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Item 6 (b) of the Provisional Agenda



UNITED NATIONS INTER-DISCIPLINARY ADVISORY TEAM TO LEBANON

Project Document

<u>Title of Project</u>: United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory

Team to Lebanon

Participating Country : Lebanon

Government Agency : The Reconstruction and Development Council

Date of Submission : December 1976

Government Contribution : LL 554,000

Project Duration : One year, with possibility of extension

Executing Agency : E C W A

Project Starting Date : As soon as possible

United Nations Contribution: \$ 716,000

I. BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. Justification for the Project

Lebanon has gone through almost two years of civil war which resulted in serious destruction of physical assets, collapse of a large number of private and public institutions, disruption of economic activities in almost all parts of the country, and emergence of a large number of economic and social problems, the solution of which will require concerted efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

Last Spring, when conditions in Lebanon took a positive turn, the Secretary-General of the United Nations announced the establishment of a \$ 50 million Fund for Lebanon's Reconstruction and Development. He also appointed Mr. William Buffum, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs, as the Co-ordinator of aid to Lebanon at United Nations Headquarters and Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Attar, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECNA), as the Co-ordinator of aid in Lebanon.

In addition to urgent United Nations assistance for medicine, food and shelter, and the country's large need for finance for the purpose of the reconstruction of the war-devastated areas and facilities, the Lebanese Government feels strongly the need for advice from a United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team whose functions will, inter alia, be (a) to prepare quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions on economic and social problem areas preoccupying the Lebanese authorities; (b) to serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan; and, (c) to prepare the ground for studies on the long-run

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development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to it for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability.

In his address to the Lebanese people on 21 Movember, 1976 His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic defined the role of the State as the <u>regulator</u> and the <u>promoter</u> of economic activities in the private sector; pointed to the necessity to have a comprehensive development plan; and, indicated the need to establish a Reconstruction and Development Council as a public institution with broad responsibilities and authority.

The requested Advisory Team will serve as an important United Nations contribution to the difficult task of reconstruction and development in the coming months when the authorities concerned will need impartial and sound judgement on the numerous economic and social problems of Lebanon. In the performance of these important functions, the Advisory Team will establish close contact with the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations and the relevant regional Arab institutions, with a view to seeking their advice and assistance for the benefit of Lebanon.

B. <u>Institutional Framework</u>

After close to two years of civil war and the large-scale destruction and economic losses to the country, Lebanon is now embarking on a new development strategy which will necessarily involve planning as an important development instrument. This is clearly reflected in His Excellency the President's recent address and his indication that he wishes to create a Reconstruction and Development Council. The requested Advisory Team will work directly with the Council.

C. Provision for Government Follow-up

Follow-up action on the activities and services of the proposed Advisory Team will be the responsibility of the Lebanese Government through the Reconstruction and Development Council.

D. Other Related Activities

The United Nations Inter-Disciplinary Advisory Team will, in the interest of Lebanon, co-operate closely with similar UN or other regional activities.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

A. Long-range objective

To prepare the ground for studies on the long-run development prospects of Lebanon and the broad options available to the country for growth, under conditions of economic and social stability.

B. <u>Immediate objective</u>

The immediate objective of the project is two-folds: (a) to prepare quick surveys and position papers for urgent policy decisions on economic and social problem areas preoccupying the Lebanese authorities; and, (b) to serve as the nucleus for the preparation of Lebanon's comprehensive medium-term plan.

III. WORK PLAN

A. Description of project activities

The activities of the project will include:

1. Advisory services

The first and primary responsibility of the project will be to extend quick advice on the critical economic and social problems of Lebanon to the authorities concerned.

2. Research

The project will be responsible for undertaking research (both the survey and non-survey type) which is designed to elucidate the problems under investigation, prepare the required quantitative picture for a planframe and an eventual medium-term plan, as per the strategy directives of the policy-makers and, prepare the necessary investigations leading to the development of the long-run growth prospects of Lebanon and the options available to it under alternative sets of conditions.

3. Training

The project will, in the course of its investigations, make special efforts to train counterpart staff in various areas of specialization relevant to the objectives of the project and in harmony with its skill composition. Seminars of short duration to select Lebanese officials on special topics will also be organized, as appropriate.

4. <u>Miscellaneous</u>

The project will co-operate closely with other national, regional and international organizations concerned with the reconstruction and development of Lebanon.

B. Location of the Project

The project will be located in Beirut and will report, through the Head of the Team (Project Manager), both to the Executive Secretary of ECWA and the Reconstruction and Development Council,

C. Description of UN inputs

(i) Internationally recruited experts:

Field Senior Development Economist (Head of Team/Project Manager) Development Planning Social Development Financial Planning Regional Planning Manpower Planning Development Administration and Administrative reform Statistician Housing Policy and Programming Project Evaluation and Feasibility Studies Duration Man/Mont Man/Mont 12 12 12 13 14 15 15 16 17 18 18 19 19 10 11 12 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	45,600 ² / 45,600 45,600 45,600 45,600 45,600 45,600 45,600 45,600
Sub-tota	45,600 1 456,000
<pre>(ii) Consultants (24 m/m) (iii) Equipment (iv) Travel (v) Miscellaneous</pre>	100,000 100,000 10,000 50,000
Total US	716,000

a/ Based on the assumption of a pro-forma figure of \$ 3,800/month.

D. <u>Description of Government inputs</u>

(i) Counterpart Staff	<u>Duration</u> Man/Months	Estimated Cost LL
Development planning Social development Financial Planning Regional Planning (3) Manpower Planning (2) Development Administration a	12 36 12 36 24	18,000 36,000 12,000 58,000 24,000
Administrative reform (2) Statistics (3) Housing policy and Programming (2)	24 36	24,000 58,000
Project Evaluation and	24	24,000
Feasibility Studies (2)	24	30,000
	Sub-Total	284,000

D. Description of Government inputs (Cont'd)

		LL Estimated Cost
(ii)	Equipment	20,000
(iii)	Clerical staff	100,000
(iv)	Office facilities	100,000
(v)	Miscellaneous	50,000
		554,000