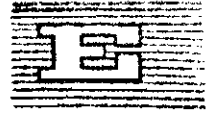


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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



E/1961.14/Stat/L.12

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Second Conference of African Statisticians
26 June, 1961, Tunis.
Item 5(c) of the Provisional Agenda

UNITED NATIONS 1961-62 PROGRAMMES
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN STATISTICS

(Note by United Nations Headquarters)

For the first time governments were asked, in 1960, to present programmes for a two-year period, 1961-62. This report, then, covers the technical assistance programmes in African countries in statistics of the United Nations for 1961-62, as well as the programme under which operating and executive staff (OPEX) are made available to governments.

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations provides assistance through expert advice, and through operating and executive personnel; and arranges training opportunities through fellowships in:

- a) economic statistics, including industrial statistics, external trade statistics, price statistics, national accounts statistics, transport statistics;
- b) social statistics, including population and vital statistics, housing, statistics, statistics of levels of living;

- c) statistical organization and planning;
- d) statistical methodology, including sampling;
- e) training in statistics.

Programme of Advice to Governments through Experts

Projects involving assistance to 12 African countries, to provide 31 experts in the statistical field under all programmes, have been approved. This number includes some Category II projects, which would be carried out if funds are available. In addition, programmes in statistics drawn up following visits of the Executive Secretary of ECA in four countries (Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Dahomey and Niger) have been submitted to the governments of these countries. Similarly, programmes in Chad, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon, and the Malagasy Republic, following the visit of the Commissioner for Technical Assistance, are under discussion. In all a 1961-62 programme of assistance involving some 50 statisticians may emerge.

Among the approved projects, requests in the more important fields are as follows: six countries have requested assistance in statistical organization and programming, principally through the services of a general statistician, whose tasks would be to advise and assist governments in building up statistical services; in two countries these would be OPEX posts, and in the remainder the incumbents would have advisory functions. Experts will be recruited in external trade statistics to advise four governments; in population and vital statistics, two governments; in national accounts statistics, three governments; in industrial statistics, one government; and in social statistics, one government. Two economic statisticians are needed by one government. In all, in 1961-62 490 man-months of assistance from the United Nations in statistics in African have already been approved, and when programmes from other African countries are decided, the number of man-months will be considerably larger.

In addition to the experts requested by individual governments, five regional statistical advisor posts have been approved, and three have been appointed. Of five directors of statistical training centres, three have been appointed; two training experts for individual countries have also been requested.

Followships

Twenty followships for study abroad have been requested by 10 countries, including followships in the economic, financial, demographic, sampling survey, and general statistical fields. Discussions are proceeding with regard to the proposals which nine other governments may wish to make for followships tenable abroad.

It is expected that up to 100 fellowship awards, providing for full or partial payment of expenses of participation, tenable at training centres in Africa in 1961-62, will be made. In addition, awards in connection with study tours in Africa, to observe field surveys and other statistical operations, are provided in the programme.

..... The Statistical Office of the United Nations has devoted much attention over the past several years to the preparation and publication of substantive and methodological studies, which have appeared in an "F" and an "M" series. A list of these publications is attached to this paper as Annex I. All of these documents were sent to the Central Statistical Offices of all countries in Africa, and additional copies would be available to any statistical authority who would request them from the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Together, these publications represent technical assistance through the printed word, and bring to each country in Africa the experience of other countries in the world in the fields they cover.