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UNESCO'S PROGRAMME FOR AFRICA (1961-1962)

(Note prepared by UNESCO for the Third Session of
the Economic Commission for Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

The admission to membership of UNESCO of a number of African States during the eleventh session of the General Conference has contributed to an acute awareness of the needs of Africa in the fields of Education, Science and Culture. The General Conference accordingly gave special priority to African educational problems and adopted an important new programme for Africa.

The major needs of Africa in education had already been outlined during a meeting of Ministers and Directors of Education of African countries organized by UNESCO at Addis Ababa in February 1960. On the basis of this assessment of needs, the General Conference invited Member States and Associate Members "to devote as much as possible of their national resources to the development of education at all levels" and adopted a programme of international aid and co-operation of considerable scope.

In adopting Resolution 11 C/1.2322, the General Conference of UNESCO placed on record "its conviction that the most urgent and vital need in Africa today is education, and that, in meeting this need, planned and balanced educational development must be both a part of the economic and social plans of the region and an essential element in fulfilment of the right to education embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

II. UNESCO'S PROGRAMME

UNESCO's activities in Africa for the period 1961-1962 will derive from four different sources :

(1) Unesco's Regular Programme : (2) Unesco's Emergency Programme for Africa. This programme is based on voluntary contributions from Member States which will be devoted to :

- a) the construction of school buildings ;
- b) the production of manuals and textbooks ;
- c) the recruitment of teachers ;
- d) surveys of educational needs.

The expected target for such contributions is of the order of \$2,250,000 of which \$ 1,100,000 has already been pledged.

In addition, a campaign to create 300 fellowships to train university staff for African countries will be organized with the active participation of Member States.

(3) The United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance;

(4) the Special Fund : This source will play an increasingly important role in UNESCO's programme in Africa in view of the recent decision of the Governing Council of the Special Fund to finance projects of general secondary education, under certain conditions.

(1)

The sum total of these four sources will reach \$11,544,859, viz. :

1) UNESCO's Regular Programme	:	\$2,500,000
2) UNESCO's Emergency Programme	:	\$2,250,000
3) Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance	:	\$4,012,359
4) Approved Special Fund projects	:	\$2,782,500
		\$11,544,859

(1) This total does not include the assistance given to the Congo (Leopoldville) within the framework of ONUC.

III. UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA (1961-1962):

1. Education

A. Planning and Administration

The General Conference decided "to convene a Conference of African States in 1961 with a view to establishing an inventory of educational needs and a programme to meet those needs in the coming years, and to invite the United Nations, the other specialized agencies and the IAEA to co-operate with UNESCO in the preparation and organization of this conference". Following consultations between the Secretariats of UNESCO, the United Nations, the other specialized agencies and IAEA, it is intended to convene this conference in Addis Ababa late in May 1961, under the joint auspices of UNESCO and the Economic Commission for Africa.

Between three and six surveys will be undertaken at the request of Member States to make an overall assessment of their total educational needs, and detailed plans and estimates for the development of their educational systems over a period of years, including statistical data and a high-level manpower survey.

UNESCO will assist Arab Member States in the establishment and operation of a Centre whose major objectives are the in-service training of senior Educational Administrators, especially in the area of educational planning, and the encouragement of educational research with particular reference to educational planning and administration. The Centre will also send missions to assist Member States in drafting their plans for further development.

B. Supporting Educational Services

A team of 5 high-level educational administrators in the fields of educational planning and finance, statistics, evaluation, curricula and modern

methods of administration will spend 6 months in each of 3 African countries. The team will review the administration of education in these countries, and make each review the opportunity to hold practical courses of 3 months each for administrators and supervisors from the host and neighbouring countries. All three courses, catering for some 135 students, will be held in English and French.

A Bureau of Educational Research and Information will be established in Tropical Africa to collect and collate educational statistics, promote and co-ordinate research studies in educational problems, provide documentation, information services and an advisory service on planning, and train officers to establish similar institutions at the national level.

Studies will also be promoted, notably through the new Bureau just referred to, on the linguistic, social, economic and political criteria relevant to the choice of the language of instruction. These will be followed by studies on the problems of orthography, vocabulary and structure, and on the difficulties of passing from one language to another.

A preliminary survey will be made of existing facilities for the production of textbooks, and of research activities in this field, and contacts will be established with agencies, organizations and institutions concerned in this question.

Following this preparatory work, a regional or sub-regional Text Book Bureau will be established to collect and commission manuscripts and illustrations, to evaluate material for prototype production, and to endeavour to negotiate commercial production.

This in turn will be followed by the establishment, as a pilot project, of a sub-regional Textbook Production Centre with a plant capable of producing 2,500 copies a day of a 120-page school-book.

Offers of funds from a Member State have already been received to support a School Building Project, which aims at establishing an organization in two stages to promote the most economical construction of functionally designed educational buildings. A Central School Planning group, to be established first, will prepare costed standard plans based upon modular patterns in a variety of local materials. National Construction Units will contract for and supervise the erection of buildings from costed designs supplied by the Central Group. Both stages also have a built-in training programme.

A meeting of directors of broadcasting and directors of education will be held in 1961 to formulate plans for increased educational broadcasting activities at the national level. In 1962 UNESCO will organize a regional training course in educational broadcast production, with a similar course foreseen in 1963, so as to cover both English and French-speaking countries.

C. Primary Education

Assistance will be provided for the establishment of two centres, one in an English-speaking and one in a French-speaking country, to be operated on a regional basis, for the training, or further training, of tutorial staff in training colleges for primary school teachers. These centres will conduct research in the field of teacher training, and at a later stage will also train primary school supervisors. UNESCO will provide teaching staff, equipment, and fellowships for local staff.

D. Secondary Education

A seminar will be held in 1962 for the Arab States, dealing with problems relating to general secondary education including objectives, curricula, textbooks, examinations and the training of secondary school teachers.

UNESCO is acting as the executing agency for the Special Fund in a number of projects for the establishment of training colleges for secondary school staff. Of these projects, a Federal College in Lagos, Nigeria, has already received the approval of the Governing Council of the Special Fund, and plans of operations have been submitted for colleges in the Sudan, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, and Congo (Brazzaville), this last a regional project catering also for Gabon, Chad, and the Central African Republic. Outline proposals for similar colleges in the Northern, Eastern and Western regions of Nigeria are now with the Special Fund. All these projects involve the provision of technical assistance in planning and of staff, equipment, and fellowships, for operation.

A seminar on the adaptation of the curricula of secondary schools to the requirements of economic and social development and to African cultural values will be held in 1962, preceded by studies on research already in progress in this field in Africa, and on the major problems involved. The curricula of primary schools will also be under consideration, since they are the foundation of later programmes.

A number of Member States have requested UNESCO's assistance in supplying staff at the secondary, general and technical level. UNESCO will develop both a recruiting service to receive and distribute this form of assistance from Member States and also on OPEX-type operation in which recipient States will make a direct contribution to salary at local rates, and also plan and pay for the higher training of their own nationals.

E. Higher education

A regional conference of heads of institutions of higher education, including technological institutes, will be convened in 1962. The conference will examine the development of African universities and the contribution they

are making to economic and social progress. It will also be expected to assess the most urgent needs of the region for teachers, research workers, and professional personnel for economic development, and make recommendations as to how these needs can be met.

In addition to fellowships to be awarded under the various programmes, a special campaign is being organized whereby Member States will be invited to offer fellowships to accelerate the training of African specialists in the basic and social sciences, the humanities and mass communication, for careers in university teaching in these fields.

2. Natural and Social Sciences :

A. Natural Sciences

The survey on natural resources requested by the Economic Commission for Africa, as well as the relevant bibliography, will be published. A survey of the existing scientific training and research institutes in Africa will be undertaken. UNESCO will pursue its studies on the Arid Zones in co-operation with FAO and will continue the FAO-WMO-UNESCO project on agroclimatology, which interests Northern Africa. The bioclimatological and vegetation maps for the Mediterranean area will be completed. A training course for laboratory chemists (Cairo, Dec. 1960 - March 1961), a regional course on Marine Sciences (Casablanca November 1961) and a course on the techniques of prospection of ground waters in the Arid Zones (Tunis, October 1961) will be organized. In 1961-1962, UNESCO will organize a regional course for the training of young geologists (1961) and a seminar on the teaching of basic sciences in Universities. Finally an enquiry will be made as to the advisability of establishing a Regional Science Co-operation Office for Tropical Africa.

B. Social Sciences

Since January 1960, a member of UNESCO's Social Sciences Department has been detached to the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa. Another Social Science specialist resides in Cairo. Under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and UNESCO's Programme of Participation in the activities of Member States, a series of seminars and missions will be organized in the course of 1961-1962. Experts in the field of educational statistics will be sent to a number of African States. Lecturers in the Social Sciences will be sent to some of the African Universities and a number of fellowships in these fields will be accorded to students from these institutes.

A refresher course for young English-speaking African economists, similar to the one organized in Rabat in December 1960 for those of French expression, will be held, with the help of the International Economic Association, in the summer of 1961, probably in Kampala (Uganda). After consultation with the United Nations, UNESCO will study the problems of the training of personnel - especially of middle-grade officials with fairly specialized technical qualifications - to undertake administrative duties, both in the public and private sectors, bearing on economic and social development. A meeting will be held on the subject in 1962. Under UNESCO sponsorship and in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Economic Association will organize in Africa, in 1961, a round-table conference on economic progress. UNESCO will take part in the United Nations concerted programme on urbanization in Africa, by means of scientific

studies and by supplying experts for the workshop on urbanization which will take place in Addis Ababa early in 1962.

3. Educational and Cultural Services for the Community

A. Educational Services

A workshop of specialists in the production of reading materials for new literates will be held in 1962, after suitable studies have been made in 1961. The workshop will bring together authors, translators, editors, illustrators and publishers to discuss the relevant problems. A course for leaders of out-of-school activities for women, to be held in 1962, will follow up the work of the Meeting of Experts in Dahomey (1960), comparing experiments already made and the results obtained, particularly in the field of civic education for women.

The Regional Centre for Education for Community development in the Arab States (ASPEC), at Sirs-el-Layyan in Egypt (United Arab Republic), serves five African countries (Sudan, United Arab Republic, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco) under UNESCO's programme for the Arab States.

A regional meeting of experts dealing with the problem of providing technical assistance to under-developed countries for the development of their information media will be organized in Addis Ababa in 1962. Following this meeting, a report on Africa will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

In the field of journalism, UNESCO is organizing, under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, a 4-month training course for journalists of French-speaking states in Africa. The course, which started on 28 January 1961 at Dakar, is held in co-operation with the Government of Senegal and the University of Dakar.

Finally, under Technical Assistance country programmes, a number of expert missions and fellowships are being provided to assist in training professionals in the field of the press, film, radio and television.

B. Cultural Services

UNESCO will encourage the formation and development of study groups at certain African Universities and Institutes and will assist them in the preparation and implementation of research programmes aimed at spreading a better understanding of the different forms of expression of African cultures and their present trends.

In addition, a programme of participation in the cultural activities of newly independent Member States and Associate Member States of Africa has been initiated. On request, UNESCO will provide assistance in 1961-1962 to projects aimed at the preservation study and presentation of African cultures in all their richness and variety, so as to contribute to a wider understanding and better appreciation of the cultural heritage of mankind.

In consultation with the International Council of Museums, UNESCO will prepare model regulations for the use of African States so as to encourage the establishment and development of national museums dedicated to the preservation of their cultural heritage.

UNESCO's programme also foresees for 1961-1962 certain important activities in the field of the development of library services in collaboration with African States, such as the establishment of a regional training centre for librarians, the establishment in French-speaking West Africa of a public library project similar to the pilot project which has been developed in Nigeria, and the organization of a regional seminar on the development of public libraries in Africa

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