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UGANDA

AN OUTLINE OF THE CURRENT SITUATION
AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Using the Headings of
The Statistical Survey of Africa

(Submitted by the Government Statistician,
Entebbe, Uganda)

UGANDAAn Outline of the Current Situation and Plans
For the Future using the Headings of
The Statistical Survey of AfricaINTRODUCTION

1. On the re-organization of the East African Statistical Department recorded in Paper CAS/2 WP/15, the Uganda Unit of the East African Statistical Department becomes the Statistics Branch, Ministry of Economic Development, Uganda. The establishment of the branch has not yet been finally decided. In addition, it has recently suffered considerable losses of experienced officers due to transfer, etc. and further difficulties will occur owing to the absence of staff at training courses. The proposals below depend for their implementation on the speedy filling of vacancies.
2. The range of statistical series at present being collected in Uganda can be seen in the annual Uganda Statistical Abstract and therefore the notes of available information given in the sections below are not in great detail.

POPULATION

3. A census was carried out in 1959. A report on the non-African population has already been published and that for the African population is with the printers. Detailed figures by area, tribe, sex and age group are available and reliable estimates of fertility and mortality have been produced. This work will provide a sound basis for development in future.
4. There has been for some time in Uganda a system of registration of births and deaths, but it has not worked efficiently for the

African population. As a result of a recent inter-departmental Committee, proposals for carrying out sample surveys of vital events have been drawn up and financial provision made. It is intended that these sample surveys should be carried out over the next two to three years and should provide not only direct estimates of births and deaths but also indicate where the current system of registration is defective so that remedies may be sought.

LABOUR

5. An annual Enumeration of Employees has been carried out in Uganda for the past 12 years. This provides information about the numbers of workers by industry and district, and information about earnings in total and by wage group. At present the only employees omitted are those in domestic service and those employed as porters by peasant farmers. In 1959, a sample check on the enumeration showed that although a number of very small enterprises (mainly artisans in trades such as shoe repairing and tailoring) were not recorded the resulting under-estimation of numbers employed and wages and salaries was insignificant. It is therefore intended to maintain the series on the current basis for the next three years. Some information about the group of porters omitted in this enumeration may be obtained from the rural surveys discussed later.

6. There are considerable difficulties (both conceptual and practical) in measuring "unemployment", but some special investigations may be made in conjunction with the Labour Department.

AGRICULTURE

7. A series of acreage figures has been produced in conjunction with the Agricultural Department, but they have deficiencies. A special

investigation was made (with the Agricultural Department) in 1960 and revised figures are being calculated. A special scheme for the improvement of agricultural statistics, drawn up in conjunction with the F.A.O. and the World Bank Survey Mission, would involve a 4-year programme of investigation into acreages and yields. If finance can be obtained for this survey it will be put into operation as soon as possible. Provision has also been made for rural surveys investigating the income, expenditure and consumption of peasant farmers and it is hoped to start a 5-year programme of these shortly.

FORESTRY

8. The present limited quarterly statistics are being discontinued and a new series of annual forestry statistics are being introduced.

FISHING

9. Estimates of fish landed and the number of fishing craft in use are provided regularly by the Game and Fisheries Department. The information about the catch is obtained from records of a sample of landings maintained by the Fish Guards. An attempt to improve the efficiency of this system is in course. This should result in more accurate and more detailed figures becoming available.

INDUSTRY AND MINING

10. No industrial production survey has been carried out in Uganda but an analysis of establishments by size and details of wages and salaries are available from the annual Enumeration of Employees mentioned earlier. It is intended to carry out an industrial production survey to fit in with the United Nations' plans for industrial production surveys throughout the world in 1963.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. Much of the work in this field will be the responsibility of the East African Statistical Department (the name retained by the central unit which will continue to exist after re-organization). Road transport will, however, be a territorial matter. A considerable amount of information is already available (see 'The Economic Survey of Roads and Road Transport in Uganda' by E.K. Hawkins). It is intended that the information available from the motor vehicle registry should be analysed annually in future and that road check surveys will be widened and improved.

EDUCATION

12. Information about numbers of schools and pupils etc., is already available but in conjunction with the Education Department it is hoped to improve the collection of information about the educational system. Further, it is hoped that with external aid a special enquiry into the problem of school leavers will be mounted.

HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES

13. The numbers of medical staff of various grades and the number of hospitals and hospital beds, etc. are already available. Certain information about mortality and morbidity is also prepared by the Ministry of Health. It is hoped that the investigations into vital statistics mentioned earlier will improve the information about the causes of deaths and at a later stage it is hoped to review with the Ministry of Health the present range of statistics and the methods of collection.

EXTERNAL TRADE

14. Trade statistics for East Africa and its component territories are already available in considerable detail and it is intended that the calculation of index numbers of volume and value should be continued by the East African Statistical Department. The Uganda Statistics Branch proposes to extend its economic analysis and interpretation of this field of statistics.

MONEY AND BANKING

15. The usual statistics of commercial banks are already available and considerable information about the currency is obtained from the reports of the East African Currency Board. Balance of payments statistics are available at present only on an East African basis and there are considerable difficulties in producing them at a territorial level. An attempt to make estimates of at least the orders of magnitude of the main components of the balance of payments for Uganda will, however, be made.

GOVERNMENT

16. A functional analysis of central and local Government accounts is already available. The analysis of central Government accounts is divided into recurrent and non-recurrent items and this provides a first approximation of an economic classification. This has not proved fully satisfactory, however, and an economic analysis on the lines of the United Nations manual will be instituted. Work in this field will be in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance, bearing in mind their need for information for budgetary control.

PERSONAL INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND CONSUMPTION

17. Information about these items for a group of unskilled African workers in the towns has been obtained by a series of budget surveys. It is intended to continue these surveys and also to extend them into the rural areas in order to obtain information about peasant farmers. Two index numbers using retail prices are at present calculated.

HOUSING

18. Some information about housing in the main towns was obtained in the course of the 1959 population census. No further work in this field is planned at present.

DISTRIBUTION

19. Some information about the number of establishments and employment in this field is obtained in the course of the annual Enumeration of Employees. Further work will depend upon the results of the industrial production survey which, as mentioned earlier, is proposed for 1963.

OTHER SUBJECTS

20. The national income calculation for Uganda has just been revised and a series of gross domestic product estimates has been produced. It is intended to continue to improve this work. If satisfactory estimates of Uganda balance of payments can be produced it will be possible to estimate gross national product. Work on a series at constant prices will be instituted. Further work on the capital formation series is planned and it is hoped that it will be possible

to improve the coverage of capital formation in rural areas as a result of the rural budget surveys mentioned earlier, and special related investigations.

INTERPRETATION

21. The Statistics Branch will be working as part of the Ministry in Uganda responsible for economic planning and development and consequently it is important that it should spend a considerable part of its time and effort in interpreting the statistics it is collecting for the day-to-day use of Government in its economic programmes. The Branch will also assist in the assessment of development proposals, for example, in estimating the effects of projects on national income and revenue receipts. Further, it is hoped, by associating officers of the department with individual ministries, to improve and extend the statistics collected in the administration of Government and to extend their use in the planning of policy. It is hoped that some time can be found for giving advice on problems of experimental work, etc., to technicians and scientists working in Uganda.

TRAINING

22. It is hoped that some senior officers will be recruited directly from graduates of Makerere College. Others at present employed in junior capacities in the Branch are studying for the examinations of the Institute of Statisticians and will make their way up to the senior posts as they succeed in these examinations and show evidence of efficiency in their daily work.

Statistics Branch,
Ministry of Economic Development,
UGANDA

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