

29093



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL  
E/CN.14/73  
14 December 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA  
Third Session  
Provisional agenda Item 7 (b)

DOCUMENTS OFFICE  
**FILE COPY**  
NO TO BE TAKEN OUT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

60-1289

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE IBRD IN AFRICA

The Bank's primary function is to provide long-term capital for development projects in its member countries. Its activities in the area of technical assistance and advice are subsidiary, and are relatively limited in scale and scope as compared with those of the United Nations, of most of the UN specialized agencies, and of the principal bilateral programs. Nevertheless they constitute, in the view of the Bank's Management, an essential complement to and foundation for its loan operations, and have become increasingly important over the past several years.

In general the Bank's advisory assistance has emphasized, although it is by no means confined to, the fields of development programming and of mobilizing local capital; and it is hoped that in these fields the Bank may be especially helpful to the African countries which have recently gained independence and have become (or are in process of becoming) members of the Bank in their own right.

A summary of the Bank's past technical assistance activity was presented in the statement prepared for the Second Session of the Economic Commission for Africa, dated November 12, 1959. The following paragraphs describe the continuation of such activities during the past year, 1959-60.

General Survey Missions. The report of the survey mission to Libya was completed early in 1960, following extensive discussion of its findings and recommendations with officials at both national and provincial levels; it has been widely distributed within the Government as a general reference and basis for further analytical studies and program planning. (An English version of the report was published in October, 1960, and preparations are being made for publication and general distribution of the Arabic translation.)

The report of the Tanganyika mission has also been completed and discussed with the Government; its publication is expected in mid-1961. At the request of the Government of Uganda, supported by the United Kingdom, the Bank organized a general survey mission for Uganda, which began its work early in September, 1960; it is expected to start preparing its report early in 1961.

Other Programming Assistance. The Bank continued the assignment of resident representative in Ethiopia, who serves not only as a liaison

between the Bank and the Government on matters relating to loan projects and operations but also, when requested, as advisor to the Government on questions relating to the nation's economic development. At the request of the Government of Nigeria, the Bank has seconded a senior staff member to serve as its principal economic advisor; his salary is being paid by the Bank but he will be responsible exclusively to the Government.

Development Institutions. The Bank has continued to give advice and assistance, on request, to development banks in a number of countries, including Ethiopia, the Ivory Coast, Morocco and Tunisia.

Special Fund Projects. The Bank has an especially close relationship with the UN Special Fund, whose pre-investment studies are expected to be of great value for the consideration of potential loans, by the Bank as well as other lenders, and for establishing sound priorities and projects. The President of the Bank is a member of the Consultative Board of the Special Fund. The Bank is acting as Executing Agency for several projects, including the Niger Dams Survey in Nigeria; operations on this survey started in January 1960, and it is expected to be completed in the early months of 1961.

Recruitment of Experts. Apart from assistance rendered by members of the Bank's own staff, continued help was given to member countries in finding and employing expatriate personnel for executive and advisory positions, involving coordination of economic development studies or plans, the management of development institutions, etc. During the past year assistance was rendered to African countries in obtaining a top-level development advisor, a development bank general manager, an advisor on certain tax problems, a director of economic studies, and an advisor on port administration.

Training Programs. The Economic Development Institute, a staff college organized by the Bank for senior officials responsible for preparing and carrying through development programs and projects, included seven participants from African countries in 1959-60 out of a total of 24. The current course, which began in October 1960, has six participants representing African countries.

In addition, four more junior officials from African countries took part in other training programs of the Bank in 1959 and 1960.

November 1, 1960

.....