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REPORT ON MISSION TO AFRICAN  
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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(11 May-27 July 1980)

by

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This report is the sole responsibility of the writer.  
It has been submitted to the Department of Technical Co-  
operation and Development, United Nations, which may alter  
or supplement these findings.

## REPORT ON VISITS IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES

### I. BACKGROUND

1. In October 1977, the Conference of African Statisticians at its tenth meeting, recommended that a study should be conducted on means of providing special assistance for Portuguese-speaking African countries within the framework of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA).

2. The objective is to set up the necessary arrangements which will enable the countries concerned to train adequate numbers of statistical personnel to ensure the collection and analysis of the data needed for economic and social planning.

3. The ECA Statistics Division representatives held discussions on this matter with representatives of these countries in Addis Ababa and Directors of the STPA centres were invited during their meeting in October 1979 to make suggestions on ways and means of meeting the above objective. The outcome of those discussions is that several training options must be considered and included:

- i) the establishment of one or two statistical training institutes which could be used by countries in the group.
- ii) the utilization of existing STPA centres
- iii) the utilization of statistical training centres outside the region, and
- iv) the organisation of local on-the-job training.

4. In Report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA member States, held in April 1980, reference is made to organising a meeting of Directors of statistics of the countries concerned to discuss in more detail problems of common interest and find practical solutions to them. It is also mentioned to plan evaluation missions in those countries to deal with statistical training. I was instructed to undertake missions to the following countries:

Angola  
Cape Verde  
Guinee Bissau  
Mozambique  
Sao Tome and Principe

5. The Government of Cape Verde indicated that the date proposed for my visit in Praia was not convenient, so I didn't go there during the present tour.

6. The purposes of the mission were :
- i) to evaluate in each country the existing arrangements for statistical training at both sub-professional and professional levels,
  - ii) to ascertain in each country the target requirements for statisticians and other statistical workers during the next ten-year period,
  - iii) to discuss with appropriate Ministers, Directors of Statistics and other concerned officials, how these requirements might be met,
  - iv) to discuss with appropriate officials in each country, ways in which the requisite training programme may be financed,
  - v) to decide with appropriate officials upon the date and the venue of the meeting of representatives of the countries concerned, and
  - vi) to prepare a full report on all aspects of the statistical training programme for Portuguese-speaking African countries.

## II. SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

7. The following notes summarise the main findings from the discussions I held during my needs assessment mission in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

### Statistical apparatus: present situation

8. Generally speaking there is no trained national statistician at the Central Bureau of Statistics of the four countries visited. The staff in post include sub-professionals without formal training in statistics and very often with a low academic background. Professionals assuming duties of head office or head of departments are usually economist or mathematicians.

9. It has been noted that the exodus of Portuguese technicians has affected considerably the state apparatus of those countries.

10. The Central Bureau of statistics suffers from lack of integration within the planning apparatus of the countries concerned and the absence of units collecting and compiling current administrative statistics in other Government Ministries.

11. The staff position in each country visited appears as follows.

	Professionals		Sub-professionals	
	Nationals	Expatriates	Permanent	Field Staff
Angola	3	6	39	-
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-
Guinee Bissau	1	-	10	-
Mozambique	4	5	32	109
Sao Tome & Prin.	-	1	32	-

12. Angola and Mozambique have electronic data processing units within the CBS. There are 22 assistants working in that department in Angola out of the 39 permanent sub-professionals. The Mozambican department operates as a liaison unit with the national EDP centre with one analyst and 4 operators. The expatriate we find in Sao Tome is the project manager of the population census programme.

Statistical training needs

13. The national requirements of the countries concerned in the course of the next ten years are as follows:

	Professional staff			Sub-professional staff		
	CBS and other government-al services	Other sectors	Total	CBS and other government-al services	Other sectors	Total
Angola	50	10	60	100	25	125
Cape Verde <sup>2/</sup>	15	-	15	25	-	25
Guinee Bissau	15	5	20	50	10	60
Mozambique	40	10	50	109+55 <sup>1/</sup>	15	179
Sao Tome & P.	13	12	30	20	10	30
	133	37	175	359	60	419

1/ 109 for district offices and 55 for the others

2/ figures for Cape Verde are provisional

14. In view of the urgency for these countries to have adequate statistical personnel and owing to the lack of qualified candidates to be trained at the top level, emphasis will probably have to be placed on the training of intermediate level staff. Consequently the estimates given above for this training should be considered as minimum.

Training facilities

15. The only full-time centre devoted to training in statistics is located in Lubango (Angola, Huila Province).

Basic information on the Lubango centre

- . Name of the Institution: Institute F. ENGELS
- . Aims of the Institutions: Training sub-professional personnel in statistical methods and in electronic data processing.
- . Date of establishment: February 1979
- . Student capacity: The current enrolment is  
1st year: 82 students  
2nd year: 28 students
- . Academic year: Starts in May
- . Source of financing: Angolan Government
- . Staff capacity: Not determined
- . Duration: Four years
- . Entry requirement: 8 years schooling
- . Training programme: The programme consists of a set of core subjects devoted to issues that are pertinent to all students enrolled regardless of their specialisation. This applies for the two first years of study. The last two years are devoted to specialisation in statistics or data processing.

Courses offered in statistics specialization

TOPICS	Year		I		II		III		IV		Total
	Semesters		1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	
<b>Number of hours per semester</b>											
<b>A. GENERAL EDUCATION</b>											960
Native language		60	60	60	60						240
Foreign language		60	60	40	40						200
History		60	60								120
Geography		40	40								80
Sports		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	320
<b>B. BASIC TRAINING</b>											980
Mathematics		120	120	120	120						480
Physics		60	60								120
Introduction to Angola economy		100									100
Economics		60	60								120
Accounting			80								80
Philosophy				40	40						80
<b>C. SPECIFIC TRAINING</b>											700
Statistical methods		120	60								180
Sociology					100						100
Introduction to data processing							80				80
Economic analysis			90	150	100						340
<b>D. SPECIALIZATION</b>											3120
Applied economics								160	180		340
Business accounting				100							100
National accounting						180					180
Introduction to national accounting				80							80
Introduction to sectoral analysis techniques					120						120
Economic and financial institution of the PRA								60			60
Human resources				90							90
Mathematic statistics and sampling						180	180				360
Sectoral statistics & industrial statistics							100				100
Planning systems						140	140				280
Planning organisation						80					80
Programming Techniques								180			180
Elaboration of a plan									180		180
Planning implementation and evaluation										160	160

D. cont'd

	Year I		Year II		Year III		Year IV		Total
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	
	<u>Number of hours per semester</u>								
Statistical methods and compilation							120		120
Probability theory				100					100
Demography		100							100
Elementary programming						180			180
Data processing structure							160	160	320
	720	720	820	620	720	720	720	720	5,760
<b>TOTAL</b>	1440		1440		1440		1440		

16. Education system in Portuguese-speaking countries

BASIC SCHOOLING

- . Primary level                      1st - 4th class
- . Complementary level                5th - 8th class

PREVIOUS TRAINING TO ACADEMIC LEVEL

- . Medium level                        9th - 12th class  
(corresponds to sub-professional training)

17. All the National Directorate of Statistics of these countries provide in-service training for their middle level personnel. The topics covered under "Statistics" are mainly: planning and conduct of statistical enquiries, data control and consistency checks. In some cases advantage has already been taken of the preparations for the population censuses to discuss demographic statistics and census methodology. This in-service training activity is usually conducted by expatriates recruited on a bilateral basis for all cases except for Guinea Bissau where a formal project exists and is financed by UNDP within the national IPF. During the discussions with various officials it was pointed out that the STPA centres were prepared to train candidates from Portuguese-speaking African countries provided they meet the necessary requirements. The experience of nationals from Guinea Bissau sent to ITPEA in Algiers proved not to be a complete success.

Proposals

18. Entry requirements to existing statistical training centres and the fact that prospective candidates with the required minimum qualification cannot be released for full time studies at top level



make the use of STPA training centres and training facilities out-side the region not feasible at the moment. Furthermore it is clearly stated that Portuguese is the preferred language of instruction.

19. Therefore it is essential to put emphasis on the implementation of the following solutions:

- i) strengthen and expand on-the-job training,
- ii) establish a middle-level training centre or utilize Lubango's facilities, and
- iii) encourage attendance to short-term courses and seminars.

20. It is worth mentioning that the rate of literacy is generally very low (10 to 15% of the population) in those countries. The intermediate level staff in post have very often 4 to 8 years basic educational training, whereas the newly recruited personnel are also of complementary level (5 to 8 years school). It is systematically admitted that newly recruited personnel have to work for at least two years before pursuing further studies.

21. Now the entry requirement to a formal training institution such as the Lubango centre is eight years of schooling. It is therefore highly desirable for national statistical offices to organise and expand regular in-service training for their statistical assistants and clerks. This will help to improve the performance of their middle-level personnel and select the bright elements to pursue further training at diploma level.

22. As far as the financing and the implementation of the programme aiming at the training of statistical personnel for African Portuguese-speaking is concerned, one can think of two approaches :

- i) national projects to implement in-service training programme (see draft project document attached)
- ii) a regional project to set up a middle-level training centre (see draft project programme attached)  
or a separate project aiming at expanding the Lubango's facilities.

#### Concluding remarks - Further follow-up

23. There is already a national project in Guinee Bissau financed by UNDP for a two-year period approved in March 1979 for about US\$421,000. The outputs expected from the project are as follows :

- i) a medium-term national development plan to be implemented as from 1980,
- ii) the improvement of existing structures of the Ministry of Economic Coordination and Planning,
- iii) the on-the-job training of the national personnel participating in the planning process.

24. The Directorate General of Statistics is one of the five directorates of the Ministry of Economic Coordination and Planning. Two staff members of the Bureau of Statistics attended the seminar on applied economics organised within the framework of this project. There were 37 participants including three nationals from Cape-Verde. Two groups of 7 persons from the statistics attended also the regular in-service training programme. The main subjects taught are mathematics, economics and Portuguese language.

25. It is recommended to renew the project following the guidelines contained in the attached project document. It is highly desirable that the other governments concerned adopt a similar procedure for their in-service training programmes with emphasis on the training of statistical personnel.

26. In the initial stages the efforts of the countries concerned should be concentrated on the training of the large body of statistical assistants and clerks through in-service training programmes.

27. A stage has to be reached where an adequate supply of formally trained middle level personnel will be assured and attention needs to be given urgently to the training within the region of the sub-professional statisticians, trained on statistical methods and techniques adapted to meet the actual conditions of African Portuguese-speaking countries and geared to the needs for National Planning and Economic Development.

28. In the third stage it will be noted that the type and intensity of training are distinct for the middle level and professional courses. Therefore provision should be made later for providing higher professional training to the outstanding middle level trainees found suitable and likely to profit by such training. The supply of trained professional statisticians will enable the countries to take up themselves the training of middle level personnel in due course.

29. If and when it is decided to go ahead with the establishment of a statistical training centre which could be used by Portuguese-speaking African countries, the next phase of the mission can be taken up to consider the latest position and the suggestions amended or amplified by the forthcoming meeting of the countries concerned. However, as far as I am able to gather, the following steps should be taken:

- (a) To work out details of the project.
- (b) Prepare a basic scheme of curricula.
- (c) Compiling the basic elements of the plan of operation.
- (d) Detailed requirements of equipments and training materials.
- (e) Consulting with specialised agencies to ensure their active co-operation and the methods of meeting requirements in their fields of activity.
- (f) Consulting with other STPA centres in regard to proper co-ordination and use of available facilities to mutual advantages.
- (g) Advance on recruitment of qualified staff.

30. The success of the Project depending for instance upon the suitability of the Project Manager. He (the Project-Manager) should be really convinced of the need of practical training and should combine besides high academic record, practical experience, in developing an integrated system of national statistics and in organising different layers of training programmes.

31. It is worth mentioning the following requirements to be taken into account while contemplating setting up a new statistical training centre :

- i) such a centre should be attached to an existing training institution in order to avoid duplication of administrative services,
- ii) the establishment of such a centre should be envisaged in a city where there is already training facilities in connected subject areas (mathematics, economics, etc...)
- iii) the project should be implemented in a country which demonstrates its readiness to shoulder its own share of the responsibility by contributing in kind or in cash towards local operating costs,
- iv) there will be considerable advantages for the centre to be established in a country where the statistical apparatus is likely to be expanded with respect to the possibility of improving the provision of better research facilities.
- v) the extent to which living accommodation could be made available for both the teaching staff and the trainees of the centre.

32. The questions arise: 1) does Angola with its Lubango centre fulfil some of the above requirements? 2) are the other Portuguese-speaking countries prepared to use the facilities already existing in Angola?

33. In fact the Angolan Government is prepared to enrol nationals from other Portuguese-speaking African countries in its national centre provided the selected candidates are holders of fellowships. The cost of such fellowships include among others the tuition fees covering part of the running cost of the centre.

34. The estimated cost of the main items covered by such fellowships is as follows (in Kwanzas per student per annum)

- monthly stipend:	(4000K x 12)	= 48,000 K
- accommodation allowance (boarding and lodging)	(9000K x 12)	= 108,000 K
- tuition fees		= 45,000 K
or approximately US\$6,786		201,000 Kwanzas