Western Asia

29. During the review period, a seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia was held at Beirut from 22 to 25 January 1980. The results of this seminar were discussed at the seventh session of the Commission (see E/ECWA/107). Arrangements have been made for the publication of the Seminar's proceedings and background documents.

III. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS NOT YET OPERATIONAL OR FINANCED

A. General

30. During the period under review, the secretariat has taken the initiative for developing and promoting the implementation of various technical co-operation projects in a number of sectors. A number of these projects have already been funded; others still need to be considered by funding agencies and many such agencies still have to be identified.

The Commission is invited to lend its support to the development of the technical co-operation projects already formulated, and it may wish to give consideration to appropriate measures for financing such projects.

B. Household survey services in Western Asia

31. The global National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), endorsed by the Economic and Social Council, aims at the establishment and strengthening of permanent survey capabilities and machinery at the national level, enabling countries to secure the household-level data needed for their national development plans, policies and programmes. A technical meeting of Arab statisticians in Abu Dhabi in March 1979 established a steering group composed of representatives of six national statistical offices to promote the NHSCP and to assist in its implementation in the region.

32. Within the context of the NHSCP, the secretariat formulated a programme entitled "Household survey services in Western Asia". This programme, with a duration of four years, is to provide assistance to participating countries to increase the administrative capabilities of their statistical offices in the design, execution and data processing of household surveys.

The project team to be established to implement the programme will include advisers in: (a) household survey design (team leader); (b) sampling; (c) data processing; and (d) survey execution and training.

33. UNDP approved the funding of the project to an amount of \$ 1,200,000. ECWA will provide inputs to an amount of \$ 406,000, consisting of regional advisory services and administrative support.

34. The project will be executed by ECWA in association with the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO) and the Central Co-ordinating Unit of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP).

35. Following UNDP approval for the funding of the project, the project document was forwarded to member States for their endorsement. To date, three member States (Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates) have already indicated their approval of the project to the secretariat. The project is expected to be operational on 1 March 1981. The Commission is invited to encourage all countries in the region to participate in the programme and to call upon donor agencies in the region and in developed countries to support the programme, particularly at the national level.

C. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade

36. The period 1981-1990 was proclaimed by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session (resolution 35/18) as the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, during which member States will assume the commitment to bring about a substantial improvement in the standard and level of services in drinking water supply and sanitation by the year 1990. In order to assist member States in achieving the goals of the Decade, UNDP has formulated a programme, under which, for the countries of Western Asia, a project has been drawn up to assist countries in the formulation of national plans of action to achieve the Decade's objectives and to

draw up a regional plan of action for activities to be undertaken by the Commission during the Decade. This assistance (\$ 46,000) will be made available in the form of advisory and consultants' services for a duration of six months. The Commission will execute the project on behalf of UNDP and it is expected to become operational during the first quarter of 1981. The Commission may wish to invite member States to call upon the services provided by the secretariat. It is hoped that these services will lead to the identification of specific areas for action at the national and regional levels and be followed by specific technical co-operation projects directed towards the Decade's goals and objectives.

D. Regional advisory services on the economic and commercial aspects of shipping and ports

37. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in co-operation with the secretariat formulated a regional project pertaining to advisory services concerning the economic and commercial aspects of shipping and ports. The project, with a duration of three years, aims at (a) strengthening the capability of Arab countries in setting up appropriate administrative and operational structures and institutions and in adopting and implementing adequate shipping policies, (b) promoting regional co-operation in the shipping and ports sector through the creation and/or the strengthening of interregional and/or regional groupings and (c) supporting the organizational, administrative and operational changes needed to improve the efficiency of ports and shipping companies. The total cost of the project amounts to \$ 300,000. So far, the secretariats of UNCTAD and ECWA have not been able to identify a sponsor for the project.

E. Training development in maritime transport in Western Asia (TRAINMAR)

38. This project, formulated by UNCTAD, aims at (a) the strengthening of the capability of developing countries in the region to obtain a greater share in the bulk shipping trade; (b) the training of managers in ports, government agencies and shipping companies; (c) the promotion of regional training institutions and the development and strengthening of national capabilities in training in maritime transport. These objectives are to be achieved through the training of course developers, training through long-term courses, and seminars for training officers, national instructors, etc. The total duration of the project is two years, and it will cost approximately \$ 215,000. UNCTAD will execute the project in association with the Commission.

F. Regional training programme for the development of technological capabilities in Western Asia

39. The secretariat formulated the above programme for consideration by the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. The main objective of the programme is to upgrade the professional skills and technological capabilities of nationals of member States, through training workshops, in the assessment, adaptation, selection and management of imported technology. The project, which has a duration of two years, will cost approximately \$ 650,000.

G. Trade information assistance

40. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GAAT at Geneva, in co-operation with the secretariat, formulated a project in trade information services with the aim of (a) enhancing the awareness of the countries of the region of the importance of trade information in promoting trade, (b) strengthening such services and developing information and documentation skills in relation to trade information and (c) establishing a capacity within the secretariat in this area. The services to be rendered by the project will consist of regional advisory services to member States on trade information and documentation; documentation services made available by the secretariat; the issuance of trade information bulletins and the organization of training activities and study tours. The project, which is expected to be executed by ECWA in co-operation with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GAAT, has a duration of four years and will cost approximately \$ 550,000.

H. Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women

41. The secretariat formulated 8 project proposals for financing by the Voluntary Fund. These projects will be considered by the Consultative Committee of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women at its ninth session in April 1981. The projects for which funding is requested include: (a) The development of multi-purpose centres for women (Lebanon); (b) Seminar on the roles of women in community leadership (regional); (c) Women workers in the national handicraft programme (Democratic Yemen); (d) Education and training for income-generation (Lebanon); (e) Maintenance skills for household appliances and related electronic equipment (Jordan); (f) Logistic support for the ECWA Women's Programme (regional); (g) Production of communication and audio-visual materials for female rural extension programmes (regional); and (h) Programme for self-reliance and community participation for female industrial workers (Egypt).

The total funds requested for the above projects amount to \$ 1,120,000. In all cases, the Governments concerned have agreed to provide contributions towards the implementation of these projects.

I. Interregional projects in transport

(a) Mediterranean transport : special problems

42. This project concerns a preliminary evaluation of the existing and planned infrastructure in the Mediterranean basin in relation to the requirements of international transport in the three regions concerned (North Africa, Western Asia, Southern Europe). The ultimate objective is the removal of transport bottlenecks between the Mediterranean countries through the formulation and execution of joint economic and technological co-operation activities. The project, jointly executed by ECA, ECE and ECWA, will cost approximately \$ 104,000.

(b) Frontier crossings: facilitation and harmonization

43. This project involves the determination of the various frontier crossing required at present in force or to be considered for the future; the analysis of different systems; the formulation of solutions and the consideration of conventions for the facilitation and harmonization of frontier crossing formalities; and the assessment of the ability of the countries concerned to adopt solutions. The ultimate objective is the removal of transport bottlenecks between the countries of the Mediterranean. The project will cost \$ 48,000 and will be jointly executed by ECA, ECE and ECWA.

Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI)

44. At the request of a number of member States and the Arab Towns Organization, the secretariat formulated a project for the establishment of the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI). The basic objective of the project is to provide training, research and documentation services in the field of human settlements. More particularly, the project will provide long-term and short-term training courses at the vocational level; long-term and short-term courses at the professional level;

basic and applied research in various aspects of urban development; an information bank on urban development; and consultancy services. It is envisaged that the Arab Towns Organization will be the Government's implementing agency and the Economic Commission for Western Asia the executing agency. The funds to implement the project, amounting to SR. 16,313,000 (Saudi Rial), are expected to be made available by the Government of Saudi Arabia. The City of Riyadh has offered to act as host to the Institute. It is further envisaged that the Government of Saudi Arabia will make available to the Commission US \$ 5,858,750 as a trust fund to provide for services in support of the execution of the project. Since the formulation of the project, a number of meetings have been held with both the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Towns Organization regarding the implementation of the project. Consultations in this regard are to continue during 1981.