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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA  
(July 1965 - July 1967)

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA  
(July 1965 - July 1967)

Since the last report on technical assistance was made to the Fourth Conference of African Statisticians<sup>1/</sup> statistical projects in the region have been at a substantial level. The resources of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) have made possible: provision of the services of advisory, operational (OPEX) and associate personnel to countries requesting long-term direct assistance<sup>2/</sup>; maintenance of a regional advisory service at ECA so as to meet requests of countries for short-term assistance in specialized fields; appointment of an inter-regional adviser on computer methods, and another on demographic and social statistics; support of middle-level training centres in Achimota, Addis Ababa, Dar-es-Salaam and Yaoundé as well as a higher-level Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Rabat, through provision of teaching personnel, fellowships and equipment; award of fellowships for advanced training outside the region; and organization of working groups and seminars to provide an opportunity for statisticians in the region to exchange experience on common problems in specialized fields, and to set up standards for the solution of those problems.

Direct assistance continued to be provided for general organization and development of national statistical services where they were in need of being established or strengthened, though as countries have gained statistical experience, increasing numbers of requests have been received for assistance in such specialized fields as national accounts, demographic statistics, sampling, industrial statistics and data processing. As in the past, advisory and operational personnel have provided the expertise needed in these fields over the long period, and volunteer personnel made available under the Associate Expert scheme have helped to alleviate temporary shortages of qualified national staff. At the same time regional advisers posted at ECA have responded to requests for

<sup>1/</sup> E/CN.14/CAS.4/10

<sup>2/</sup> See Annex I for break-down.

short-term assistance in specific fields, and they have also helped to organize and have actively participated in UN-sponsored seminars and working groups in their particular fields. In addition, they have lectured on an ad hoc basis at the various UN-sponsored training centres and institutes.

The various forms of assistance made available under the UN Development Programme have been coordinated insofar as possible in order to develop integrated programmes for the region. Descriptions which follow of activities in specific fields will give some indication of how this has been accomplished.

The urgent need in many countries for national accounting data for purposes of planning has led to an unprecedented number of requests for assistance in this field. During the period under review national accounts experts were assigned to nine countries (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia). In addition, the two regional advisers covering this field furnished urgently needed advice to a number of other countries, assisting in the design and compilation of accounts for the public sector and the economy as a whole, transferring their experience from one country to another, and contributing to the exchange of experience among African countries and to improving the international comparability of national accounting data. Furthermore, two working groups were organized, the first in Addis Ababa from 14 to 21 July 1965<sup>3/</sup> to discuss the proposed revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts and its adaptation to the circumstances of the developing countries, the second from 21 to 28 November 1966<sup>4/</sup> to discuss national accounts at constant prices.

In connexion with the World Population and Housing Census Programme plans are being made in many countries to take a census around 1970. Individual experts in this field are already assigned to Algeria, Guinea, Morocco, Tanzania and Tunisia, and recruitment is in process in respect of requests received from Togo and Upper Volta. As an indication of the

<sup>3/</sup> E/CN.14/CAS.4/NAC/21

<sup>4/</sup> E/CN.14/CAS.5/NAC/24

magnitude of the work to be done in this field, 21 countries in Africa have never had a national population census. While these countries should receive assistance in planning a census around 1970 and in training the required personnel, it will not be possible to find individual experts for all the countries who will request help. Arrangements have therefore been made for a second regional adviser to be assigned to ECA from October 1967, and meantime an inter-regional adviser was temporarily posted in Africa from February 1967 to help meet existing as well as future requests. Firm requests for the services of the inter-regional adviser have already been received from Ethiopia, Cameroon, UAR and Zambia. Tentative requests for advice on population and housing censuses or surveys are also at hand from Rwanda, Sudan, Madagascar, Somalia and Democratic Republic of the Congo. In preparation for participation in the 1970 World Census Programme working groups on this subject met in several regions, including one in Addis Ababa from 21-29 June 1965<sup>5/</sup> in order to formulate a regional programme, and to reach agreement on a provisional list of topics for inclusion, in a population census. The UN sponsorship of the Programme is intended to give guidance, both on a worldwide and on a regional basis, for the collection of basic data on population and housing needed for economic and social planning and for research.

In the deliberations of the fourth Conference of Statisticians special attention was devoted to the need for improved programmes of industrial statistics in African countries. Direct assistance in this field has since been provided by U.N. advisers to six countries in the region. In addition, a working group of experts from eleven African countries met in Addis Ababa from 12-17 December 1966 to discuss measures for the improvement of industrial statistics and to examine a number of proposals put forward by the U.N. for the revision and extension of international recommendations in this field.<sup>6/</sup>

Training is an important feature of efforts to promote statistical development and continued to receive high priority during the biennium. Individual fellowships awarded to qualified persons for advanced training in statistics numbered 28 (from 11 countries). These figures do not include awards made for attendance at U.N. sponsored training centres or participation in U.N. sponsored seminars and working groups.

<sup>5/</sup> E/CN.14/CAS.4/CPH/11

<sup>6/</sup> E/CN.14/381

In Africa the UN-assisted international middle-level training centres at Addis Ababa, Achimota, Dar-es-Salaam and Yaoundé, and the national centre at Abidjan, accommodated a total of 575 trainees during the period 1961-1966. While the formal agreements between the host countries and the United Nations controlling the operation of the Achimota and Yaoundé Centres expired at the end of 1966, and that in respect of the Addis Ababa Centre will come to an end in 1967, provision continues to be made in the programme for the services of the UN Directors of Studies of these Centres through the end of 1968 in order to provide a gradual phasing out of UN assistance. United Nations fellowships are also being provided for the 1966-67 academic year at the same level as before, though from 1967-68 onwards, fellowships will become the responsibility of the countries utilizing the facilities of the Centres. The Achimota Centre was merged with the Institute of Statistics in the University of Ghana in October 1966, and the Addis Ababa Centre is already located in the Haile Selassie I University. As the Dar-es-Salaam Centre is a relatively new project operating under an agreement continuing until 1970, assistance in the form of staff, fellowships, etc., will continue during the agreed period. Progress at this Centre has been fairly rapid and it has been possible to introduce an intermediate-level course after only one year of operation. The Centre is located at the University College, Dar-es-Salaam, and it is hoped that suitable arrangements can be made for it to be taken over eventually as part of the university.

On 1 October 1965, the Institut National de Statistiques et d' Economie Appliquée in Rabat began operations with assistance from the Special Fund component of the Development Programme. Training in Statistics had formerly been given on a limited scale at the Centre de Formation d'Ingénieurs des Travaux Statistiques de Rabat, established in 1961 and a recipient of aid under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. Since the Centre could not cope with the growing demand for trained statisticians at various levels, the Government of Morocco requested the assistance of the Special Fund to expand the Centre into an Institute offering a differentiated programme to larger numbers of

students. Whereas the Centre had been admitting approximately 40 students annually to a two-year "attaché" course, the Institute is accommodating 40/50 students a year for a more advanced three-year programme which will cover both statistics and applied economics, and about 20 students a year for a one-year technician course, aimed at preparing the trainees to perform accurately and with understanding the routine and semi-routine tasks which are part of statistical work. The courses are open to non-Moroccan as well as Moroccan students, and a diploma equivalent to the "licence" of the University of Rabat is awarded to those who successfully complete the three-year course.

While it is generally agreed that considerable progress has been made towards the training of statistical personnel as a result of UN assistance in this field, estimates regarding future needs made it clear that the educational facilities in Africa are not yielding sufficient numbers of professional statisticians capable of bringing into the work of government and industry the advantages of statistical technology. Recommendations by this Conference and the Economic Commission for Africa indicate the need for a new approach to the question of providing education and training facilities in statistics in the region, and with this in mind an expert group on the education and training of statisticians was convened by the Secretary-General in 1966. The group recommended for Africa the establishment of an institute of economic and social statistics to meet the shortfall in the number of official statisticians estimated to be required over the next five years. Following this recommendation the Government of Uganda has submitted a request to United Nations Development Programme for assistance in establishing this institute.

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ANNEX I  
UN ADVISORY, OPERATIONAL (CPEX) AND ASSOCIATE EXPERT PERSONNEL  
(provided during the period July 1965-July 1967)

Recipient Country	ASSOCIATE EXPERTS												
	S	U	B	J	E	C	T	F	I	E	L	D	S
	Statistical Organization	Statistical Training	Economic and Financial Statistics	Industrial Statistics	National Accounts	Sampling	Demographic Statistics	Computer Operations, Data Processing					
ALGERIA		Wiesler		Ilief			Zrimec						
BOTSWANA	Tharmaratnam												
CAMEROON	Snapper	Serre											
CONGO/DEM REP	Chaussy												
ETHIOPIA	Clarke	Ellis											
GHANA		Dinour Nadkarni		Kovacka	Singal	Des Raj Carter Choudhury Parniczky	Miltenyi	Grant					Abrahamsson
GUINEA	Florea						Widstam						
KENYA					Frentzel Wagner	Cheriyen							Sundstrom
LESOTHO	Russell												
LIBYA	Nour-Eldin			Nair									
MALI	Naoumov												
MAURITIUS			Nair										
MOROCCO		Tibi Duong		Hudin			Hong						

Statistical Organization	Statistical Training	Economic and Financial Statistics	Industrial Statistics	National Accounts	Sampling	Demographic Statistics	Computer Operations Data Processing	
MOROCOCCO	Rajakovic Korop Merediz- Montero Pena-Trapero Ivanovic							
NIGER	Maraviglia							Ehrenstrahle
NIGERIA	Ramanurthi	Shrivastava Des Raj	Murti Stepinski Masters		Oppitz	Kannisto	Berggren Nilsson	
SIERRA LEONE				Pillai	Cherlyan			Van den Bovenkamp Von Sydow
SOMALIA	Horn				Jacobsson Rao	Nilsson		Larsen
SUDAN						Korencic		Sjoberg Egero
SWAZILAND	Kramer		Verma					
TANZANIA	Jacobsson	Lal Des Raj	Juranovic				Tristan	
TOGO								
TUNISIA								
UGANDA								
UPPER VOLTA	Coudsy							
ZAMBIA	Bhate							