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Progress Report on the  
Implementation of the Work Programme

78-1663

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

1. Due to the past unfortunate events in Lebanon, the return of ECWA to Beirut, specific requests from Governments of the region, and problems of staff recruitment, the full implementation of the 1976-1977 work programme was not possible. Thus some projects were carried over to the 1978-1979 work programme while the completion period for others was extended. However, many projects have been completed or are nearing completion while efforts are already underway to start activities from the current biennium work programme.

2. As part of their continuous activities, the substantive Divisions/Units of ECWA continued to monitor developments in their respective areas. They also prepared those drafts of the 1980-1983 Medium-Term Plan relevant to their particular fields. Below is a brief account of the major activities carried out under the various substantive programmes and/or subprogrammes of the Commission since its last session:

A. Development Planning Division

3. Under the Development Planning, Projections and Policies Programme (DPPP), and in response to General Assembly Resolution 3508(XXX) and the work programme provision relating to perspective planning in countries of Western Asia (project 4.1.7, E/5658), and in co-operation with the Economic and Social Affairs Division (ESA) at Headquarters, work continued on the preparation of long-term trends in and forecasts of economic development in the ECWA region. A preliminary draft entitled "Development Trends and Prospects in Selected ECWA Countries" was completed and finalized. This study attempts to identify the Region's main economic characteristics, problems, constraints and the development strategies pursued, based on a consideration of a sample of six representative countries. The study also examines overall development trends over the period 1960-1975 and attempts projections of the main national accounts parameters for selected target years (1980, 1985 and 1990). Efforts are underway to determine the types of economy-wide planning models and their corresponding data requirements necessary for short-term forecasting, long-term perspective planning, and consistency check in economy-wide planning and programming. In the planning process, (including

long-medium-and short-term planning and forecasting), several alternative projections, based on different sets of exogenous and policy variables, will be made. These alternatives are meant to serve as a good point of departure for furthering the dialogue between planners and policy-makers. Consistency in economy-wide planning also requires economically or technologically feasible relationships between sectoral plans and national aggregates derived from aggregate macro models. The feasibility of constructing a simple input-output model will be investigated in order to accomplish this objective.

4. Under the Development Finance and Administration Programme, efforts were concentrated on following-up earlier preparatory work made for the study entitled: "An Evaluation of Government Budgetary System and its Role in Development Planning in Selected Countries of Western Asia" (project 4.2.2a, E/5658). This included contacts with government agencies in the countries of the Region and with regional and international organizations involved, with a view to co-ordinating efforts in this field and soliciting comments on the scope of the study. It also involved visits to Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Kuwait<sup>1/</sup> to meet with Government officials in various agencies concerned, discuss the scope of the study and collect the relevant information. Subsequent visits shall cover the other selected countries of the region. Analysis of information is underway and a preliminary draft is being prepared.

5. At the invitation of the Division of Public Administration and Finance, ESA, the Development Finance and Administration Programme represented ECWA in the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on the United Nations Programme in Public Finance and Administration, held in Geneva from 27 September to 7 October 1977. The Expert Group Meeting was preceded by two days of Inter-Agency Meeting and Consultations on the subject. Both meetings reviewed achievements during the past few years and discussed prospects for the 1980s in the field of Administration and Finance at the national, regional and global levels.

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<sup>1/</sup> These are four out of a total of eight ECWA member countries selected for an in-depth evaluation of their budgetary systems. The other four countries include Democratic Yemen, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen Arab Republic.

6. Preparations for the proposed Workshop on "Budget-Plan Harmonization in Countries of Western Asia" (project 4.2.4, E/5658) are awaiting DANIDA's reply on the availability of financial resources. The Workshop is now planned to be held during the third quarter of 1978. The project document was submitted to the Office of Technical Co-operation in January 1977, followed by reminders to it on the matter.

7. Under the International Trade and Development Programme, work continued on the study entitled "Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia" (project 4.5.5, E/5658, p. 74). This included the compilation and tabulation of detailed statistics on the level and structure of intraregional trade flows, as well as the collection of information on the evolution of regional economic co-operation, including objectives, strategy, forms of co-operation, institutional framework and assessment of the performance record. In this connexion, fact-finding missions were undertaken to Egypt, Iraq and Kuwait and discussions were held with Government officials and staff of regional and intergovernmental organizations to seek their views on the contents of the study and on ways and means of co-operation and co-ordination in its implementation, and to collect relevant information. Further, the monographs dealing with the evolution of economic co-operation, the main obstacles to and benefits from closer economic co-operation, and the analysis of intraregional trade flows are being completed. A fact-finding mission to Saudi Arabia is planned in connexion with the same project.

8. A first draft of the study entitled "Liberalization of Non-Tariff Barriers" (project 4.5.4, E/5658, p. 73) has been completed. The study aims, inter-alia, at identifying products exported by ECWA countries and affected by non-tariff barriers, and proposing measures for the reduction and eventual elimination of barriers affecting the exports of the ECWA countries.

9. Work continues on monitoring of recent trends and current developments in the trade and payments positions of member countries (project 4.5.1.(b), E/5658, p. 71).

10. Substantive support and backstopping continued to be extended by the Programme to the regional project on Multilateral Trade Negotiations, including statistical support in connexion with the Seminar which was held in September 1977 and participation in servicing that Seminar.

11. Within the framework of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) regional project, activities included organization of and substantive preparation for the ECWA Regional Seminar on MTN which was held in Beirut in collaboration with UNCTAD from 19 to 24 September 1977. The substantive work involved concentrated mainly on the preparation, by the ECWA Project Team, of three out of the seven Working Papers for the Seminar, namely, "The Generalized System of Preferences and the ECWA Countries", "Special Preferences for ECWA Countries", and "The Advantage to ECWA Countries of Accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade". Work also involved servicing of the Seminar including the editing of other documents that were presented and preparation of the final report. Participants in the Seminar included 18 delegates from seven ECWA countries, representatives from regional organizations, and experts from outside the region. The final Report of the Seminar was sent to ECWA member countries and other participating organizations. Furthermore, the project continues to provide technical assistance on various aspects of trade negotiations and on questions of commercial policy. Missions aimed at giving short training sessions to officials and compiling information are anticipated. In addition, the MTN project personnel continue to contribute to the work carried out under the International Trade and Development Programme on regional economic co-operation and the inventory of trade barriers facing products of export interest to the ECWA countries, which is under preparation.

12. The Division had the overall responsibility for co-ordinating ECWA's work in preparing for and assisting in organizing the International Development Conference on the first development plan of the Yemen Arab Republic (1976/1977 - 1980/1981), which was held in Sana'a from 28 November to 1 December 1977. In this regard, the Senior Trade Policy Adviser, assisted by other members of the MTN project personnel and staff of the Division, concentrated his efforts on the

preparatory work for the Sana'a Conference. This included consolidation of the summaries and evaluation of the respective parts of the Plan submitted by the Division and other Divisions of ECWA and preparation of the final Summary of the Plan and ECWA's Report, evaluating the general objectives of the Plan. As part of the Division's overall responsibility, contributions were made by its respective programmes. The Finance Programme made a summary of the sixth volume of the Plan, dealing with 'financing and investments' and prepared a brief evaluation of the financial aspects of the Plan which was incorporated in the "Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia" on the subject. The Programme also assisted the Division in providing the substantive backstopping to and the finalizing of the Report of the Conference while under the Labour, Management and Employment Programme. work included preparation of the summary and evaluation of the manpower part of the Plan. The Trade Programme prepared an evaluation of the foreign trade sector component of the First Five-Year Development Plan of the Yemen Arab Republic (1976/1977-1980/1981). This was also incorporated in the "Report of the Economic Commission for Western Asia" presented to the Conference. The programme also made an effective contribution to the Division's efforts to provide substantive backstopping to the Conference in question.

13. Under the Labour, Management and Employment Programme, work continued on the preparation of the study entitled "Analysis of Levels and Structures of Wages and Salaries in Countries of Western Asia and their significance for employment and Labour Mobility at the National and Regional Levels"<sup>1/</sup>. This included extensive fact-finding missions to five member countries, holding several meetings with a special Lebanese Committee set up by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the purpose of implementing the study in Lebanon, reviewing of the data and literature available at ECWA Headquarters, and carrying out

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<sup>1/</sup> This study combines two studies envisaged in the 1976-1977 work programme, namely, projects 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 (see: E/5658).

preliminary analysis of the data collected during the fact-finding missions to ECWA member countries.

14. Work continued on the "Brain Drain"<sup>1/</sup> project, the first draft of the study is shortly expected to be completed by the consultant. To supplement this study, efforts are being made to arrange, through consultancy, for the preparation of a "Roster of Arab Talents Residing Abroad", which will be included as an Annex to the study.

15. Under this Programme, the Division participated in the Expert Group Meeting on the Brain Drain, which was sponsored by UNCTAD and convened in Geneva in February 1978.

16. Efforts are underway to conduct, through consultancy, a study on "The General Levels of Wages, Prices, Labour Productivity and Economic Growth in ECWA Region".

17. Under the Transnational Corporations Programme (TNC), the newly established Joint TNC Unit of the Division commenced work, with the objective of establishing a comprehensive information system on the operations of TNCs in the Region. The information system is meant to provide the basis for the specific research projects envisaged under the work programme of the Unit and for a constant review of the impact of TNC operations on the economies of the region.

18. In the area of building profiles on the operations of individual TNCs in the Region, lists of U.K. and U.S. firms, including banks and insurance companies operating in Lebanon, have been obtained. Laws and regulations governing banks in Lebanon, covering the period 1954-1973, and Balance Sheet reports of banks in Lebanon for 1973 have also been obtained. An exercise has been carried out on the comparative ownership of assets and deposit liabilities of foreign non-Arab banks, and foreign Arab and Lebanese banks operating in Lebanon during 1973. Information on banking in the other countries of the Region, particularly Bahrain, is being collected.

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<sup>1/</sup> This project was initiated in 1975 and later commissioned in 1977 to a consultant

19. The Unit has also collected information on corporate income tax laws pertaining to local as well as foreign firms in twelve countries in the Region and is currently in the process of compiling information on foreign investment laws and regulations in the countries of the ECWA region.
20. A study on the practices of the oil companies in the countries of Western Asia is being initiated.
21. The Unit attended the Joint Unit's meeting and the ACC Inter-Agency Meeting, held at the United Nations Headquarters on the co-ordination of programmes relating to transnational corporations.

B. The Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration (PROPFAD)

22. The Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration continued, within its limited financial resources, its activities in fulfilling its aims as follows:

I. TRAINING PROGRAMME

1. Country-based training programmes

These programmes are especially tailored to fit local needs and are mainly devoted to operational activities in the field of Public Finance in each of the countries served by PROPFAD, namely Democratic Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic and the Sultanate of Oman. The following three programmes were organized during the period under consideration:

(a) Sana'a-based training programme

Upon consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Office in Yemen Arab Republic, a locally based training programme in Sana'a confined to the problems of Customs Legislation and Administration was organized during the period 8 October 1977 through 18 November 1977. Forty trainees chosen from among officials at the supervisory level participated in the programme. Courses given were Customs Legislation, Customs Regulations, Customs Fees and Taxation, Customs Tariff and its explanatory notes, Customs Force and Problems of Smuggling.



Field training as well as dealing with practical daily problems facing the Customs Office were an integral part of the programme. Furthermore, training and field work took place not only in Sana'a but in Hudaidah and Taiz as well. The Chief of the Customs Office in Sana'a along with the IMF Expert in Customs have participated in the programme.

(b) Aden-based training programme

Preparations are underway to hold a training programme in Aden during the period 4 March to 7 April 1978. This programme will cover mainly the Public sector: its organization, administration and problems. Courses and workshops on Government Accounting and Budgeting will also be given in the programme. Trainees chosen from among officials at the supervisory level are expected to participate in the programme. In addition, advisory services will be given, upon request, to the Departments concerned in Aden and field visits to the First and Third "Muhafazah" will be made.

(c) Muscat-based training programme

Preparations are also underway for holding a training programme in Muscat (Oman) during the period 18 March through 21 April 1978. The programme, in accordance with the request of the General Directorate of Finance, will be dealing with the new Fiscal Law. The following courses will be covered: Public Budget, Government Accounting, Public Accounting and Government Stores and Purchases. Advisory services will also be given during the programme upon the requests of different Departments in the General Directorate of Finance.

2. Centrally-based training programme

Central Programmes are designed to acquaint Finance Officials at the decision-making level with the fundamentals of Public Finance and the relevant practical problems thereof. In this context,, PROPFAD arranged for a centrally-based Training Programme in Beirut during the period 1 November - 30 December 1977. Courses given were: Introduction to Public Finance, Government Budgeting, Public Revenues, Taxation, Tax Administration, Government Accounting, Public Accounting, Public Utilities and Enterprises, Planning and Economic Development, and Fiscal Policy. Senior Finance Officials from Democratic Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic and Oman plus, for the first time, one from Lebanon participated in the programme.

## II. ADVISORY SERVICES

In addition to the advisory services referred to in Section (1), advisory services are being rendered to Oman concerning the present situation of the General Directorate of Finance and its role and activities in the light of the new Fiscal System.

## III. RESEARCH FACILITIES

PROPFAD has continued its work on the "Concise Manual of English and Arabic Terminology In The Field Of Public Finance". Terms in French are in the process of being added to the manual to make it cover three languages. PROPFAD has also started a "Manual on Tax Systems in the Countries of the Region". This Manual is designed to give when completed detailed information and analysis on the different Tax Systems in force now in Democratic Yemen, the Yemen Arab Republic and the Sultanate of Oman.

### C. Joint ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division

23. Activities under the Agriculture Programme of the Commission fall mainly within the following five subprogrammes:
24. Establishment of a reliable data system: In this area, efforts focused in 1977 on implementing the framework designed by the Joint Division for sector review and monitoring. Close contacts were made with FAO to co-ordinate this work with the INTERLINK Computer System (ICS) developed by FAO. Despite serious data limitations, the data sheets embodied in the sector review and monitoring framework have been finalized and will provide the benchmark for all activities undertaken by the Joint Division.
25. An Annual Bulletin for Agricultural Development in the ECWA region will be put out by the Joint Division on a continuing basis at the beginning of each year. (Apart from reporting on agricultural development in the region, the Bulletin will have important sections on food security, regional co-operation and integration, as well as a feature article). The first issue of the Bulletin is expected to be out shortly.

26. Improvement of agricultural planning: Under this subprogramme, the Joint Division continued to provide direct planning assistance to member governments which included the following:

(a) The technology of food crop production in the East Jordan Valley. This study represents the first-stage work relating to the optimal utilization of agricultural resources in the East Jordan Valley at domestic and world market prices. Technical coefficients for land, water, labour and farm power have been developed for 50 production possibilities and assembled in a technological matrix with 2,400 entries in the usual linear programming format.

(b) A policy issue note on postwar livestock development in Lebanon. This note was prepared at the request of the Lebanese Government and provided important guidelines for short-term adjustments and medium-term planning. It also sets the groundwork for long-term perspective planning of that important sub-sector.

(c) A critique of the Five-Year Development Plan of Yemen and a policy issue. Note for perspective planning. This was prepared in conjunction with the Yemen International Development Conference held in Sana'a during November 1977.

(d) Formulation of a project document for the establishment of a livestock Research Centre for Democratic Yemen. This Project Document was prepared at the request of the Ministry of Planning and in collaboration with various institutions in Democratic Yemen.

27. In addition to direct planning assistance, the Joint Division collected the necessary data and information on the development of irrigated agriculture in selected countries of the ECWA region. These data will provide an important input into the Expert Group Meeting on irrigated agriculture which is planned for October 1978. Also as an input for that meeting, "A Case Study on the Optimal Allocation of Agricultural Resources in the East Jordan Valley" was undertaken. This study aims to demonstrate how far investment in irrigation development in the East Jordan Valley is justified on economic grounds by satisfying both the efficiency and optimality criteria at domestic and world market prices. Other inputs for the meeting, which has already been completed

are "A Case Study on Optimal Allocation of Agriculture Resources in DIYALA River Basin in Iraq" and a major background paper on "An Overview of the Development of Irrigated Agriculture in the ECWA Region".

28. Preparation of a paper on major aspects of "Rural Developments in the Least-Developed Countries in the ECWA Region" was completed. This paper is undertaken jointly with the Social Development and Human Settlement Division of ECWA as a direct input to an Expert Group Meeting to be followed-up by a seminar on Rural Development to be organized by the Arab Planning Institute of Kuwait in Khartoum during April 1978.

29. The following activities have been initiated:

(i) Preparation of a Project on the Development of Livestock Statistics in Lebanon. Upon the request of the Ministry of Agriculture as a consequence of the Postwar Livestock Development Study undertaken by the Joint Division in 1977;

(ii) Preparation of agricultural sector studies on Yemen and Democratic Yemen, particularly involving the development of macro-economic framework and domestic demand projections;

(iii) Preparation of a study on integrated livestock planning in selected countries of the ECWA region.

30. Enhancing food security: Activities under this subprogramme actually cut across the subprogramme on promotion of agricultural integration. Studies initiated under this programme are:

(a) Food Security Implications of Arab Trade in Agricultural Commodities. This study represents ECWA's contribution to the Seminar on Food Security in the Arab World which is jointly organized by ECWA and the Institute for Arab Studies and Research based in Cairo. The study represents a comprehensive analysis of the trade matrices prepared in 1976 by the Joint Division in co-operation with the Policy Analysis Division at FAO Headquarters. It provides a detailed analysis of the structure of Arab trade in agricultural commodities during 1971-1973 and identifies inherent weaknesses in that structure. It also gives an elaborate analysis of certain major policy issues concerning Arab food security, particularly concerning the intensification of intraregional trade in agricultural commodities and also the diversification of food supply sources.

(b) A Study of Food Security Planning in the Syrian Arab Republic.

This study follows closely the approach used in the Jordan Study put out by the Joint Division in 1976. It focuses on wheat production in both rainfed and irrigated areas. The study provides an early warning system related to possible deficits resulting from poor rainfall conditions. It also gives a model for wheat reserves involving stock and allocation policy. The final part of the study is concerned with inter-country comparisons and attempts to give a subregional model for wheat stocking policies covering the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan.

31. Work has also been initiated on the subregional food security plan for Yemen and Democratic Yemen. This involves the preparation of the Food Balance Sheets for the base period and also the projection of domestic demand for key food commodities.

32. Promotion of agricultural integration: Under this subprogramme, a Subregional study of agricultural plan harmonization and integration was undertaken. This study covers Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic and serves as a direct contribution to assist the current efforts of the two Governments directed at economic co-operation and integration. It gives a comprehensive consideration of the orientation of agricultural production in the two countries as a benchmark for the study of complementarities and effective linkages. It pays special attention to their recent medium-term plans and explores possibilities for plan harmonization and policy co-ordination in this subregion. An examination of trade flows in agricultural commodities both within the intra- and extra-regional contexts is undertaken with the objective of pinpointing possible trade adjustments and the diversion of trade flows aimed at intensifying subregional trade between the two countries. The study is concluded by an analysis of possible specialization in agricultural production based on comparative advantages in the two countries.

33. In co-operation with the Economic and Social Policy Department (ES) at FAO Headquarters, efforts are underway to update the agricultural trade matrices which were originally carried out for the period 1971-1973. The updating of these matrices will enhance their usefulness, particularly concerning significant structural changes which have taken place following the oil crisis of 1973.

34. Identification of investment opportunities: As indicated earlier and in line with FAO's policy concentrating investment activities in the FAO Investment Centre at Headquarters, the activities originally envisaged under this sub-programme were diverted to direct planning assistance to member governments, especially in the area of livestock planning and development. Concurrently, a new activity on integrated livestock planning was initiated and will cover the entire ECWA region. This new activity will be incorporated under the subprogramme on integrated regional planning in the 1978-1979 biennium.

35. The Joint Division participated in the following activities:

(a) Transfer of Technology Seminar organized by ECWA on 10-14 October 1977. This involved the preparation of three papers which formed the bulk of the contributions related to the agricultural sector;

(b) The Yemen International Development Conference which was held in Sana'a from 27 November - 3 December 1977. This involved the preparation of a comprehensive critique on the recent Five-Year Development Plan and also a policy issue note on perspective planning;

(c) The UNILM/State of California Conference on Alternative Strategies for Desert Development and Management which was held during 31 May - 10 June 1977;

(d) Regional and International Conference on Desertification held in Portugal and later Nairobi on 29 August - 9 September 1977. This involved the preparation of a paper on the socio-economic aspects of desertification in the ECWA region;

(e) The study on the present situation of training and extension in relation to Ecological Management of Arid and Semi-Arid rangelands in some Arab countries (EMASAR). This mission was launched jointly with the Plant Production and Protection Division at FAO Headquarters (1/11-23/12/1977);

(f) The FAO/Near East regional conference held in Tunis in October 1977;

(g) The CIMMYT/ICARDA/FAO/University of Jordan Workshop on Barley which was held in Amman from 24 to 28 April 1977;\*

\* CIMMYT:spanish acronym for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre.  
ICARDA:International Centre for Agricultural Research of Dry Areas.

(h) The Near Eastern Investment Workshop held at FAO Headquarters during January/February 1978. This involved the preparation of a paper on the administration of agricultural investment projects;

(i) The Interagency meeting on agrarian reform and rural development held at the FAO Near East Regional Office in Cairo in February 1978. Also the preparation of a paper synthesizing a number of case studies on land tenure and farm holding fragmentation in selected countries of the ECWA region; and

(j) Backstopping the FAO mission on livestock development which visited Lebanon during the period 1 - 21 February 1978.

#### D. Joint ECWA/UNIDO Industry Division

36. Within the frame of reference provided by the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation adopted at the Second General Conference of UNIDO and in the light of the decisions reached at the fourth Industrial Development Conference of Arab States held in Baghdad in December 1976, work was initiated and proceeded in the following manner:

37. Under co-ordination of industrial plans and programmes, efforts were concentrated on the collection of data and information relating to industrial plans, programmes and policies in countries of the ECWA region. Thus, in addition to Syria and Jordan, which were covered earlier in 1977, the industrialization efforts in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and the two Yemens examined. A paper assessing the industrial development plan of the Yemen Arab Republic was prepared and submitted as part of ECWA's Report to the Yemen International Development Conference which was held in Sana'a between 28 November and 1 December 1977. A first draft, covering industrialization policies and inter-country co-operation in industrial development in selected countries is being finalized.

38. Under development of branch industries subprogramme, the following activities have been undertaken:

(a) Engineering industries

(i) Telecommunication equipment

A number of areas have been identified that include the potential for the development on a regional basis of components, parts and

equipment for telecommunications. In this connexion, initial contacts have been made with most of the national telecommunications departments in the region and data have been assembled on existing equipment, planned and projected development. On the basis of reports and other information obtained an overall view of the regional telecommunication system and problems has been built up. In the process of compiling this information, working relations have been established with ITU in Athens and Geneva as well as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait. The analysis of data and information collected is proceeding well with a view to preparing a first working paper indicating major opportunities for investment. Attention will be later directed towards identifying a wider range of associated equipment the manufacture of which could be promoted in the ECWA region. In each case the object will be to indicate production plant capacity, capital investment and time phasing of projects expected to be economically viable.

(ii) Electrical equipment manufacturing

The objective of this project is identification of electrical equipment for manufacturing on a regional basis. A work plan has been prepared and collection of data from the various countries in the region is in progress with a view to projecting expected demand for power generation and suitable systems for the next 20 years. This will be followed by an identification of regional opportunities for families of related products that could be manufactured within specific plants. A first working paper indicating major opportunities for investment is nearing completion.

(iii) Construction equipment manufacturing

The objective of this project is identification of construction equipment manufacturing on a regional basis. A detailed outline of a study aiming at surveying the construction industry in the countries of the region has been prepared. This constitutes the first stage for identification of the future requirements for construction equipment needed in the region to be followed by the relevant information through field missions and its subsequent analysis.



(b) Petrochemical

The Division prepared a commentary report on two studies entitled "Techno-economic study for the development of the fertilizer industry in the Arab World" and "Feasibility study for the development of olefin and aromatic industries for international and national markets in the Arab States". These studies were prepared for IDCAS by the consultants British Sulfur Co. Ltd. and Chemical System Ltd.

Work continued on the country papers on chemical industry. First drafts on the state of the chemical industry in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq were completed and first drafts of the country papers covering the chemical industry in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the Two Yemens are being finalized.

A study aiming at "developing a strategy for the petrochemical industry" has been initiated. The objective of the study is to investigate, analyse and determine the basis for a policy guideline and criteria to be applied in formulating an optimal production and investment strategy for petrochemical industry in the Arab world. This involves collecting data and information pertaining to the demand and supply of basic intermediate and final products with projections for the years 1980, 1985 and 1990 and an analysis of the absorptive capacity in the Arab States as well as the risks attached to the investment opportunities on a national and regional level.

39. Under the review and appraisal of industrial development subprogramme, work continued on the collection of relevant information on industrial development in the ECWA region for the period 1960-1976. A large number of comprehensive series, covering Iraq, Syria and Jordan have already been constructed and are nearing completion. The other countries will be covered in the coming six months.

In preparation for the Fifth Industrial Development Conference of Arab States (April 1979) and the Third UNIDO Conference and in collaboration with UNIDO, action has been initiated to commission consultants for the preparation of two in-depth country studies on the industrial sector of Lebanon and Syria. A similar effort, covering Saudi Arabia, has already started. The study will attempt to assess the industrial growth potential of the kingdom, and a projection model will be constructed for that purpose.

40. The Industry Division extended advisory services and assistance to countries in the region on the following aspects of industrial development:

(a) Establishment of a chemical complex based on Dead Sea Brine in Jordan;

(b) Evaluation of a consultant's report on the industrialization prospects of the United Arab Emirates;

(c) Valorization of dates and the formulation of a vegetable oil processing plant in Oman;

(d) Preparation of questionnaire for use in an industrial census in Lebanon at the request of the Ministry of Industry and Petroleum;

(e) Assessment of operational problems of the Syrian Metal Industries;

(f) Preparation of a methodological paper on the "Measurement of working capital and its rate of turnover" at the request of the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics.

41. In conjunction with its designated role in the field of technology and in partial fulfilment of its workprogramme, the Division co-operated with the Division of Natural Resources, Science and Technology in pursuing the implementation of Resolution 51 (IV) passed at the ECWA Fourth Session in April 1977. In this regard, the Division participated in ECWA's seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the Arab Middle East. Furthermore, the Regional Adviser headed Mission II of this programme during its first leg of visits to the Arab States and covered in the course of this assignment five countries, namely Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. He also participated in drafting the final report of Mission II and participated in the debriefing meetings of its assignment. The Division also attended the first Preparatory Regional Meeting for United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), and will be pursuing further all issues related to the subject.

42. Due to the resignation of the staff member in charge of the project on the Development of Infrastructure - Training and also due to other difficulties encountered while implementing the first phases of this project, it was discontinued. Its re-initiation is awaiting the recruitment of a new staff. On the other hand, the project on public sector industrial enterprises was to be financed from extrabudgetary sources which have not been forthcoming.

E. Natural Resources, Science and Technology Division

43. Under the Water Resources Subprogramme, the project on Projections of Water Demand (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.3.2.) has been carried further. With the help of a consultant, a detailed report on the water demand of each country in the ECWA region by the year 2000 in the municipal, industrial and agricultural sectors was prepared. The report is currently being reviewed in the Division and it will be submitted in final form to the forthcoming Second Regional Water Meeting in June 1978. On the other hand, work on Projections of Water Supply (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.3.3.) was initiated in the fourth quarter of 1977, and the project is expected to be completed during 1978. Finally, a third project included in the 1976-1977 workprogramme and entitled "Study on Manpower Training Needs and Problems" (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.3.4.) is under implementation. A preliminary survey has been undertaken to examine existing training facilities and assess needs. Only eight member countries are covered by the study, a first draft of which will be submitted to the Second Regional Water Meeting.

44. Concerning the implementation of the 1978-1979 workprogramme, work was initiated early this year on five projects simultaneously, namely, Initiation of a Programme for Fulfilling the Manpower Educational and Training Needs of the Region (E/5969/Add.1, p.93), Introduction of an Adequate System for Collecting, Compiling and Analyzing Water Resources of the Countries of the Region (E/5969/Add.1, p. 95), Assessment of the Water Resources of the Countries of the Region (E/5969/Add.1, p.97), The Establishment and/or Strengthening of Legal and Administrative Infrastructures for Water Resources Development and Management in Each of the Member Countries of the ECWA Region (E/5969/Add.1, p. 98), and Follow-up of the Recommendations of the Regional and International Water Conference in Cooperation with Member States of ECWA (E/5969/Add.1,p.104). The first of these five projects is a follow-up on activity 2.3.4. of the 1976-1977 workprogramme (see paragraph 43 above). The fourth project is a follow-up on the recommendations of the First Regional Water Meeting (December 1976, Baghdad, Iraq) and the United Nations Water Conference (March 1977, Mar del Plata, Argentina), and in pursuance of ECWA resolution 39 (IV) "Regional co-operation in the field of water resources development". Necessary questionnaires and outlines for these projects were developed, and missions were undertaken to the countries of the region. Findings of the field missions will be communicated to the Second Regional Water Meeting.

45. Preparations for the Second Regional Water Meeting (5-9 June, 1978, Beirut, Lebanon, have been carried out with the help of a consultant and are proceeding satisfactorily.
46. ECWA attended the Meeting of Representatives of Organizations Concerned with and Involved in the Development of Natural Resources in the Arab Region, held in Kuwait during 3-4 December 1977. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its main objective was to suggest **guidelines** pertaining to pre-investment work in the areas of natural resources.
47. Under the Mineral Resources Subprogramme, the first version of the Survey of the Situation Pertaining to The Development of Mineral Resources in Countries of the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/20, activity 2.2.1.) was completed and sent for comments to the national and regional institutions concerned with mineral resources development. The impact of the report, which represents a first attempt at a comprehensive review of the economic geology of the region, has been very favourable. Upon receiving the comments, the report was revised and disseminated in final form in December 1977 (document No. E/ECWA/MR/1/Rev.1.). The Arabic version of the report has been completed.
48. Work on the project entitled "Analysis of Technical Documentation and Collection and Processing of Mineral Economic Information with Regard to Present and Future Supply and Demand" (E/ECWA/20, activity 2.2.2.) was initiated early in the reporting period. Difficulties have been experienced in acquiring statistical data on the production of mineral commodities. A preliminary report on the subject is expected to be completed by mid-1978. Work also started on the project entitled "Short and Long-term Requirements for Skilled Manpower in the Mineral Resources Sector" (E/ECWA/20, activity 2.2.3.). A questionnaire specifying the required information was prepared and sent to the relevant institutions in member countries. The response to the questionnaire has so far been quite poor. Work on the project continues and a preliminary report is expected to come out by mid-1978. Similarly, work was initiated in November 1977 on the project entitled "Appraisal of The Existing Mining Codes and Study of the Current Status of Existing Media to Enforce the Mineral Legislation in the Member Countries" (E/ECWA/20, activity 2.2.4.), and a questionnaire was circulated on the information required for the implementation of the project.

Only a few replies have so far been received. A preliminary report on the subject is expected to be completed during the second half of 1978.

49. Due to the involvement of the Mineral Resources Subprogramme's staff in the implementation of the 1976-1977 work programme, work on projects included in the 1978-1979 workprogramme had to be delayed until the second half of 1978.

50. ECWA participated in the Third Arab Conference on Mineral Resources which was held in Rabat, Morocco during 15-20 April 1977.

51. In response to an official request by the Ministry of Economy of Yemen seeking ECWA's assistance in the preparation of the terms of reference for a geological survey of some selected areas in the country, two staff members of the Mineral Resources Subprogramme visited Yemen in May 1977, provided technical advice and prepared a report on the subject which was submitted to the Government in June 1977.

52. In October 1977, one staff member of the Mineral Resources Subprogramme took part in a field mission of a team of experts of Arab Fund For Economic and Social Development to Democratic Yemen. The purpose of the mission was to carry out a study on the economic and social conditions of the Arab least developed countries and elaborate operational programmes of assistance, in execution of resolution No. 12 of the Sixth Session of the Board of Governors of AFESD. The ECWA member of the team prepared a study and recommendations on the development of mineral and water resources in Democratic Yemen.

53. ECWA participated in the work of the representatives of geological survey teams from the Arab States, at a meeting convened by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) in Cairo during November 26-28, 1977. The meeting was intended to be preparatory to the establishment of a technical secretariat for the preparation of the geological map of the Arab region. The implementation of this project was called for by recommendation No. 25 of the Conference of Ministers of Arab States for the Application of Science and Technology/Development (CASTARAB).

54. Under the Energy Resources Subprogramme, work was affected by the fact that two professional posts out of three remained vacant during the reporting

period. One major achievement, however, was the completion of a preliminary report on Medium and Long Term Projections of the Demand for and Supply of Energy in the ECWA region (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.1.3.). The paper starts with an in-depth presentation of the role of the region in the international energy set-up, and emphasizes its increasingly dominant position in the world movement of crude oil. In this context, developments during 1976 and 1977 are also discussed. Next, the paper attempts to project the region's global energy demand for 1980, 1985 and 1990, using an econometric model linking total energy requirements to the level of economic activity. Global energy demand is then broken down into primary electricity, natural gas and oil according to member countries' plans and projections as reported in official documents and specialized publications. Future total electricity supply and fuel requirements as well as natural gas production and exports are also estimated on the basis of these same sources. As for oil production and exports, two alternative projections are carried out; the first is based on the desired demand of the rest of the world from the region's oil, and the second on a clearly defined and realistic policy of ECWA producers. Finally, gross final energy consumption is estimated and regional energy balances are presented.

55. Concerning the implementation of the 1978-1979 workprogramme, a consultant has been secured to carry out the project on the Implications of the Economics of Oil Refining for the Future Utilization of Crude Oil Production in the ECWA region (E/5969/Add.1, p. 61). On the other hand, effective co-operation with ECWA's Statistics Unit has materialized, like last year, in a direct contribution of the Energy Resources Subprogramme to the preparation of the Statistical Abstract of the Arab World. Moreover, six comprehensive matrix tables were contributed on "The ECWA region in the World Movement of Crude Oil" for the years 1970 to 1975. Moreover, consultations are underway with the secretariats of the League of Arab States and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) concerning the joint implementation of the project on an Action Programme for Developing the Energy Economy of the Least Developed Countries in the ECWA region (E/5969/Add.1, p. 59).

56. Contacts continued with the secretariats of OAPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) and materialized in a regular and fruitful exchange of information and publications in the energy field.

57. Upon the invitation of the League of Arab States, ECWA attended and participated in the Tenth Arab Petroleum Congress which was held in Tripoli, Libya during 16-22 January 1978.

58. Under the Science and Technology Programme and in pursuance of ECWA resolution 51 (IV) on a "Study of the possibility of establishing a Western Asia centre for the transfer and development of technology", a Plan of Action for implementing the study called for in the resolution was worked out in co-operation with a consultant and distributed in June 1977 to seventeen Arab international organizations. The consultant also prepared a working paper for discussion at a first preparatory inter-Agency meeting which was held in Beirut, Lebanon, during 24-28 October 1977, and attended by ALECSO, Arab Labour Organization (ALO), CAEU, FAO, IDCAS, ILO, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO and WIPO, apart from ECWA. The working paper, entitled "The Arab Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology" (E/ECWA/NR/3), contained a brief analysis of the various activities generally referred to by the term "technology transfer"; the choice of sound and appropriate technologies; measures and policies which influence and facilitate the choice and transfer of technology; and a discussion of the structure and functions of the proposed centre. It also included a sample set of questions to guide a team of experts which was to visit the Arab States in this connexion. Apart from this working paper, other documents were presented and discussed at the meeting. A report on the meeting was issued later on (E/ECWA/NR/9). Following this preparatory meeting, two field missions were undertaken, covering all Arab countries. ALECSO, CAEU, FAO, IDCAS, ILO, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO and WIPO participated in these missions, in addition to ECWA. The reports and findings of the two missions helped the consultant in preparing Draft Feasibility Study for the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology. The report sets forth the basic guidelines for the establishment of the centre, and contains recommendations concerning management, staffing,

budget, location, functions and services, as well as a project document. The report will be discussed at a second inter-Agency meeting to be held in Beirut, Lebanon, during 27 February - 1 March 1978. The report will then be revised and submitted to an Arab intergovernmental meeting, to be held in Beirut, Lebanon during 27-29 March 1978. The consultant, on the basis of the deliberations of the meeting, will prepare the final feasibility study which is to be submitted to the current session of ECWA.

59. A seminar on Technology Transfer and Change in the Arab Middle East (ECWA region) was organized by ECWA and held in Beirut during 10-14 October 1977. The Seminar was attended by more than one hundred persons, representing various United Nations and Arab organizations as well as interested individuals and institutions. Thirty-two technical papers were presented and discussed under three main subjects: (i) the system of science and technology, under which thirteen papers were discussed, covering a wide spectrum of topics mainly in the field of acquisition, transfer and development of technology in the ECWA region; (ii) agriculture and water, under which ten papers were discussed, dealing with various aspects of water needs in agricultural development in the region; and (iii) industry and transport, under which nine papers were discussed, clearly stressing desalination technologies, prospects and scope for solar energy and new technological experiences in Arab industries. The papers and proceedings of the Seminar, in the process of being edited and published in London, will constitute a significant addition to the meagre literature of relevance to the region in the field of the transfer of technology.

60. Preparations at the regional level for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) continued during the reporting period. The preparatory work for UNCSTD was discussed and outlined in the Fifth Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) in February 1977. It included the convening of two preparatory meetings in every region in 1977 and 1978. The First Preparatory Regional Meeting for UNCSTD was convened in Beirut, Lebanon, during 19-21 December 1977. The meeting was attended by representatives of member States, national institutions and the regional and international organizations concerned. A working paper prepared by a consultant (E/ECWA/NR/CONF/2) was presented and discussed at the meeting. The meeting reviewed progress in the preparation of national papers, considered plans for follow-up, and agreed on the following five subject areas for UNCSTD:



(i) food and agriculture; (ii) transport and communications; (iii) natural resources (rational management and utilization, development and conservation, renewable and non-renewable, and non-conventional sources of energy); (iv) industrialization; and (v) human settlement (health, social services, housing and environment). The Second Preparatory Regional Meeting for UNCSTD is scheduled to be held in Beirut, Lebanon during 10-14 July 1978, and its provisional agenda has been approved. ECWA is entrusted with preparing a regional report for the meeting, based on a review of national papers. The report will also deal with policies and plans of action concerning problems relating to the five subject areas.

61. During the period between June and August 1977, the Science and Technology Programme, in co-operation with the United Nations Office for Science and Technology (OST), undertook a study and organized field missions on information exchange and transfer of technology. A report entitled "A Study and Assessment of Information Resources in Selected Developing Countries" (ECWA Region) was prepared and distributed to the various institutions in the region as well as to the United Nations organizations concerned. The report was also presented for discussion in the Fifth Session of the "Inter-Agency Task Force on Information Exchange and Transfer of Technology", which was held in Geneva during 12-20 September 1977. The report included recommendations on the establishment of a regional network of technological information exchange, within the context of an international network.

62. The final version of a report on The Status of Science and Technology in the Western Asia Region (E/ECWA/NR/SEM.1/18), was completed in September 1977, and widely distributed. Its regular up-dating will constitute a basis for a biennial survey on the question.

63. Concerning the implementation of the 1976-1977 workprogramme, projects on Review and Analysis of Development in the Field of Science and Technology (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.4.1(b)), Regional Co-operative Research and Technology (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.4.2) and the Seminar on Co-operative Research and Technology Projects in the Region (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.4.5.) were carried out through the activities mentioned in paragraphs 56, 57 and 60 above. As for the projects on the Application of New Technologies to Land and Water Resources Development

and Management (E/ECWA/28, activity 2.4.3.) and the Application of Science and Technology at the Farm Level (E/ECWA/28) activity 2.4.4.), they have been carried over to the 1978-1979 biennium (E/5969/Add.1, p. 271 and 276a).

64. Regarding the implementation of 1978-1979 workprogramme, the project on Institutional Mechanisms for the Transfer and Development of Technology (E/5969/Add.1, p. 266) is being executed within the activities relating to the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology (see paragraph 56 above).

65. ECWA participated in the meetings of the Sub-Committee on Science and Technology of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) which were held at Geneva in May, July and September 1977. During these meetings, various other meetings of ad-hoc working groups, ACAST and ECE were also attended, as they dealt with subjects related to the activities of the Science and Technology Programme. ECWA also attended ACC's Sub-Committee meetings and the second session of the preparatory committee for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and part of the fourth session of CSTD held at Geneva during January - February 1978.

#### F. Population Division

66. The workprogramme of the Population Division of ECWA involves activities in the following areas: data collection; demographic analysis; population and development including population policies; and population education and information.

67. Data collection: The United Nations Headquarters has, as an exceptional measure, sub-allotted to ECWA executing agency status with regard to the country project for a demographic socio-economic survey of nine new towns in the Sultanate of Oman. Field work is nearing completion while the processing and analysis of the results is expected to take an additional six months. Two Omani officials will be trained at the ECWA Population Division in conjunction with the analysis of the survey results.

68. In reponse to ECWA resolution 23 (III) on Census of the Palestinian Arab People an expert group meeting was held in Damascus, Syria from 6-9 June 1977, and was attended by the PLO as well as a number of experts. Taking into consideration the recommendations of the meeting, ECWA Population Division prepared a project on Census of Palestinians and a preliminary draft was communicated to UNFPA in August 1977. Final draft is now under consideration by UNFPA.

69. The preparatory meeting on the "Survey of Arab Scholars" was held in Damascus from 11-13 June 1977 and was attended by regional and international experts. Taking into account the recommendations of this meeting, the ECWA Population Division prepared a project request to UNFPA to undertake a survey of Arab qualified manpower inside and outside the Arab countries. This project is at present under consideration by UNFPA.

70. In preparation for the 1980 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, each region was requested to hold an expert group meeting to make its recommendations, particularly regarding the topic and tabulations that must be included in these censuses. These recommendations would then be combined into the international recommendations to be issued by the United Nations in 1978. Accordingly, ECWA Population Division organized an Expert Group Meeting on Census Techniques from 12-16 December 1977, which was attended by technical representatives of the various countries of the region. The recommendations of the meeting were contained in its final report, copies of which are available to delegates upon request.

71. ECWA continued to offer to the countries of the region advisory services on population data collection. Missions were effected to Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Syria and Yemen Arab Republic. ECWA also participated in the UNFPA mission for Democratic Yemen's basic needs assessment. Many of these missions have resulted in the preparation of project requests to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). A major project in this regard is that prepared by the Government of Lebanon with the assistance of ECWA entitled "Population and Housing Data Base for Lebanon" which would secure all population and housing information needed for policies that must urgently be undertaken by the Government after the events of 1975-1976.

72. Demographic analysis: In this area, major effort was spent during the past year on the compilation and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data for the countries of the ECWA region. As a follow-up to the first demographic data sheets, the second demographic socio-economic data sheets containing updated information and a number of estimates on mission data worked out by the Population Division of ECWA were completed in January 1978 and widely disseminated.

73. The work on the first population country profiles of ECWA is nearing completion. These country profiles contain, for each country, information on its population data collection activities, a brief analysis of the most recent population and related socio-economic data available, a general view of prospective trends of population variables, a review of population policies undertaken by the country in question and an extensive bibliography on population research and other relevant publications relating to that country. These country profiles, together with an extensive overview of the population situation in the ECWA region, are at present in the process of printing for publication and dissemination and are expected to appear in the summer of this year.

74. Follow-up to the regional seminar on demographic data collection and analysis held in Amman, Jordan from 30 October to 10 November 1975 included publishing the background papers in book form under the title "The Population Framework: Data collection, Demographic Analysis, Population and Development". The English version of the book appeared in December 1977 and the Arabic version is in print. The English version of this book was distributed free of charge to all researchers, research and training institutions and government offices in the region dealing with its subject matter. A large number of requests have also been received from institutes and universities outside the ECWA region. Copies of the book are available to delegates upon request.

75. Population and Development including Population Policies: ECWA had requested three additional infrastructure posts from UNFPA for the period 1976-1977 but because of the events in Lebanon and other factors these were not approved until January 1978. As a result, some aspects of the work programme had to be delayed and it was decided that the major impact of this should be in the area of research into population and development. Accordingly, the study on the correlates of differential morbidity and mortality in selected

ECWA countries which was expected to be completed in 1977 was delayed and is not expected to be completed before the end of 1978. Similarly, the research into the socio-economic determinants of desired family planning and fertility in the ECWA region which was to be completed in 1977, will not be completed until the end of the present year. However, ECWA has continued to play its role in the United Nations system in the field of monitoring, review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and has prepared the reports requested by Headquarters for undertaking this activity. The studies on comparative decision-making in population policy and on integrated population goals and inputs in the development plans and programmes in the ECWA countries are expected to be completed in 1979.

76. Population education and information: In this connexion, ECWA Population Division maintains a specialized library and reference centre financed by UNFPA whose purpose is to assist researchers interested in the population questions of the region as well as the relevant national and regional training institutions. A major expansion of this library and reference centre has taken place during the past year both in terms of its activities and the number of volumes contained. This centre also offers guidance on available fellowships in the field of population to prospective trainees and on available research grants for prospective researchers. Work on these activities was intensified particularly after the return of ECWA to Beirut in June 1977.

77. The Population Bulletin of ECWA was redesigned to further emphasize its role as the major scientific journal in the field dealing with population questions of this region. Issues numbers 12 and 13 for 1977 were produced in both Arabic and English and contained articles dealing with demographic and population and development questions in the Arab countries. Contributors to the Bulletin are international as well as regional population experts. Copies of the Bulletin are sent free of charge to an extensive list of persons and institutions inside and outside the region. Copies of the Bulletin are available to delegates upon request.

G. Transport, Communications and Tourism Division

78. During the period under review, the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division has drafted the terms of reference and medus operandi for the study of "The Development of an Integrated Transport and Communications Network in the ECWA Region", and completed its work in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria (Document E/ECWA/Trans/1). Subject to availability of resources and with the collaboration of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the study of the remaining countries of the region is expected to be completed by the summer of 1979. A meeting of senior Government officials responsible for transport policies in their countries will then be convened to review these studies with a view to deciding on the second phase of the study to bring the project to the implementation stage.
79. At the request of the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic, two experts visited the country to advise the Government on a \$20 million project for the development of a deep water port at Mocha. The project aims to provide additional port capacity to meet the massive import programme of the country and facilitate economic transportation of goods to the Taiz region. The project includes rehabilitation of the existing berth facilities and construction of new berths, a breakwater to provide sheltered berthing for Ocean-going ships, dredging and land reclamation for building adequate sheds, storage facilities and provision of navigational aids.
80. The Division has participated in the first meeting ever to be held by the United Nations for senior officials responsible for transport in the regional economic commissions. The objectives of the meeting included, among other things, the co-ordination of transport activities of the United Nations and, on an on-going basis, the exchange of views, technical information and expertise whenever this is feasible.
81. The Division has participated in the Regional Conference of the Middle East and North Africa, held in Cairo 9-15 April 1977, organized by the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the International Road Federation (IRF) and the Arab Association.
82. At the request of the Government, the Regional Adviser on Transport and Communications visited Bahrain to advise the authorities on the public

transportation system operated by the Public Transport Directorate of the Ministry of Transport which needed to be expanded in order to satisfy the present demand, and to assist in reviewing and appraising the servicing and maintenance of the running of the bus services. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has also requested and received the services of the regional adviser to assist the Government in two projects:

(a) Study of the cost of moving bulk grain from Aqaba to Amman by rail transport, and

(b) To suggest a rational approach to the proposed traffic study for the Amman region.

83. At the request of the Lebanese National Council for Reconstruction and Development, the regional adviser assisted the Government in its programme for the rehabilitation and maintenance of highways.

#### H. Social Development and Human Settlement Division

84. The Division prepared an assessment report of the social situation in the ECWA region and is continuing to monitor progress in social development, more specifically with regard to women, youth and integrated rural development.

85. In the area of Participation of Youth in Development, the Division completed a regional survey on planning for youth with special reference to national development plans, statistics on youth, and to machinery for dealing with youth. A report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 31/130 on the present and future role of youth in development.

86. The following activities from the 1978-1979 workprogramme are being initiated: A statistical survey of youth categories and youth services and a review and assessment of the situation of youth.

87. In the field of Women in Development, the Division continued to work on the systematic collection of quantitative data depicting women's social educational, legal and employment status in the region.

88. At the request of the Department of Women's Affairs of the Government of Jordan, a report was prepared and transmitted outlining guidelines for a plan of action for women programmes in Jordan.
89. The Division submitted a preliminary proposal for a programme of activities and research in the field of women's affairs, to be funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women. The project proposal centered on field activities aiming at the advancement of women in the region, especially in the least developed countries.
90. Preparations were made for the convening of a regional conference on Arab Women in Development to be held in Amman in May 1978, which will ratify a regional plan of action for the integration of women in national development. A study is being prepared for the conference on development trends in the status of women in the region.
91. The following activities from the 1978-1979 workprogramme are underway:
- (a) Study on the types and impact of developmental social services offered by non-governmental women's organizations in selected ECWA countries;
  - (b) Publication of data bank indicators on the status of Arab women.
92. Under Social Welfare Planning and Programming, the Division completed a guidelines report on social welfare planning and programming in Lebanon. A survey of regional facilities and personnel in the area of the rehabilitation of the disabled has been initiated. Work will continue on assessing the needs for social services in ECWA countries. A report on popular participation in decision making in the ECWA countries was prepared, and a study on review and assessment of the situation of developmental social welfare in selected ECWA countries is underway. The Division also prepared a preliminary project proposed for drug control in Lebanon.
93. In the field of Integrated Rural Development, the Division completed a socio-economic survey of the South-Ghor Region of Jordan. A joint study with the ECWA/FAO Agriculture Division entitled "The Present Position and Potential of Rural Development in the Least Developed Countries of the ECWA Region" was completed. A survey of the integrated rural development projects and programmes in the region is being finalized.



94. At the request of the Government of Yemen, the Division prepared a preliminary project proposal for assessing the role of the local development associations in the Yemen Arab Republic. The project document submitted to the Government has been approved and co-ordination with other Divisions of ECWA, to implement the study, is underway.

95. The Division is a member in the ECWA Task Force for carrying out the study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. Data collection for the study is underway in a number of ECWA countries.

96. The Division participated in the following meetings: a workshop on voluntary organizations in Jordan; the Third Conference of the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs; the Fifth Session of the ACC Subcommittee on Education and Training; the Sixth Session of the Arab League's Commission of the Arab Women; the Conference of Ministers of Education and those Responsible for Economic Planning in Arab States held in Abu Dhabi; the Yemen International Development Conference; and the Seminar organized for directors of all Saudi Arabian ministries concerned with community development at the local level; United Nations Interagency Group for the Promotion of Women; International Voluntary Organizations Meeting Regarding Rehabilitation of Lebanon.

97. The Division also provided the following advisory services:

- (a) The establishment of women's organizations and improvement of existing ones in Oman and the United Arab Emirates;
- (b) Establishment of an operative work plan for a newly created Department of Women's Affairs in Jordan;
- (c) A pilot programme of community development in Oman;
- (d) Social development planning and social reconstruction in Lebanon;
- (e) Matters concerning social aspects of integrated rural development projects in Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Democratic Yemen;
- (f) Programmes for youth in Bahrain, Qatar, Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic;
- (g) The design and implementation of projects for social development and family welfare in Syria and Qatar;
- (h) The elimination of the production and consumption of qat in the Democratic Yemen.

98. In the field of Human Settlements, the Division prepared an assessment report of the human settlement situation in the region and continues to monitor progress in human settlements in the region.

99. In the connection with Low-Cost Housing Development, the Division completed a paper entitled "Housing Policy in Lebanon" which was transmitted to the Government of Lebanon and to international organizations assisting in the reconstruction of Lebanon. Follow-up on the report will continue throughout 1978. A study evaluating housing finance in the ECWA region, with particular reference to the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan, was also completed while a study from the 1978-1979 workprogramme on requirements for the development of low-cost housing materials has been initiated.

100. The Division and UNEP jointly conducted a survey of sub-regional research and demonstration centres in the region. A joint UNEP/ECWA mission was undertaken in this regard. This project will eventually lead to a study of demonstration projects in human settlements technology and the development of regional networks for human settlements technology.

101. In the field of Planned Metropolitan Development, the Division has initiated a study on the social aspects of urban development in the region as well as a study on assessment of the needs and requirements to improve the urban physical environments. The Division also continued its participation in the planning of the Institute for Urban Development.

102. In the area of Rural Settlement Planning, the Division has completed a study on rural housing in the ECWA region and initiated a study of traditional rural settlements.

103. The Division participated in the following meetings: the Fifth Meeting of Arab Towns Organization; an Expert Group Meeting on Criteria for the Selection of Appropriate Building Technologies and Meetings in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on preparations for the establishment of a proposed Arab Institute for Urban Development.

104. Advisory services were provided to Governments in the field of low-cost urban housing, housing finance institution, human settlement technology and in reconstruction activities in the field of housing, building and planning.

. Statistics Unit

105. Under the Statistics Programme of the Commission, areas of work concentration included:

(a) Economic statistics with special emphasis on the preparation and development of national accounts;

(b) Prices, index numbers and purchasing power parity for international comparison;

(c) Preparation of the 1973 Abstract; and

(d) Technical services rendered to the various countries in the region upon request.

106. The Statistics Unit prepared and published in May 1977 Bulletin Number 1 of the National Accounts Studies entitled "Economic Growth of the ECWA Countries Throughout the Period 1960-1972". Bulletin Number 2 entitled "Gross Domestic Product by Type of Expenditures and Industrial Origin" is now being finalized and will be published soon.

107. The Unit assisted the Yemen Arab Republic in preparing and publishing in June 1977, jointly with ECWA, the "National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic for the Years 1969/1970 - 1975/1976".

108. A "Working Group on Production, Consumption Expenditure and Capital Formation Accounts at Current Prices" was organized by the Statistics Unit in October 1977. Ten of the ECWA Member States participated in the working group and shared their countries experience in setting up the national accounts. The Statistics Unit and the United Nations Statistical Office presented papers on the scope and structure of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) including the formation and compilation of the production, consumption expenditure and capital formation accounts at current prices. The publishing of the proceedings and the final report is underway.

109. During May, June and early July 1977, the Statistics Unit assisted the Department of Statistics of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in setting up the national accounts of Jordan in the frame of the new SNA. In October 1977, a study entitled "National Accounts in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan by the new SNA 1952-1976" was published jointly by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the ECWA.

110. A study has been underway of consumer price indices in the ECWA countries while work on the Statistical Abstract of the Arab World continues despite the limited resources allocated for this project. Efforts have been made in improving the coverage and content of the Abstract. A statistical questionnaire has been prepared and most ECWA countries have so far been visited for the purpose of having the questionnaire filled in. The 1978 Abstract is now being finalized.

111. During the period of the report assistance was extended to some regional training institutes and some governments through the Regional Adviser on National Accounts and Economic Statistics as follows:

- Syria:
- Assistance in preparing the 1975 and 1976 national accounts in the frame of the new SNA.
  - Assistance in setting up commodity balances by value and quantity for the years 1971-1976.
  - Assistance in preparing input-output tables for 1971-1976.
  - Assistance in the development of consumer price indices and family budget surveys.

- Iraq:
- Giving lectures in the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Baghdad, on the preparation and analysis of economic and social statistics. A textbook of around 300 pages on "Economic Statistics" as well as a special paper on "Efforts towards a New Economic Order" were prepared in Arabic for this purpose. Both will be published by the Statistics Unit and distributed to the Statistics and National Accounts Departments of the Member States.

Qatar and Bahrain:-Help was rendered to both countries in initiating work on preparing national accounts estimates by industrial origin. Plans of work were drawn up and questionnaires were prepared for distribution to the relevant sectors in both countries.

Jordan: - A mission to Jordan in February 1978 helped in assisting in the initiation of a family budget survey and the development of consumer price indices and indices of industrial production.

Democratic Yemen:- A mission to Democratic Yemen in February 1978 assisted the Government in setting up a series of national accounts estimates in the frame of the new SNA.

112. Among the meetings which the Statistics Unit has participated in was the Second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Baghdad.

#### J. Technical Co-operation Unit

113. The period under review witnessed an increase in the technical assistance and supporting services to the countries of the region and to the projects decentralized to ECWA. Moreover, the acceptance of regional commissions as executing and participating agencies of the UNDP programme, enhanced ECWA's role in directly assisting its Member States.

114. With the commencement of Phase II of UNDP assistance to the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait, ECWA was designated full fledged Executing Agency from 1 July 1977 and through June 1981, for this major project. ECWA has always supported and continues to support the Institute and hopes to continue this relationship even after UNDP assistance ceases. At present ECWA is a Member of the Board of Trustees by virtue of its role as Executing Agency of UNDP assistance. Also one of ECWA's regional advisers is a member of the Institute's Academic Advisory Committee.

115. In addition to the above-mentioned project, there are a number of smaller projects which were decentralized to ECWA for execution and are managed by the Unit. Among these projects is the Programme for Public Finance and Administration (PROPFAD) which has been covered earlier in this report. There is a separate report on this project in pursuance to ECWA resolution 38 (IV) of 23 April 1977 which refers to the project's financial difficulties. It is worth noting that the United Nations Office Technical Co-operation (OTC) agreed to provide US\$150,000 from its regular budget for

1978 indicating that it could no longer continue to finance the project in subsequent years. Other projects for which the Unit provides management support include the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Democratic Survey of Six Towns in Oman, the Brain Drain Study and the regional Workshop on Production Accounts held in Beirut from 17 to 21 October 1977. These and similar projects are described under the corresponding Divisions which provide the substantive support.

116. The period under review witnessed a significant progress in the recruitment of regional advisers and in the provision of their services to the countries of the region. The services rendered are described under the performance of the different substantive Divisions. The Unit was concerned with promoting these services, programming and reporting on the missions of the adviser. As of this date, ECWA has regional advisers in the following fields: Human Resources Development (Mr. Hamed Ammar); Statistics and National Accounts (Mr. Adel Al Akel); Household Sample Survey (Mr. Abdul Karim Bourini); Industrial Projects Formulation (Mr. Tarek al Khudayri); Industrial Projects Identification and Appraisal (Mr. Najim Koja Kassab); Financial Planning (Mr. Samir Sidhom); Transport and Communication (Mr. Tran Le Quang); Ports and Harbours Development (Mr. Peter Gerald Pattinson); Population Statistics (Mr. Mohamed Hanif Khan); Social Development Aspects of Population Policies (Mr. Ali Fouad Ahmed, returned to Government service in January 1978). Candidates for the following three posts have been selected and are under recruitment: Regional Adviser in Agricultural Projects Formulation and Evaluation, Regional Adviser in Development Planning and Regional Adviser in Legal Aspects of Natural Resources Development. Finally, the post of Regional Adviser in Demography is still vacant and the search for a suitable candidate is going on.

117. Most of the above-mentioned posts are being financed from the ECWA regular budget, one post is financed by UNIDO, two posts are financed equally by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Development Fund, and finally three posts by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The posts financed under the ECWA regular Budget, unless extra-budgetary financing becomes available, cannot be all maintained during the biennium 1978/1979 because some of these posts were established and financed from the exceptional savings accruing during the biennium

1976/1977. In this regard it would be helpful to know the views of the ECWA Member States on this type of technical assistance and on the question of the continuity, expansion or change in the regional advisory posts.

K. Arab Regional Documentation Centre for Economic and Social Development

118. During the period under review, work on the first and second phases for the establishment of the Arab Regional Documentation Centre for Economic and Social Development was completed. It consisted of surveying libraries, research institutes and information and documentation centres in the economic and social fields in the Arab countries as well as the preparation of the feasibility study for its implementation. The findings and conclusions of the Survey are available as document E/ECWA/57/Add.1 and the Feasibility Study for the Centre as document E/ECWA/57/Add.2. The Note of the Executive Secretary on the matter will elaborate on the proposed follow-up to the survey and the feasibility study.