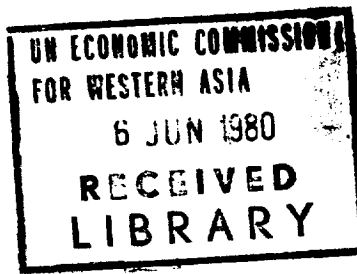




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PROGRESS REPORT  
ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

80-3101

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I. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECTIONS AND POLICIES (DPPP)

Subprogramme: Review and assessment of trends

Programme element: Economic survey of ECWA countries

1. Under this activity, the 1979 issue<sup>1/</sup> was devoted to the final biennial review and appraisal of the implementation of International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade. The 1980 issue is devoted to a survey of economic and social developments in the ECWA region during 1978-1979. This survey is well underway.

Subprogramme: Assistance and training

Programme element: Programme formulation and management

2. In addition to the management of the five programmes (Development Planning, Projections and Policies, International Trade, Development Finance and Administration, Labour, Management and Employment, and Transnational Corporations), a number of activities were carried out under this element and included:

(a) Participation in the Committee for Development Planning, New York, 26 March-6 April 1979, and preparation of two statements; "Some observations on the Economic Performance of ECWA countries during the seventies"; and "Identification of Possible Elements for a New International Development Strategy in the ECWA region";

(b) Preparation of a position paper on "ECWA's viewpoint on the New International Development Strategy (IDS) for the Third United Nations Decade", for the June 1979 Session of the Preparatory Committee on IDS.

Subprogramme: Perspective planning

Programme element: Studies on perspective planning in the ECWA region

3. As a prototype model for the non-oil economies of the region, a long-term macroeconomic model of the Syrian Arab Republic's economy was constructed. The model specification, parameter estimation, and model validation through tracking

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<sup>1/</sup> Reports and review projects of this nature are carried out in co-operation with all substantive programmes of the Commission. Such contributions are not listed separately under each programme but figure only under the programme having the lead responsibility for the project as a whole.

experiments are completed. Work is in progress on extensive scenario exercises through computer simulations. A final report on the Syrian Arab Republic modelling exercise will be shortly issued.

4. Computer softwares, which are useful for the prospective long-term modelling exercises for selected ECWA member countries, were assembled with the technical assistance of UNCTAD and DIESA. Among the computer programmes made available are ordinary least squares, two-stage and three-stage least squares, other elements of TSP (Time Series Programmes) packages and a simulation package for the econometric model.

Subprogrammes: Plan harmonization and regional co-operation

Programme element: Study on possibilities of plan harmonization in the ECWA region

5. A meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Development Experts from ECWA member countries was convened in the last week of August 1979, in order to provide a regional input to the work of the Preparatory Committee which has been entrusted with the task of preparing the international development strategy for the next decade. A discussion paper on the regional development strategy was prepared for the meetings<sup>2/</sup>. (See detailed report on the follow-up action to ECWA resolution 76(VI) on the Third United Nations Development Decade). (E/ECWA/97).

6. Other activities included:

(a) Participation in the Regional Development Seminar, held at Damascus 19-23 May 1979, and contribution of a paper on "New Development Concepts and Strategies in the Arab World"; and

(b) Consultation with the League of Arab States and the Council of Arab Economic Unity were held on 18-21 April 1979, in order to articulate the areas of co-operation between ECWA and these organizations in long-term studies and regional development strategy in general and long-term projections for the Arab region in particular.

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<sup>2/</sup> See footnote No. 1.

## II. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

### Subprogramme: Establishment of a reliable data system

#### Programme element: Review and assesment of the situation and trends in agriculture, forestry and fisheries

7. The second issue of the annual bulletin "Agriculture and Development" was published in both English and Arabic. The contents consist of two parts: the first reviews major developments and trends in agriclutural production and trade and regional food security during the seventies whereas the second addresses itself to specific issues such as the problems and prospects of West Bank agriculture since 1967, irrigation and agricultural development, and the analysis of some salient features of Arab agricultural trade.
8. Presently, work is underway for the preparation of the third issue of the bulletin in close collaboration with FAO.

### Subprogramme: Improvement of agricultural planning

#### Programme element: Sector and subsector studies

9. Sector and subsector studies are undertaken with a view to assessing the production potential in relation to the existing and anticipated domestic and export demands for major agricultural commodities. Long-term alternative production strategies are suggested for the most efficient utilization of the limited agricultural resources. In this context, a sector study for the Yemen Arab Republic "The role of agriculture in the long-term economic and social development of the Yemen Arab Republic - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/10" has been completed and a similar study for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is being finalized. Due to resource constraints, it was not possible to initiate two other similar studies, one for Saudi Arabia and another for Oman, which were planned for 1979. However, a position paper is under preparation, as requested by the Omani Government, on the agricultural sector in Oman.
10. Work on the study on Regional Livestock/Feed situation in the Fertile Crescent was initiated, but reoriented with a view to meeting urgent requests received from FAO and the Conference of Arab Agricultural Ministers of the Gulf and the

Arabian Peninsula. In addition to the advisory services rendered, a paper was prepared on "Long-term feed development policy for the Gulf States and Arabian Peninsula", March 1979. The purpose of this paper is to discuss long-term livestock feed development policies and presents appropriate suggestions for solving the existing problems.

Programme element: Advice, assistance and training

11. Under this programme element activities included:

(a) ECWA assisted and collaborated with FAO in the preparation of the study on "Agriculture towards 2000" in the Near East and North Africa, which included a separate part dealing with Agriculture towards 2000 in the ECWA region.

Contributions made included the following two studies:

- "Agriculture Towards 2000: policies of crop production technology in the Near East - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/6". The study reviews the present state of technology in the Near East region and to pinpoint major socio-economic factors inhibiting the adoption of new technology for crop production. Strategies and policies have been proposed for accelerating the adoption of new technology;
- "Major livestock technological improvement policies in the Near East - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/5". This paper examines the present and anticipated future policies regarding technological changes in the field of livestock for the countries of the ECWA region;

(b) Under the focal point responsibility for desertification, a document was prepared on "Regional plan of action to combat desertification in the ECWA region - E/ECWA/77", which was submitted to the sixth session of ECWA, Baghdad, April 1979. As follow-up to this document and the related resolution, Res. 71(VI), preparatory activities have been initiated for holding a meeting on "Agricultural Resource Conservation, Management and Development" during the last part of 1980;

(c) ECWA joined a FAO Identification Mission to the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula (September/December, 1979). Major contributions were made in the field of feed and livestock analysis and in the preparation of the central mission document;



(d) Advisory services are presently being rendered to the Government of Lebanon (Ministries of Labour, Social Affairs, and Agriculture) regarding reconstruction of Southern Lebanon.

Subprogramme: Enhancing food security

Programme element: Food security studies

12. This programme element covered the following activities:

A one-man mission was launched to the Yemen Arab Republic and Democratic Yemen with a view to following-up the recommendations contained in an earlier study on food security in the Yemen subregion and to exploring possibilities for related action-oriented activities.

A study on "Food security in Oman - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/8" was initiated and completed during 1979. A similar study, covering Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates is being completed.

A study on "Food security in the ECWA region: Analysis of production and consumption problems, March 1979 - E/ECWA/AGRI/70/1", was prepared for the World Food Council as ECWA's contribution to their documents for the Fifth Ministerial Session in Ottawa, September 1979.

Subprogramme: Promotion of agricultural integration

Programme element: Regional study of the medium-term agricultural development plans

13. A study was carried out on "Comparative analysis of agricultural development plans of selected ECWA countries - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/3". This study analyses and compares the current medium-term agricultural development plans of selected ECWA countries, with a view to enhancing their mutual awareness of each others' plans and identifying areas of fruitful co-operation.

Programme element: Comparative analysis of farm enterprises in ECWA countries

14. Work was initiated on the collection of data and information pertaining to farming systems under dryland farming conditions in the ECWA region.

15. Assistance was rendered to FAO headquarters in processing farm management data collected from the Syrian Arab Republic.

Programme element: Studies/reports and meetings on agricultural production and trade adjustment issues

16. A study was undertaken on "An analysis of some salient features of Arab trade in agricultural commodities during the 1971-1975 period - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/4".

This study attempts to pinpoint some underlying factors contributing to the latest development in food imports of the region and focuses special attention on unit values of major food commodities. The implications of the recent developments in food trade for the region's food security position are highlighted.

17. A study on agricultural production adjustment issues was initiated during 1979. This study is expected to be completed in the middle of 1980.

Subprogramme: Rural and agricultural institutions

Programme element: Survey report on the agricultural and integrated rural development in ECWA countries

18. The following activities were carried out under this programme:

(a) A study was initiated and completed on "Pastoral system in the ECWA region: Some policy considerations - E/ECWA/AGRI/79/9". This study treats the pastoral subsector as a way of life and a production system adopted to the technical, economic, social and political environment of the steppes;

(b) In co-operation with the Social Development Programme, the study of share-cropping and land tenure in the Yemen Arab Republic, funded by the World Bank, was carried out. This study, which is based on field surveys, aims at identifying the institutional weaknesses and proposes appropriate solutions for solving the problems which hinder the adoption of yield-increasing technology;

(c) A discussion paper was prepared on "Major socio-economic policy issues of feed development in arid areas of the ECWA region, March 1979". This paper was presented to the FAO Regional Seminar on Rainfed Agriculture, Amman, 5-10 May 1979.

### III. NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Subprogramme: Energy resources

#### Programme element: Medium and Long-term projections of the demand for and supply of Energy in the ECWA region

19. This project, initiated in 1977, was ready in draft form at the end of July 1978. A revised draft was presented to the First Arab Energy Conference which was jointly organized by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) from 4 to 8 March 1979 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

20. The above Conference revealed the need for and usefulness of undertaking a revision extension of the energy projections study, which was subsequently started in the second half of 1979. It is a revision in four ways: (a) the approach is different, more emphasis is put on the Arab producers' point of view, and the world energy picture for the coming two decades is examined in the light of that viewpoint; (b) the projections are based on more up-to-date information and data in all energy sectors covering up to 1978 and sometimes 1979; (c) some of the basic estimates, such as future gross additions to oil reserves and Arab group domestic product, are reassessed on the basis of thorough studies especially prepared for the purposes; and (d) the methodology is partially revised. It is an extension in two ways: (a) the study covers the whole Arab world (21 countries) instead of the ECWA region (12 countries); and (b) the projections extend to the year 2000 instead of 1990, and complete energy balance-sheets are developed for the years 1985, 1990 and 2000.

21. The project was expected to be completed before the seventh session of the Commission and it is hoped that the study will be published in book form under the title "Arab Energy: Prospects to 2000".

#### Programme element: Aspects of the role and operation of energy institutions in selected Arab countries

22. This study, which was presented to the First Arab Energy Conference (4-8 March 1979, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), was later revised and published as an ECWA document (E/ECWA/NR/10) in English (June 1979) and in Arabic (August 1979).

This study covers three major oil-exporting countries (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates), two minor oil exporters (Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic) and the two Yemens. It examines the role and operation of the institutions in these countries which are specifically concerned with the supply of oil products for the domestic market, with the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and, where relevant, with the supply of gas, with unclear energy and with research on non-conventional energy sources. This study also makes specific recommendations for the considerations of the Governments of each of the seven countries surveyed. Finally, a regional comparative synthesis is attempted and prospects for action are discussed.

Programme element: Action programme for developing the energy economy of the least developed countries in the ECWA region

23. The first draft of this report was completed in November 1979. It consists of a comprehensive analysis of the energy situation and prospects of the two Yemens: this covers both traditional forms of energy, such as wood and animal-power, and also modern types like oil and electricity. The analysis is followed by the formulation of a programme of action for the consideration of both Governments, which covers such diverse matters as price policy, education and training, strengthening of institutions and regional and subregional co-operation.

Programme element: Implications of the economics of oil refining for the future utilization of crude oil production in the ECWA region

24. Work was started in July 1979 on this project. Discussions were held with officials of OAPEC and OPEC and visits were made to a number of member States. The study is primarily concerned with the extent to which the capacity of refineries in the ECWA region should be raised above the level needed to meet member States' own requirements.

Programme element: Non-conventional sources of energy in the Arab World:  
Research and development activities, ongoing programmes  
and future possibilities

25. Preparatory work on this project has already begun. The energy sources to be covered are solar, biomass, wind and geothermal energy. Consultancy reports will be prepared on each of these sources, as well as a synthesized ECWA report which will be submitted to a regional Meeting in March 1981 together with invited country papers. This project will be undertaken as a regional preparation for the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (UNERG), to be held in New York in August 1981.

26. OAPEC has agreed to co-operate on this project, and agreement was reached whereby OAPEC will prepare the consultancy on solar energy while ECWA will be responsible for the rest of the project but at the Arab world level instead of the ECWA region level.

Other activities

27. These activities focused mainly on co-operation with OAPEC and the Arab Fund (AFESD) in the preparation for the First Arab Energy Conference (4-8 March 1979, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), including contributions to the preparation of the proceedings of the Conference. Co-operation with OAPEC also included co-ordinating the work programmes of both organizations in order to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of efforts and preparations for the Second Arab Energy Conference (March 1982, Doha, Qatar). In this connexion, a memorandum of agreed proposals has been signed with OAPEC.

Subprogramme: Mineral resources

Programme element: An expert report on improvement of national mining codes  
and assessment of the situation with regard to full sovereignty  
of member countries over their mineral resources

28. Implementation of this programme element, rescheduled due to personnel turnover, was started in March 1979 and is expected to be completed by mid-1980. The study covers the existing mining legislation and its historical review, its role in the

development of local mineral resources and in inter-country co-operation in this sector at the regional level. It also examines legal aspects of technical assistance from bilateral and multilateral aid agencies as well as contracts with transnational companies.

Programme element: Analysis of technical documentation and collection and processing of mineral economic information with regard to present and future supply and demand

29. Work on this project is in progress and the related report is expected to be completed early in 1980. The study presents statistical data on domestic production of and foreign trade in mineral commodities for the period 1974-1977, separately for each country of the ECWA region, and also collectively for the whole region. Based on the above statistical data and the national development plans forecasts, are made for set target years of future supply and demand of mineral commodities for the individual countries and for the ECWA region as a whole.

Other activities

30. ECWA supported the efforts of the United Nations Outer Space Affairs Division for holding a United Nations training seminar on remote sensing of earth resources in the region. The seminar was subsequently organized in co-operation with the Syrian Government and held in Damascus between 1-13 December 1979.

Subprogramme: Water resources

Programme element: Introduction of an adequate system for collecting, compiling and analyzing water resources data in the region

31. A preliminary report on the subject has been completed and circulated to member States and relevant regional and international organizations for their comments, on the basis of which a revised report will be issued during 1980.

32. This study revealed the existence of differences among member States with regard to the suitability and effectiveness of their existing network systems, the poor coverage of water resources data in the region in general, the predominant use of conventional networks, absence of some modern techniques and methods, diversification in the types of instruments used for measurement purposes and the

inadequacy and lack of uniformity of terminology used within the region, a situation which is affecting adversely the transfer of information in this field at the regional level. The study further contained certain recommendations which may assist member States to remedy this situation.

Programme element: Assessment of the water resources situation in the countries of the ECWA region

33. This study covered essentially the availability of water resources and the status of the hydrological and hydrogeological investigations carried out in the ECWA region. The objective of the study was to provide a regional outlook of the water resources situation in an effort to assist member States to formulate plans of action and recommendations in this field. A preliminary report was issued. It included proposed recommendations at national, regional and subregional levels. These mainly focused on multilateral co-operation and co-ordination in the field of water resources' development such as developing the major shared sandstone and carbonate rock aquifers in the region. Shared surface water resources development plans were also pointed out. The study contained further a proposed mechanism to facilitate mutual co-operation and co-ordination at the regional level. The report was circulated to member countries and relevant international and regional organizations for their comments. A final report on the subject will be issued in 1980.

Programme element: The establishment and/or strengthening of legal and administrative infrastructures for water resources development and management in the ECWA region

34. An interim report has been prepared which covered a comparative review of the existing legislative codes in the ECWA region such as legislation in force, ownership of water and its use, legislation on harmful effects of water, quality and pollution control, groundwater, water rights administration, special water development agencies and control of hydraulic structures.

Programme element: Follow-up on the recommendations of the regional and international water conference in co-operation with member States of ECWA

35. Activities in this area are reported in a separate document in connexion with the agenda item dealing with the establishment of the Regional Water Resources Council.

Other activities

36. As a follow-up to the section of the Mar del Plata Action Plan which relates to the Community Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, ECWA participated in the first meeting of the Technical Support Team which was recently formed and included representatives from WHO, FAO, UNICEF, ILO and ECWA with the UNDP Resident Representative in Lebanon as a focal point for this exercise. This team is expected to assist concerned government agencies in Lebanon in undertaking various water-related activities within the framework of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

IV. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Subprogramme: Regional co-ordination of policies in the industrial field

Programme element: Co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes

37. The first part relating to the study entitled "Co-ordination of industrialization plans and programmes" has been completed in draft form. This part reviews briefly the industrialization policies and the various instruments which have been so far resorted for influencing industrial development in most countries of the region. In this connexion, the relevant elements of trade and fiscal and monetary policies are examined. Efforts made to develop modalities of regional co-operation to promote industrialization are also briefly reviewed.

38. The second part of the study is in progress. It will examine the extent to which industrial plans and programmes in the various ECWA countries lend themselves to inter-country co-operation and accordingly propose approaches to the formulation of regional policies of industrial co-operation. Substantial collection of data and information have already been undertaken.



Subprogramme: Development of selected industrial branches

Programme element: Development of branch industries - I. Engineering

39. Telecommunications equipment: Work continued on elaboration of the potentials of this industry in the region. A draft of techno-economic study on manufacture of telephone cables has been completed. The study presents a broad plan for development of the industry in the region. Various aspects like demand, processes of manufacture material inputs and their availability linkages, and economics of scale have been discussed in the report. Demand estimates for telecommunications equipment as evolved in the preliminary studies prepared in the year 1978 were revised in view of additional data collected.

40. In view of the revealed high potentials for the industry and the fact that technology in the telecommunications equipment industry has been changing at relatively faster pace, it was decided to study the industry in more depth than originally envisaged especially in the areas of technology and its economic implications, so that more reliable technical and economic details could be provided to the decision-makers in the region. Further information was, therefore, obtained through visits to corporate offices and plant of three leading manufacturers of telecommunication equipment. Relying on the data base, revisions of the preliminary studies prepared earlier and their transformation into a comprehensive study have been undertaken.

41. Electrical equipment: Work continued on identification of concrete viable project in this vital industry branch. Demand estimates for electric generation equipment, hydro steam, gas, nuclear, etc. and transformers are being constantly revised. Assistance of a consultant was secured. A report providing techno-economic data on manufacture of various types of equipment and recommendations on strategy for development of the industry in the ECWA region was completed by the consultant. Furthermore, visits were made to plants and corporate offices of two leading manufacturers of developed countries to collect reliable technical and financial information which would serve as a base for further prefeasibility studies. This procedure followed refers to generators, turbines and transformers only. The prefeasibility studies on these major heavy and complex items are in progress and will be completed by first quarter of 1980.

42. Construction equipment: Work in this area is in progress. In addition to analyzing of investment plans of a number of countries, data have been collected on existing stocks of various types of equipment such as bulldozers, graders, loaders, scrapers, road rollers pavement finishers etc. including past demand as revealed by the actual sales of construction equipment in the countries of the region. In order to make long-term projections of demand and to be able to evolve an integrated plan of action for this industry, more extensive field work and data collection will be needed.

43. Fabricated process equipment for chemical industry: Work on this project has already started. Secondary data has been compiled. Work in this area will cover examination of prefeasibility of regional manufacture of chemical equipment and data collection on existing and envisaged development programmes for chemical industry (including petrochemicals) and oil refining.

Programme element: Development of branch industries - II. Petrochemicals

44. Preliminary country surveys on the general status of chemical industry (Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon) undertaken in 1978, have been finalized. Close co-ordination has been maintained in this regard with OPEC, OAPEC, UNIDO and Gulf Organization for Industrial Consultancy. Furthermore, work is in progress in relation to the study on strategies for establishment of petrochemical industries in ECWA/Arab regions. A brief account of the study will be submitted and delivered in the Second International Seminar on Petrochemicals to be held in Baghdad in March 1980.

Subprogramme: Review and appraisal of industrial development

Programme element: Review and appraisal of industrial development

45. As part of the preparations for the Third General Conference of UNIDO to be held in January/February 1980 in New Delhi, in depth studies were carried out, in co-operation with UNIDO, on six countries of the region: Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon. The studies relate to analysis of past trends and problems of industrialization.

46. Work on future growth prospects and likely scenarios is continuing and has been completed with respect to Saudi Arabia and Syria. For the studies on Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait, projections of future growth potentials will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1980.

47. Depending upon the availability of data, the variables of industrial economy which have been analyzed include: output, input, value added, employment, wages, labour force, productivity, capital stock, skill composition, size and regional distribution of manufacturing establishments, number of establishments, their structure and pattern of development, export and import of manufactured goods, industrial finance, sectoral demand patterns, aspects of industrial strategy and policy etc.

48. Work has also been undertaken on conversion of foreign trade statistics of manufactured products to ISIC classification. This activity, apart from assisting in ECWA's project on inter and extra-regional foreign trade in manufactured products, will also be beneficial in carrying out other subprogrammes in the field of industry.

#### Other activities

49. Assistance was rendered to governments and covered:

- (i) preparation for the Lebanese Government of two papers entitled:  
"Qualitative and Quantitative Objectives of Industrialization Policies"  
and "Industrialization Policies and Strategies for Lebanon";
- (ii) assistance in the formulation of proposals for the development of rural industries in southern Lebanon;
- (iii) assistance to Jordan for the development of joint facility for the fertilizer and mining companies;
- (iv) assistance to Jordan for the development of inorganic chemical industries.

50. Following a tripartite agreement reached between UNIDO, IDCAS and ECWA, early in August 1979, ECWA provided substantive support to the secretariat of IDCAS in the preparations for the Fifth Arab Industrialization Conference which was held in Algiers in November 1979. The work done included:

- (i) preparation, jointly with an IDCAS consultant, of a study entitled "The Present and Planned Industrial Situation in the Arab World";
- (ii) preparation of a study entitled "Projected Arab Industrial Development for the Year 2000: Alternative Scenarios";
- (iii) participation in the preparation of the discussion paper intended for the Arab Ministers of Industry and entitled "Long-term Arab Industrialization Strategy";
- (iv) Preparation of a position paper on "Regional Development of Selected Branches of Capital Goods Industries in ECWA Region" which was submitted to the Conference as a background document.

#### V. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Subprogramme: Assistance in expanding and diversifying export trade

Programme element: Liberalization of non-tariff barriers

51. A study of barriers facing products of export interest to the ECWA countries in selected developed markets was completed. The study is in two parts. The first part is entitled "Non-tariff Barriers to Trade in Products of Current Export Interest to ECWA Countries in Nine Developed Markets" and is analytical in nature. The second part, consisting of two volumes and entitled "Barriers to Trade in Products of Current and Potential Export Interest to ECWA Countries" contains a detailed inventory of both tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Subprogramme: Intraregional trade

Programme element: Trade expansion and economic integration

52. Work continued on the study entitled "Economic Co-operation and Integration in Western Asia". The following major portions of the study were completed:

- (a) chapter on the evolution of economic co-operation in Western Asia;
- (b) chapter on main obstacles to and benefits from closer economic co-operation in Western Asia;
- and (c) a statistical compendium of intraregional trade classified according to Standard International Trade Classification, International Standard Industrial Classification and by end use. The services of a consultant were engaged to prepare the chapter of the study on the forms and feasibility of economic co-operation in Western Asia.

Other activities

53. Other activities included preparation of a paper on the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least-Developed Countries which was submitted to the Meeting of the Group of High-Level Experts on a Comprehensive New Programme of Action for the Least-Developed Countries which was held in Geneva between 26-30 November 1979.

VI. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

Subprogramme: Transport integration

Programme element: Development of integrated transport and communications network in the ECWA region

54. A study of the Master Plan for the Development of Integrated Transport System in 12 countries of the ECWA region, namely: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, PDRY, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, and YAR, has been completed. In this regard, a report entitled "Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia - Modal Reports, Part II" was issued and circulated to Member Governments for their comments. This was followed by preparation of document E/ECWA/TRANS./Add.1 entitled "Note from the Secretariat on the Development of an Integrated Transport System for Western Asia" which was also circulated to Member Governments. This document provided a review of the transport infrastructure development in the region, and highlighted the main problem areas for the integration of transport in the region. Assistance was sought from the Netherlands Economic Institute and the Netherlands Maritime Institute in the form of consultancy services for finalizing the report on the Master Plan.

55. In implementation of Resolution 73(VI), adopted at the sixth session of ECWA in April 1979, an Intergovernmental Meeting is scheduled to be held in February 1980, to review the report's findings and to make recommendations for future work with respect to this project.

Other activities

56. Other activities during the period under review included the following:

(a) A Seminar in Port Operations was held at Basrah, Iraq, from 5-15 November 1979. It was jointly organized by UNCTAD and ECWA, and financed by UNDP. The Seminar was hosted by the Government of Iraq. Eight member countries participated in the seminar, namely: Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, UAE, Oman and the PLO. Lectures given provided the participants with up-to-date knowledge and modern techniques in the field of maritime transport, port operations and management, containerization and container handling. The seminar aimed at providing a forum for exchange of ideas and experience among participants, thus enhancing regional co-operation in the field of maritime transport, shipping and ports. It also aimed at more effective co-ordination and co-operation in manpower development and training in order to improve managerial and professional competence in port operations;

(b) Participation in the Co-ordination Committee Meetings of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on the Project Middle East-Mediterranean Regional Telecommunications Network Project RAB/75/027 which is to be implemented in co-ordination with ECWA, UNDP, Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU), Arab Satellite (ARABSAT) and other regional organizations.

VII. LABOUR, MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Subprogramme: Employment policies

Programme element: Analysis of levels and structures of wages and other income from work in countries of Western Asia

57. The draft of this study consisting of six chapters, a conclusion and statistical appendices, has been completed. The study presents the general employment and manpower problems in the region with reference to both domestic and migrant labour forces. It also describes and analyzes the levels and structures of wages and relating them to the movement of labour, both within national boundaries and internationally. As such, it fills an important gap in the knowledge of regional labour market structures and mechanisms and complements the growing literature on the nature and problems of the labour force in the countries of Western Asia.

58. In this connexion, efforts are being made to obtain extrabudgetary financing for a meeting on "Problems and Prospects of Labour Movement in the ECWA region".

Other activities

59. Pursuant to ECWA resolution 59(V) on the Brain Drain from the ECWA region, and following discussions with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, arrangements have been made, through a consultant, to start the study in accordance with the provisions of the resolution. In view of the limited amount of available resources, the study will be devoted to a detailed examination of all aspects of the brain drain problem in Jordan.

Programme element: Quantitative evaluation of the basic needs for the lowest income groups in selected West Asia countries  
(completion date 1979)

60. The study could not be undertaken owing to lack of resources. However, a project proposal and a draft background document have been prepared on the subject. Efforts are currently underway to secure the required funds for the study.

Subprogramme: Improvement of manpower planning

Programme element: Manpower demand and supply in ECWA countries: present situation and future evolution

61. This project was deferred owing to lack of resources.

Subprogramme: Promotion of regional co-operation in the field of human resource planning

Programme element: Monitoring of progress in the implementation of the plan of action on manpower and employment planning in the ECWA region with special reference to regional co-operation in this field

62. This study has been eliminated due to lack of resources. However, progress in some areas was reported under the ongoing review and appraisal and survey exercises.

VIII. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Subprogramme: The integration and participation of women in national development

Programme element: Review and assessment of the situation of women within the context of the international development strategy

63. Towards implementation of ECWA's Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, the following documents and studies were prepared:

- (i) A regional programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1981-1985 (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/2);
- (ii) A study entitled "Recent Changes and Trends in the Situation of Women in the ECWA Region" (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/3);
- (iii) A report on special measures of assistance to Palestinian women (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/5);
- (iv) A study of the social and economic conditions of Palestinian women (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.4/6).

Other activities

64. These activities included the following:

(a) In preparation for the World Conference for Women, 1980, a regional preparatory meeting was held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 9-13 December 1979. The meeting approved a regional programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1981-1985. It also discussed and approved special measures of assistance to Palestinian women, which is an agenda item for the World Conference.

(b) Implementation continued of the programme financed by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women. Three projects were completed:



- (i) A workshop on integrated development and extension services for women in rural areas, held in Baghdad, Iraq. Women rural extension workers and agricultural engineers from six ECWA countries attended this workshop, which included field visits and the preparation of a special manual for women extension workers;
- (ii) A workshop on national development planning for the integration of women in development, held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, for specialists in general and sectoral planning from the ECWA members. The workshop emphasized the integration of women in development as an essential objective of social and economic planning;
- (iii) A training workshop for child care housemothers/teachers and administrators, held in Lebanon. This workshop, held in Al-Smoud Home for Palestinian children emphasized health, nutritional care, and the social and emotional growth of children;
- (iv) ECWA participated in an interagency mission, organized by the UNDP; to assess efforts to increase the participation of women in agriculture and rural development in Syria. The mission recommended project activities and new programme approaches for the involvement of rural women in development.

Subprogramme: Developmental social welfare

Programme element: Regional survey on social development and social welfare services, training resources and requirements

- 65. Work continued on the survey of social services in the countries of the region, with the collection of social statistics. Profiles were completed for three countries and transmitted for governmental review.
- 66. Research was initiated on programming for the rehabilitation of the disabled, with special focus on Lebanon. This work is in preparation for the International Year for Disabled Persons, 1981.

Other activities

67. Other activities included:

- (a) Participation in the UNDP organized interagency task force on "Assistance to the Palestinian People". A paper was prepared on social needs in the occupied Arab territories, and possible projects of assistance were identified;
- (b) Advisory services were rendered to non-governmental organizations in Lebanon in programme planning and implementation for the following areas: youth programmes; vocational training; health manpower training; and community development. Advisory services were also provided to Kuwait and to Abu Dhabi in the evaluation of social service institutions;
- (c) A research study entitled "Social Development Plans and Programmes in Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Democratic Yemen" was completed;
- (d) ECWA participated in the Interregional Seminar on the Aging held in Kiev, USSR, from 14 to 25 May 1979. A position paper on the situation of the Aging in the ECWA region was presented;
- (e) Preparation of the first draft of a report on Drug Abuse Problems concerning School Age Population in Lebanon was completed.

Subprogramme: Social aspects of integrated rural development

Programme element: Role of communications in integrated rural development

68. The rural communications methods used in various countries in the region were reviewed. Planning for the improvement of these methods was carried out in collaboration with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Near East Regional Office of the Food and Agricultural Organization. Preparations were made for a workshop on experimental training methodologies for trainers of rural development workshop. The workshop, supported by the Voluntary Fund for the Decade for Women, is to be held in April 1980.

Programme element: Review and assessment of the situation of integrated rural development

69. Work progressed on the study of the organizational structures dealing with integrated rural development in selected ECWA countries. Data were collected on government policies and machineries.

Other activities

70. Other activities included: providing assistance to the Lebanese government in planning for the reconstruction of South Lebanon, especially of the needs for rural industrialization and rural development. A report was prepared, identifying areas where financial and technical assistance are urgently needed.

71. An activity in the field of social development not falling under a particular subprogramme pertains to the project entitled "Potential and Socio-Economic Study of the Palestinian Arab People". Within the context of this project, the following activities have been undertaken:

(a) Based on extensive library research concentrating on the pre-1948 period in order to establish a baseline against which the post-1948 economic and social situation would be evaluated, a draft report entitled "The Palestinians in perspective, a survey of pre-1948 Palestinian Society in its Homeland" has been completed;

(b) In preparation for field surveys, a questionnaire has been developed and pretested with 60 families to determine its validity and reliability, as well as any practical problems in administering it. Consequently, the questionnaire has been reviewed. All preparatory work for undertaking the survey has also been completed.

IX. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Subprogramme: Formulation of low-cost housing policies

Programme element: Housing finance

72. Work on the study on housing finance in the ECWA region was completed. Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, and Lebanon have been covered. This study consists of a survey of financial institutions in the field of housing and an evaluation of their policies, including credits and loans for low-income groups. The completed paper was presented as a major document to the Regional Meeting on Human Settlements Finance and Management (Al-Ain, UAE, 25-29 November 1979).

Programme element: Review and appraisal of housing situation in the ECWA region within the Context of the international development strategy of the second UN development decade

73. A study entitled "Overview of Human Settlements Issues in the ECWA Region" was presented as a major document to the Regional Meeting on Human Settlements Finance and Management (Al-Ain, UAE, 25-29 November 1979).

Subprogramme: Urbanization and urban planning

Programme element: Review and appraisal of urban planning situation in the ECWA region with the Context of the international development strategy of the second UN development decade

74. A background report entitled "The Situation of Human Settlements in the ECWA Region" was submitted to the Second Session of the Commission on Human Settlements. The report also deals with the rural settlement situation in the ECWA region.

Advisory Services

75. In the field of human settlements, advisory services were provided to the Government of Lebanon - The Council for Reconstruction and Development. Upon their request two reports were submitted, one dealt with rent control and rent policies while the other dealt with housing costs, its relationship to household income and proposals for financing.

Other activities

76. In the field of human settlements, major activities during all 4 quarters of 1979 consisted of preparing for, organizing and holding the Regional Meeting on Human Settlements Finance and Management in Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates from 25-29 November 1979.

77. The Meeting was the fourth in a series of regional meetings convoked by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements through its Habitat Foundation component. It was sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, ECWA, UNEP, UNDP and the Government of the United Arab Emirates. The Meeting discussed the financial and administrative dimensions and instruments required to solve current human settlements problems in order to ensure environmentally sound human settlement programmes.

ECWA prepared six major papers which were presented to the Regional Meeting: (a) Housing Finance in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/2); (b) The Role of the Arab Development Funds in Human Settlement Finance in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/3); (c) Urbanization and City Management in ECWA Countries (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/4); (d) The Traditional Arab City between Authenticity and Modernity (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/5); (e) Overview of Human Settlements Issues in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/6); (f) The Management of Physical and Human Resources for Human Settlements Development in the ECWA Region (E/ECWA/SDHS/CONF.3/7).

78. A final report on the regional meeting in both Arabic and English is in the process of finalization.

79. Work has begun on a data bank on human settlements development in the ECWA region. The data bank consists of relevant information pertaining to human settlements such as population distribution, number of dwelling units per country, annual growth rate, physical planning standards, collection of socio-economic data directed towards spatial planning, etc. A human settlements library has been started for use by United Nations staff for missions and reports. The data bank is an ongoing activity. Already, in 1979, substantial human settlements information has been collected on Bahrain, Jordan and the two Yemens,

80. Follow-up in connexion with the operation of the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) continued. Final approval for the functioning of AUDI was given in late 1979. It is expected that in 1980 AUDI will be operative.

#### X. DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Subprogramm: Financial mobilization and budgetary development

Programme element: Financial planning in selected countries of Western Asia

81. Work continued on the study entitled "Evaluation of Government Budgetary Systems and its Role in Development Planning in Selected Countries of Western Asia". The first draft of a paper on the budgetary systems in the countries of the region was completed. The paper examines the major institutional, conceptual and operational aspects and shortcomings of the prevailing government budgetary systems and their use as a tool in socio-economic planning. The paper constitutes part of the large study under this programme element which will be completed in 1980.

Programme element: Review and assessment of trends in development  
finance in the ECWA region

82. A report on the status of public administration and finance in countries of Western Asia was completed. It briefly examines major changes in public administration and finance systems in the countries of the region, identifies priority areas for action at the regional and global levels under the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance for 1980s, along with modalities aimed at promoting effective co-operation in the implementation of the Programme. The paper was submitted to the Interagency Working Group and the Fifth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.

83. Subprogramme 2 and its three elements were deferred owing to non-availability of resources.

84. Other activities included preparation of the 1979 issue of ECWA publication entitled "Selected Studies on Development Problems in Countries of Western Asia".

#### XI. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Subprogramme: Transfer, development and choice of technology

Programme element: Institutional mechanism for the transfer and  
development of technology

85. Work on this regional project was initiated by ECWA in October 1977, and included a number of technical and intergovernmental meetings (1977-1978) which culminated in the preparation of a feasibility study on the establishment of the Arab Regional Centre for the Transfer and Development of Technology (E/ECWA/CIT.2/Rev.3). As per ECWA resolution 61(V), the study was then submitted to the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States at its 26th session in February 1979 for discussion. The Council reviewed at this session two proposals on the subject submitted respectively by ECWA and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Council, and decided subsequently to invite representatives of the two organizations and of member States to a technical meeting to discuss the aforementioned proposals and adopt an Arab position in their regards. This meeting was later organized by the secretariat of the League of Arab States in Tunis between

4-6 June 1979 and resulted in the formation of a committee composed of representatives from ECWA, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils and the secretariat of the League of Arab States to prepare a unified proposal on the subject including the draft constitution of the proposed centre. It was further decided that an expert group meeting of representatives of Arab governments and concerned organizations will be held to discuss this joint proposal prior to submitting it again to the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League. As a follow-up to these decisions, an expert group meeting involving ECWA, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils and the secretariat of the League of Arab States was organized by the latter in Tunis between 11-16 July 1979 and resulted in the preparation of the draft constitution which was to a large extent based on ECWA's feasibility study. A meeting of intergovernmental group of experts on the subject was later held in Tunis under the auspices of the League of Arab States from 22 to 25 October 1979. The meeting also recommended that the revised draft constitution be submitted to the legal committee of the League of Arab States for the purpose of reviewing the legal aspects of the constitution prior to submitting it to the afore mentioned Council at its session in February 1980 for discussion and adoption.

Programme element: Selected aspects of technology choice

86. Work continued on the above project which focuses on the role of Consulting Engineering and Design (CED) capabilities in the selection, transfer and development of technology in selected ECWA countries. A detailed description of the project was prepared and sent to a number of member countries requesting them to ascertain their interest in this project, and to extend some assistance and co-operation to the staff of the secretariat in collecting data most of which are not readily available from published documents and which can only be obtained through field work. Except for one country which indicated its interest in this project but was unable to extend ECWA any assistance due to prior commitments and current work load, none of the other countries, to-date, responded to the secretariat's note verbale on the subject. It was subsequently decided to carry out this study on Lebanon. Work is now in progress and is expected to shed some light on the present situation in the CED area in Lebanon.

Subprogramme: Application of science and technology  
in selected sectors

Programme element: Technology for the development and management of  
land and water resources

87. Work on this project was discontinued as a result of staff turnover and difficulties in recruitment. Furthermore, this programme element will not be carried over to the next programme budget because the nature and purpose of this project are not in line with the orientation and objectives of the already approved 1980-1981 work programme which fits within a five-year ECWA strategy in this field.

Programme element: Computer technology application

88. A preliminary report entitled "Some Aspects of the Status of Computer Technology in Selected Countries of the ECWA Region" has been completed. This study covered the present status and use of computer technology including its main applications in the ECWA region, identified shortages in various categories of computer manpower and deficiencies in existing training programmes and facilities, and included some analysis of the underlying reasons for this situation. The study further suggested some corrective measures for developing manpower in this field and channelling this technology into productive uses which can contribute to the attainment of the development objectives of member States.

Other activities

89. In the context of the arrangements made between ECWA and the Science and Policy Research Unit (SPRU) of Sussex University, ECWA participated in and also selected four candidates respectively from Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and the Yemen Arab Republic to participate in a workshop on "The Transfer and Absorption of Industrial Technology", organized by (SPRU) of Sussex University from 27 September to 22 November 1979.

90. Contacts with UNCTAD's Transfer of Technology Division have resulted in UNCTAD's confirmation of accepting two to three candidates from the region to be selected by ECWA for participating in UNCTAD's inhouse training programme which will be held in Geneva during the first quarter of 1980. All member States were informed of this additional training facility and were requested to send curriculum vitae of suitable applicants to ECWA for evaluation.



91. Preparatory work was undertaken for organizing a Seminar on the Arab Brain Drain in Beirut, between 4-7 February 1980. Contacts were made with thirty five selected speakers to present papers that were expected to shed some light on the mechanics of the brain drain phenomenon in the Arab World, its magnitude, causes, economic and social consequences and possible remedies. In this connexion, the seminar papers focussed on a number of specific issues relating to the problematic and educational dimension of the Arab Brain Drain, the circulation and importation of high level manpower in the Arab countries, cultural alienation and the brain drain in the Arab world, the impact of this phenomenon on Arab research and academic institutions, the brain drain with special reference to the medical and engineering professions, the experience of selected countries in coping with this phenomenon as well as other research areas that can assist in identifying the causes and consequences of the movement of Arab high level manpower.

## XII. STATISTICS

### Subprogramme: Statistical services

Programme element: Development of adequate and reliable statistical series and indicators on various demographic, social and economic aspects of the countries of the Arab World.

92. Statistical data have been collected and compiled for inclusion in the third issue of the "Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia". The issue is presently under print and will be published early in 1980. Data is also being collected from the African Arab countries and work is in progress for the publication of "Statistical Indicators of the Arab World".

Programme element: Organizing the national statistical systems and methodological practices of the member States of ECWA

93. Work is in progress for the preparation of studies on the state of foreign trade and industrial statistics in the ECWA Countries.

Programme element: Development of national accounts, prices and finance statistics

94. Work on this programme element included:

(a) Publishing Bulletin No. 2 on National Accounts Studies (79-2566) entitled "Gross Domestic Product of the ECWA Countries throughout the period 1960-1976". The Bulletin deals with the economic growth of the ECWA region in the said period by considering the GDP estimates at current and constant prices;

(b) Preparation of Bulletin No. 3 on National Accounts to be published in 1980;

(c) Publishing a "Summary of the UN Manual on National Accounts at Constant Prices (79-2388) as well as translations of several UN publications on national accounts to be used by Arab officials, fellows and researchers;

(d) Publishing Bulletin No. 1 on Price Statistics in the ECWA Region entitled "Consumer and Wholesale Price Indices in the ECWA Region (1960-1977)" (79-2462);

(e) Collection and compilation of figures on prices and index numbers for the period 1960-1979 in preparation for publishing Bulletin No. 2 on Price Statistics in the ECWA Region.

Programme element: Rendering technical assistance in statistics to the member States

95. Technical assistance was provided to:

(a) The Yemen Arab Republic in setting up and publishing, jointly with ECWA, the "National Accounts of the Yemen Arab Republic for the Years 1969/70-1976/77" (79-2463);

(b) The Yemen Arab Republic in the UNDP Institutional Support Project decentralized to ECWA;

(c) The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in finalizing the Republic's first issue of the statistical yearbook. The yearbook will be published in January 1980;

(d) The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Baghdad in conducting a Working Group on National Accounts at Constant Prices and in preparing teaching materials for and conducting a Training Workshop on Commodity Balances and Input-Output Analysis.

Subprogramme: Comparisons of real incomes and purchasing powers in the ECWA countries

Programme element: Study of the international real income comparisons of the ECWA region

96. "Draft Preliminary Estimates of Real Gross Domestic Product by Kind of Economic Activity for the Arab World (1960-1977)" (79-2744) has been published.

Other activities

97. ECWA participated with the UN Statistical Office in organizing the First Technical Meeting of Arab Statisticians on National Household Surveys. ECWA also participated in the Consultative Meeting on the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) held in New York. Later ECWA prepared and submitted to the UNDP a project proposal for the establishment of a Household Survey Unit at ECWA.

### XIII. POPULATION

Sub-programme: Demographic Data

Programme element: Regional surveys

98. Preparatory work on the census of Palestinians continued during the past year. A Census Expert was recruited, and an advisory committee and a technical committee were formed. The advisory committee is discussing with the Government of Jordan the provision of the special tabulations needed from the recently conducted census in the country and will shortly be contacting the governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Kuwait for the same purpose. The technical committee has completed a list of tabulations containing the core tables of the Palestinian census.

Programme element: Country surveys and censuses

99. The United Nations Headquarters decentralized to ECWA executing agency functions with regard to the country project "Demographic socio-economic survey of nine towns in the Sultanate of Oman". The survey was completed during 1979 and the results printed by the Government.

100. ECWA continued to offer to the countries of the region advisory services on population data collection. Missions were effected to Yemen, Oman, Syria, Jordan and Democratic Yemen. Projects were developed for Lebanon (multi-purpose survey), Yemen (International Migration Survey, and Civil Registration), Syria (Population Census of 1980), Oman (a-Housing and Population Census planned for 1981 and b-Socio-Economic and Demographic Survey in selected towns and rural areas) and Democratic Yemen (Population Research Centre and Preparatory project for 1963 Population Census).

101. As a step towards improving understanding of population and housing censuses in the region particularly in view of forthcoming national activities associated with the 1980 round of population censuses, a comparative study of census questionnaires was initiated in 1978 and a draft completed in 1979. A similar comparative study on population census tabulations was also completed in draft form in 1979. Copies of these studies are available on request. Both studies have been distributed to government and national experts for comments and will be finalized during 1980.

Programme element: Compilation and evaluation of demographic socio-economic data

102. Work continued on the compilation and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data for the countries of the ECWA region. The second inventory of some 54 demographic and related indicators was published in 1978 under the title Demographic and Related Socio-Economic Data Sheets for Countries of the ECWA Region. It pointed out the important gaps in the formulation statistics in the region. Estimates have, therefore, been undertaken and the results will appear in the forthcoming issue of the data sheets in 1980. In addition to their wide distribution within and outside the region, these data sheets constitute benchmark data for the population labour force and educational projections of the United Nations system.

Programme element: Population Bulletin of ECWA

103. The Population Bulletin of ECWA continued in its role as the major scientific journal in the field of population in the region. Issues Nos. 15 and 17 for 1979 are at an advanced stage of preparation and will be published during the first quarter of 1980.

Programme element: Dissemination of population data and research

104. The Population Reference Centre continued its rapid expansion and has become a focal point for research and information of population matters in the region. The Centre has continued to undertake a major clearing-house activity which includes the dissemination of research findings to governments and researchers in the region and assistance to researchers in obtaining research grants and to potential trainees in obtaining training fellowships. The latter services included the maintenance and updating of comprehensive information of donor agencies and research and training institutions within and outside the region.

Sub-programme: Demographic projections and policies

Programme element: Demographic studies and studies on the determinants and consequences of Population trends

105. Due to difficulties in the recruitment of qualified demographers, these programme elements could not be fully completed. Nevertheless, work on the population situation in the ECWA region has been initiated and three country profiles have been completed and published (Bahrain, Jordan and Yemen). In addition, the Arabic version of ECWA's book entitled The Population Framework was published during 1979. Copies are available on request.

Programme element: Monitoring, review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action and related regional recommendation

106. The Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA was held in Damascus, Syria from 1-6 December 1979. It was attended by representatives of countries of the region in addition to a number of scholars from the region's universities. Papers of the conference were presented by experts from within and outside the region. A set of recommendations emanated from this conference and were widely distributed.

Programme element: Studies on the Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation of Population Policies

107. A major study on the legal aspects of intraregional migration was initiated during 1978 and was completed in 1979. The results are appearing in the Population Bulletin Nos. 15 and 16. It is intended to publish the full study in book form during 1980 together with a brief summary of main findings. Other studies under this element have been delayed because of recruitment difficulties.

108. Work has continued on the Arabic Manual of Population Terminology which will contain descriptions of all relevant population concepts together with a dictionary of demographic terms in English, French and Arabic. This publication is scheduled to appear in 1980. Also work on an extensive bibliography of population and development literature in the Arab world was initiated and is also scheduled to appear in 1980.

#### XIV. TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Programme element: Establishment of comprehensive information system on the operation of transnational corporations in the ECWA Region

109. Work under this programme element included:

(a) Completion of a study entitled "Laws and Regulations pertaining to Foreign Business operations with specific reference to TNCs in the ECWA Region". In this connexion, missions were undertaken to a number of ECWA member countries;

(b) Work was initiated in work on bibliographical survey of the existing stock of literature on transnational corporations in the region, with particular emphasis on materials written in Arabic;

(c) Contribution to the work of the Centre on TNCs (CTC) on the global survey of government institutions dealing with TNCs. ECWA's contribution dealt with these institutions in ECWA member countries.

Programme element: Study on transnational banking and insurance

110. A study on "Transnational Banks in Lebanon and Bahrain" has been initiated. In this connexion a mission to Bahrain was undertaken and phase I of the study concerning information gathering and data collection on Bahrain has been completed.

Programme element: Study of TNCs in the extractive industries

111. A consultancy study on "TNCs in the Extractive Industries in the ECWA Region" has been initiated.

Programme element: Study of TNCs in the shipping sector

112. A consultancy study on "The Operations of TNCs in the Shipping Industry in the ECWA Region" is under preparation.

#### XV. ENVIRONMENT CO-ORDINATION

113. The Environmental Co-ordination Unit (ECU) was established on 1 June 1979. In addition to co-ordination activities with UNEP and other United Nations bodies, efforts of this unit focused on preparations for holding a Regional Seminar on Alternative Patterns of Development and Life Styles in Western Asia. In this regard, activities included the convening of three consultative working groups to draw the outline, discuss and co-ordinate documents regarding the preparation of documentation. Consequently, the following documents have been prepared through consultancies:

- (i) A keynote and an overview paper (E/ECWA/ENV/WG.16/0);
- (ii) Agricultural development and land management in relation to environment and food supply needs in the ECWA region (E/ECWA/ENV.WG.16/3);
- (iii) Integrated approach to water resources management in rural areas in the ECWA region (E/ECWA/ENV.WG.16/4);
- (iv) Case study on the Aswan High Dam; its impact on the environment and its side-effects (E/ECWA/ENV/WG.16/6);
- (v) Present trends of industrialization and urbanization and their economic, social and environmental implications (E/ECWA/ENV/WG.16/7);

- (vi) Environmental implications of oil and alternative sources of energy in the ECHA region (E/ECHA/ENV/WG.16/5);
- (vii) The economic, social and environmental implications for the ECHA region of present and future trends in international relations (E/ECHA/ENV/WG.16/2).

## XVI. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### A. Regional Advisory services provided by ECHA to the member States during 1977

114. The services of nine regional advisors were made available to member States upon their requests to provide assistance in the respective fields of activities as indicated below. In certain instances, regional advisors participated in member States/ECHA sponsored meetings, seminars and conferences with the aim of sharing their expertise for the successful outcome of the meetings, seminars and conferences.

#### Bahrain

115. Advisory services in human settlements and industrial Projects were provided. In the former case, a regional advisor assisted the government in the assessment and evaluation of the activities undertaken by the Ministry of Housing in the area of physical planning and human settlement. In the latter case, assistance to the government was rendered in the preparation of tenders for welding electrode plant.

116. A regional advisor in Human Resources Development activity participated in and contributed to the proceedings of two expert group meetings: viz. (i) study of youth needs and attitudes and (ii) defining basic needs of children.

#### Egypt

117. Assistance was given to the government in the identification of projects with specific reference to double cropping of rice and better utilization of Cotton cropped area.

#### Jordan

118. Advisory services were rendered to the government as follows: (i) assistance to the Department of Statistics in establishing the basis for household expenditure survey; (ii) assistance to the Housing Corporation in the assessment of housing



projects; (iii) revision of the prospects of joint use of industrial facilities for three major industrial mining companies and (iv) assistance to the Civil Registration Organ in the assessment of computers and other analysis requirements for vital registration.

An expert group meeting on Basic Services for the Child in the Arab Region was serviced by the regional advisor in Human Resources Development.

#### Oman

119. The following services were provided to the government in five mission trips; (i) Population Statistics - follow-up the progress of the Socio-Demographic Survey and Population Census Project; (ii) Agriculture - assisted the government in the Economic Study of Dates factories; (iii) Development Finance - held training programmes for government officials in public finance and a seminar on "Economic Effects of the Public Budget" and assisted in the study on the situation of public budget and (iv) Human Resources Development - assisted in appraising project OEA/74/021 "Assistance to the Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs" and participated in the elaboration of project work plan for 1980 and in the training course on child welfare.

#### Syria

120. Advisory services in five separate missions were rendered to the government in the following fields: (i) Development Planning - (a) assisted the government in the follow-up work in the development planning; and discussed with the State Planning Commission the progress achieved on Syria's Economic models; and (b) assisted the State Planning Commission in the preparation of trend projections for the five year plan; (ii) Population Statistics - assisted the Central Bureau of Statistics in the revision of 1960 Population census project and followed up the finalization of the project document; and (iii) Statistics and National Accounts - assisted the Central Bureau of Statistics in the preparation of national income indicators, net domestic production and net products at 1975 prices.

121. The services of four regional advisors were made available at the following five meetings/conferences held at different times: (i) Interagency meeting on the needs of Palestinians - Regional Advisor in Human Resources

Development; (ii) Second Regional Population Conference of ECWA - Regional Advisor in Population Statistics; (iii) Seminar on Phosphate Fertilizers - Regional Advisor in Industrial Projects identification, formulation and appraisal; (iv) workshop organized by the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, Baghdad - Regional Advisor in Statistics and National Accounts who lectured in price statistics; and (v) Regional Preparatory meeting for the World Conference on the UN Decade for Women 1980, - Regional Advisors in Human Resource Development.

#### United Arab Emirates

122. In the following four fields, five advisory missions were carried out to: (1) (a) Human Settlements - discuss with the Ministry of Housing and Public Works the proposed Conference on Human Settlements, Finance and Management held in Al-Ain (b) Human Settlements - assist the government in establishing a physical planning Agency; (2) Development Planning - advise the government on the organizations of the Statistics Section; (3) Statistics and National Accounts - assist the Ministry of Planning in the establishment of National Accounts Department and in the survey of wholesale and retail prices; and (4) Human Resources Development - advise on the establishment of a training and research centre and the reorganization of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

123. A Regional Advisor in Statistics and National Accounts attended and participated in the following two meetings: (a) meeting of Arab Statisticians for developing the National Household Survey Capability Programme, and (b) Committee meeting to discuss and finalize statistical formats for data collection by Arab Monetary Fund on balance of payments, public finance and money and credit in Arab countries.

#### People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

124. The services of two Regional Advisors were provided to the government in the following two areas over three separate missions: (1) Customs Administration - (a) to discuss advisory and training services that can be rendered in development finance, custom administration and legislation; and (b) to lecture and discuss the penalty problems in customs law; and (2) Human Settlements - to advise the

government on formulation of policies in planning of Human Settlements, urban, rural, dispersed, concentrated, old and new; and in the formulation of project document.

#### Yemen Arab Republic

125. Six missions to provide advisory services in the following four areas were undertaken as follows: (1) Human Settlements -- to discuss with the pertinent government officials matters related to house numbering and housing bank activities; (2) Customs Administration -- (a) to discuss with the relevant officials advisory and training services that can be rendered in development finance, customs administration and legislation; (b) to conduct a course on principles of customs law; to participate in a seminar for customs leaders; to evaluate the application of existing customs law and regulations; to advise customs officials in this work; to review the Manual on "Customs Regulations"; and (c) to advise on training for customs officials and to present proposed regulations and administrative directives related to customs administration; (3) Development Finance -- to participate in the training programme prepared by the National Institute for Public Administration; to participate with the officials at the Institute for Public Administration in planning for the seminar on the "Role of the Budget and Government accounting System in 1960 in the light of the requirements of the 2nd Quinquennial Development Plan"; and (4) Population Statistics -- to assist the government in the implementation of civil registration project.

#### General

126. The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics in Baghdad for which ECWA is the Executing Agency since July 1977, and November 1979 respectively, have also been the beneficiaries of the services of the ECWA Regional Advisors. Papers for discussions and lectures on various subjects have been prepared and delivered at meetings/ seminars organized by the two Institutes either at their headquarters or at places away from the headquarters.

127. Backstopping services for some of the ECWA regular workprogramme have also been provided by some of the Regional Advisors. In particular, in the

field of Economic Aspects of Energy Development, a Regional Advisor has been instrumental in the discussion with the OAPEC (Kuwait) about co-operation in respect of the preparation for the conference on new and renewable sources of energy and also collected data and information from Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates which are useful to the relevant work programme of the division.

B. Regional projects decentralized to ECWA

128. The Economic Commission for Western Asia has been designated Executing Agency for two Regional Institutes. These are the Arab Planning Institute located in Kuwait and the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics with its headquarters in Baghdad. The former was decentralized to ECWA in July 1977 while the transfer of the latter was effected in November 1979.

The Arab Planning Institute (RAB 17/002)

129. The Institute conducts short and long-term training courses in social and economic planning. Short term courses, which usually last for a little over a month, include such subjects as Implementation of Development Planning and Project Evaluation. Between January and March 1979, a total of about 47 participants from the various states in the region have followed these courses. During the period of December 1979 to April 1979, the Institute also organized a bi-weekly seminar on Oil and Development where seven papers were presented.

130. The long-term courses are of a duration of one year and two areas of concentration which started in 1979 with enrollments of nine and 29 candidates respectively were Advanced Planning Techniques and Development Planning. The Institute has made significant contributions in the area of research which centered on the study of the Patterns of Economic Development in the Arab Countries. Eight papers were published and circulated among the Institute members. Four papers had been prepared as background documents for discussion in the conference on New Development Concepts and Strategies and their relevance to the Arab World held in Damascus in May 1979.

The Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (IAB 79/028)

131. The objectives of the Institute are to provide training in various statistical fields and guidance and training for research on statistical methodology. The Institute conducted the following courses:

(i) Advanced course in Applied Statistics, from October 1977 to July 1978. Eighteen participants from different states of the region enrolled in this course;

(ii) Intermediate level course in General Applied Statistics held in Jordan from October 1978 to July 1979. Four candidates participated in this course from four states in the region;

(iii) Course on Fishery Statistics in Kuwait was offered in February 1979 for four weeks. Twenty-four candidates from eleven states of the region participated in this course;

(iv) Middle level country course in Applied Statistics held in Kuwait from 3-29 March 1979 to improve the qualifications of government statisticians at the middle levels. Sixteen participants from seven states in the region enrolled in the course;

(v) Workshop on National Accounts held in Baghdad in co-operation with ECWA, during the period 9 - 23 January 1979. Twenty-two nominees from seven states participated in this workshop.