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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA
(July 1967 to July 1969)

Technical assistance activities in the region remained at substantially the same levels as reported to the Fifth Conference of African Statisticians^{1/}, emphasis continuing to be given to development of national statistical offices, training, national accounts and population censuses. A total of 83 advisers, operational and volunteer personnel were provided to 28 countries^{2/}, as compared to 82 such personnel provided to 25 countries during the previous reporting period. In addition, three regional advisers and an inter-regional adviser posted at ECA at various times during the period, responded to requests for short-term assistance in demographic statistics, while two others carried out assignments in sampling and public accounts statistics^{3/}. The services of an inter-regional adviser on computer methods were also made available for a short period: to advise the Government of Zambia on problems of computerization and to consult with the participants of the Seminar on the Organization and Conduct of Censuses of Population and Housing in Africa on the generalized computer programme for population censuses which he is preparing for the 1970 census programme.

Many countries continued to require assistance in developing and strengthening their statistical services, for which purpose advisory personnel were

^{1/} Doc. E/CN.14/CAS.5/12

^{2/} See Annex I

^{3/} For details see Doc. E/CN.14/CAS.6/20, paras. 17-28

provided to Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Sudan and Upper Volta, and OPEX personnel to Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. U.N. personnel have since completed their assignments in four of these countries in which the following developments may be reported. In Lesotho the direction of the statistical services is currently in the hands of local counterpart staff. In Botswana, the passage of a Statistics Law made possible the establishment of a Central Statistics Office which subsequently issued a number of statistical publications: the Statistical Abstract for the years 1966, 1967 and 1968, National Accounts for the years 1964 to 1966, and a Production Census Report for the period 1964 to 1966. In Gambia a start was made in improving and extending the limited programme of data compilation which was being undertaken, while some important decisions still needed to be taken on the nature of the statistical services required and the kind of institutional arrangements that should be made to ensure proper functioning of the statistical system as a whole. In Tanzania the OPEX statistician prepared a Five-Year Plan for statistical development covering all phases of the work of the Central Statistical Bureau; the Plan was subsequently accepted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development Planning.

As in the past, volunteer personnel made available under the Associate Expert scheme helped to alleviate temporary shortages of qualified national staff. Personnel in this category were assigned to a total of seven countries during the period under review.

The emphasis on work in national accounts led to the assignment of experts to eleven countries to assist in the preparation of estimates required for planning and in laying the basis for a continuing and systematic compilation of the national accounts. By the time the adviser in Zambia completed his assignment in June 1968, work had been completed on the publication "National Accounts 1964-1966 and Input-Output Tables 1966" and preliminary estimates made for 1967. Following the departure of the expert from Sierra Leone, and based on the method of calculation established by him, national accounts estimates were established for the year 1966-67, and it is expected that estimates for 1967-68 will be published before the end of 1969.

Assistance also continued to be provided in the field of demographic statistics, with experts being assigned to ten countries during the period. Population censuses which took place in Algeria and Tunisia in 1966 and Tanzania in 1967 were thus carried out with the help of U.N. advisers. The question of financing population censuses remains a serious problem in many countries however, and assignments of population census advisers have had to be curtailed in two countries where funds were not available for a full-scale census.

Regional consultations on various subjects have also been made possible through funds provided by the U.N. Development Programme. Seminars and Working Groups in the fields of national accounts, population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, and sampling are described in document E/CN.14/CAS.6/20.

Statistical training continues to have the highest priority in technical assistance programmes in the region, in accordance with the wishes expressed at the various sessions of this Conference. Developments with respect to UN-sponsored and/or assisted training centres are covered in two other documents before this Conference^{4/}. Most noteworthy is the approval by the Governing Council of the U.N. Development Programme at its January 1969 session of the establishment of a new Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at Makerere University College in Uganda; and transformation of the statistical training centre at Yaoundé into the Statistics Training Institute. Work is now going forward on the Plans of Operation for these projects. Mr. G. Parniczky of Hungary has been appointed as Project Manager of the Institute in Uganda and Mr. J. Chaussy of France, who has been serving as Director of Studies at the Yaoundé training centre, is expected to be transferred shortly to the post of Project Manager at the new Institute there.

Apart from the fellowships provided for study at U.N. sponsored training facilities, individual fellowships were also awarded to qualified persons for advanced training abroad. Twenty-six (26) candidates from eleven (11) countries received such awards.

^{4/} The African Statistical and Demographic Training Programme, 1967/69, E/CN.14/CAS.6/18; Report on Statistical and Demographic Activities, E/CN.14/CAS.6/20, paras. 29-34.

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IN ADVISORY, OPERATIONAL (OPEX) AND ASSOCIATE

EXPERT PERSONNEL

EXPERT PERSONNEL
(provided during the period August 1967 to July 1969)

SUBJECTS
FIELDS[illegible]