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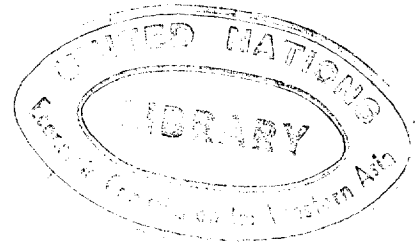
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

FIRST SESSION

Beirut, 4 - 8 June 1974



WORK PROGRAMME

Introduction

The present document on the Work Programme of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) is submitted by the Executive Secretary to the first session of the Commission, with a view to assisting the representatives of the Member States to establish the objectives and priorities of the activities of the Commission in the years to come. I feel that these proposals are consistent with the development needs and priorities of the countries in the Region, but they are initial suggestions which the Governments may wish to discuss, amend and supplement as appropriate.

Various General Assembly resolutions, including Resolution 3199 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, have set a pattern for the formulation and presentation of programmes and budgets of all United Nations organs. The General Assembly has already approved the biennial programme budget for 1974-1975; this took place prior to the establishment of ECWA. The 1974 programme is now being executed on an interim basis, with adjustments necessitated by the staff available and the new circumstances. The activities to be carried out under the 1974 programme are presented below (Chapter II) in a summarized fashion, designed specifically for the information of the Commission.

The proposed programme for 1975 (Chapter III) is based on a fresh approach to the development problems of the Region. Should it be approved by the Commission and subsequently, by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC),

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the General Assembly will be called upon to allocate, late in the year, the financial resources necessary for its implementation. The actual execution will be contingent upon the redeployment of the existing manning table - a legacy of UNESOB - and upon the recruitment of new staff to cope with an expanded programme of work.

In chapter IV, some views are presented on the possible content of the medium-term plan (1976-1979), it being understood that, in the light of the discussions and recommendations of the Commission, a detailed plan and programme for 1976-1977 will be presented to the second session of the Commission, early in 1975.

CHAPTER I

Overall approach

1.1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia has received from the Economic and Social Council a broad mandate spelled out in Resolution 1818 (LV) of 10 August 1973 (see Terms of Reference of the Commission in document E/ECWA 3). Within the limits of this mandate, the Commission has to develop a work programme based on the needs of the Member States at the present stage of their economic and social development, bearing in mind the manpower and budgetary constraints. The present authorized staff of 106 (46 professional and 60 general service), and the financial resources close to \$ 1.2 million, are expected to be substantially increased, but point to the order of magnitude of the activities which can be reasonably carried out by the Commission.

1.2. The general objective assigned to ECWA, namely, to foster "economic reconstruction and development in Western Asia", can be achieved by the extension of ECWA services at both the country and regional levels. The twelve Member States will, no doubt, wish to receive assistance from ECWA in areas of their needs which is over and above that which is provided in the UNDP country programmes. This type of assistance, anchored to specific needs, may be especially relevant to the circumstances surrounding the least developed among the countries of the Region. There are, of course, many development problems which can be best tackled by a regional approach. The Commission will, no doubt, wish to strike a balance between national and regional activities and give the Executive Secretary sufficient indication for the relative emphasis it wishes to place on these two types of ECWA services.

1.3. In paragraph 1, Resolution 1818 (LV) gives the Commission the possibility of rendering three kinds of services to the Member States:

- (i) undertake or sponsor investigations and studies on economic, social and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia;
- (ii) undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of economic, social, technological and statistical information; and,

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- (iii) perform advisory services at the request and for the benefit of the Governments of the Region.

The same paragraph of the resolution indicates that ECWA is required to assist the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its request, in discharging its functions within the Region, in connection with any development problems. In practical terms, the Secretariats of all five commissions, as subsidiary organs of ECOSOC and parts of the global UN set-up, are requested to prepare data and statistics, draft reports and participate in meetings, in response to General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions. This type of activities, often of a continuing nature (for instance, as in the case of the Second UN Development Decade exercise) takes a relatively heavy toll of staff resources.

1.4. For investigations and studies, an organ such as ECWA enjoys some comparative advantages: it has an intimate knowledge of the Region from which a large proportion of its staff originates. It has also access to worldwide expertise and is capable of carrying independent analyses of current and future needs for the economic and social development of the Region. As an organ of overall responsibilities, it can develop the staff capability of responding to the multidisciplinary nature of most of the problems facing this part of the world. The Executive Secretary acknowledges the dangers of excessive indulgence in studies, especially if they are not operationally oriented. He still believes that ECWA can make a meaningful contribution to the development of the Region if the studies it undertakes meet the following criteria:

- (i) they should be closely related to the needs and priorities expressed by the Member States;
- (ii) they should generate ideas for development opportunities. ECWA comes into the international picture at a time of major changes for the Region. In the decades ahead, the Region will have large funds ready for investment. With adequate co-ordination with existing and future organs involved in the same effort, ECWA could play an important role in preparing studies, especially for

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regional projects, which could lead to direct investment opportunities and foster a much faster pace of development of the countries of the Region; and,

(iii) the studies should not be open ended, but should comply with imperative calendars.

1.5. The collection, evaluation and dissemination of information appears to be an absolute must. ECWA needs to base its activities on sound and reliable economic, social, technological and statistical data. It should also play the role of a clearing house on information, bringing to the attention of the countries of the Region and to its regional institutions an increased quantity of well-organized information, data and analysis on relevant development fields throughout the world, making available to the world, through UN bodies or otherwise, information on the countries of the Region and, perhaps more importantly, keeping each of the countries of the Region well-informed of development activities, investment opportunities and co-operation potentialities in other countries of the Region. The Executive Secretary attaches great importance to the project of establishing, as of 1975, a modern Documentation Centre for the collection, analysis, retrieval and dissemination of data and information.

1.6. Advisory services rendered to Governments offer the advantage of great flexibility. They are made available at the request of the Member States and can easily be tailored to the particular needs of each country and to its specific stage of development. They are usually available at short notice, and are especially fit to cope with problems in the new areas of interest. The Executive Secretary would like to recommend the strengthening of such services which would help in establishing and maintaining a dialogue at the working level between the national Ministries and the staff of the Commission.

1.7. Concerning the areas of activities, the Executive Secretary believes that ECWA should be highly selective and should concentrate on a few things, rather than trying to attend to a range of development issues. Admittedly, advisory services have to be made available in a relatively large variety of sectors, within the staff resources of the Secretariat and according to the requests of the Governments. But for studies, the proposals for the 1975 programme and

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for the medium-term plan (1976-1979) are deliberately limited to the following fields where it is felt a multidisciplinary approach may bring about some concrete results within a reasonable span of time:

- water resources development;
- food deficit;
- fertilizers industry;
- industrial training and management;
- tourism;
- public finance and investment;
- natural resources;
- population;
- urban settlements;
- co-operation among existing organizations;
- social attitudes and values in development; and,
- availability of domestic skills.

A number of carefully selected projects in areas of regional priorities (classified into priority A and priority B) are presented in chapter III for the Commission's consideration of the 1975 Work Programme.

1.8. ECOSOC Resolution 1818 (LV) emphasizes the necessity for ECWA to avoid any overlapping with activities undertaken by the specialized agencies or with the United Nations Development Programme. The Executive Secretary is anxious to maintain close liaison with all UN organs, but also with intergovernmental organizations in the Region in the field of economic and social development.

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CHAPTER II

The 1974 Work Programme (Substantive Activities)

2.1. The approach proposed in Chapter I can be applied only after a certain period in order to enable the Secretariat to adjust to new priorities. The implementation of the 1974 Work Programme, inherited from the past, is now in progress. It is presented below, in an abbreviated form, for the information of the Member States. A performance report on the activities of ECWA undertaken in 1974 will be presented to the second Session of the Commission in early 1975.

2.2. Agriculture

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.2.1. Review of agricultural development in the twelve countries of the Region. This review is done by the collection and analysis of all relevant material and information concerning agricultural progress during the year.

2.3. Economic and Social Development, Policy and Planning

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.3.1. Review and appraisal of economic and social conditions and developments. This project consists of annual reporting on current economic conditions, of the first biennial survey of progress in achieving the Second Development Decade objectives, and of the preliminary work for the mid-decade survey (1975).

2.3.2. Substantive support to UN technical co-operation activities. This service is provided to assist experts and Agencies of the UN System in activities related to development planning and policies in the countries of Region.

2.3.3. Advisory services in the field of statistics are made available to Government and inter-governmental regional institutions, at their request.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.3.4. Regional Seminar on Manpower and Employment Planning. Work is carried out in 1974 for this Seminar which is scheduled for April 1975 and which aims at promoting concrete programmes required to induce a more rapid growth of productive employment in the countries of the Region.

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2.4. Environment

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.4.1. Substantive support is provided to operational projects in the field of human environment.

2.5. Human settlements

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.5.1. Substantive support is provided to UN technical co-operation experts and projects in the field of human settlements throughout the Region.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.5.2. With a view to assisting the Governments of the Region in planning and programming for the development of housing and building,

- a survey on housing is being prepared,
- a study on some aspects of housing and urban development is being carried out,
- an expert group meeting on co-ordination of building research is scheduled for 1974 to discuss alternative housing techniques in line with low cost housing requirements.

2.6. Industrial development

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.6.1. Review and appraisal of progress in the manufacturing sector consistent with the targets of the Second Development Decade.

2.6.2. Advisory services are made available to the Governments of the Region to assist them in identifying, appraising and implementing industrial development programmes and projects.

2.6.3. Problems and Requirements for Industrial Development in Selected Countries of the ECWA Region. This is a promotional meeting between representatives of selected countries and donor countries and financial institutions in the Region, as well as national and international organizations active in industrial development in developing countries, for the exchange of views on the development of industrial programmes and projects in the selected countries. Preparation of specific projects is proceeding through staff missions to the selected countries for discussion at the joint ECWA/UNIDO meeting scheduled for October 1974.

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2.6.4. Sectoral survey and expert group meeting on certain branches of the food processing industries in the ECWA Region. This survey, which will cover vegetable oils, vegetable and fruit canning and sugar, will identify problems facing these branches of the food processing industry in the various countries of the Region for discussion at the meeting of national and international experts scheduled for December 1974. This is a joint ECWA/UNIDO activity.

2.7. Population

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.7.1. Advisory services to Governments and substantive support to UN technical co-operation programmes are provided mainly to strengthen civil registration systems and to organize population censuses and sample surveys.

2.7.2. In 1974, the following promotion and development of demographic studies will be completed:

- (a) Demographic characteristics of youth in Syria (in co-operation with UNICEF);
- (b) Comparative study of fertility in Baabda hospital and French Maternity (Beirut - Lebanon); and,
- (c) Intra-Regional migration.

2.7.3. "Population Bulletin of ECWA". Issues No. 7 and 8 will appear in 1974.

2.7.4. Regional Research project and pilot survey. The following activities are carried out under this item:

- (a) Infant mortality survey in Damascus city (to be completed in 1974);
- (b) Infant mortality survey in Beirut (to be completed in 1975);
- (c) Internal migration in Lebanon;
- (d) Socio-demographic Survey in Sana'a; and,
- (e) Socio-demographic Survey in five cities in Oman.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.7.5. Expert Group Meeting on Internal Migration. This meeting will take place in Beirut in December 1974.

2.8. Public Administration and Finance

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.8.1. Substantive support to UN technical co-operation programmes is provided to all projects implemented in the countries of the Region.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.8.2. Work is being undertaken in 1974 for a possible seminar on computers planned for 1975.

2.9. Science and Technology

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.9.1. Efforts will be made to provide advisory services and substantive support to Governments and to operational projects in the Region.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.9.2. ECWA will follow up with the Governments of the Region on the application of science and technology to development in order to determine their interest in the regional plan of action.

2.10. Social Development

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.10.1. Advisory services and substantive support are provided respectively to the Governments and to operational projects on social development in the Region.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.10.2. Preliminary work is being undertaken on the role of women in national development in preparation for the 1975 Seminar on the subject.

2.11. Trade

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.11.1. Review and appraisal of developments in the external sector. Relevant indicators on the level and structure of the overall trade and payments of the ECWA countries will be updated.

2.11.2. Review and appraisal of developments in the field of trade expansion and economic integration.

2.11.3. Advisory services to the Governments and to inter-governmental regional organizations, and substantive support to UN technical co-operation activities are provided.

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2.12. Transport

A. Continuing projects and activities

2.12.1. Advisory services in transport will become available to the Governments of the Region as of July 1974, to assist them, upon request, in improving the efficiency of their transport systems.

B. Ad hoc projects and activities

2.12.2. A survey on transport problems in the ECWA Region will be completed before the end of 1974.

CHAPTER III

The 1975 work programme

3.1. The programme classification proposed below is consistent with the United Nations Programme budgeting system and with the classification used by the Specialized Agencies in reporting to the Economic and Social Council. The following programme areas are suggested as priority proposals (Group A: first priority; Group B: second priority) for consideration and approval by Member States. Such a programme can only be implemented if financial resources are made available and if staff can be recruited on time.

3.2. Policy-making organs

It is anticipated that future annual sessions of the Commission will be held in 1975 and in subsequent years for which adequate resources have to be provided.

Under its terms of reference, the Commission may establish subsidiary bodies, as it deems appropriate, after discussion with any Specialized Agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council. For the purpose of planning the work load of the Secretariat, it is assumed that a number of such subsidiary bodies may eventually be established at the second session of the Commission, which will require adequate servicing as from 1975.

3.3. Executive direction and management

The overall direction of the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia is provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary. This programme category encompasses those efforts on the part of the Executive Secretary and his immediate staff which are devoted to the implementation of the policy determined by the Member States of the Commission, the direction and leadership of the staff, and the efficient management of the resources made available to the Commission.

The programme objectives are:

- to provide the proper interpretation of policies and the direction needed to maximize the contribution of each ECWA programme;

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- to co-ordinate, lead and assess the work done under each programme within the purview of ECWA;
- to follow closely on the major economic and social developments in the Region;
- to ensure the effective and efficient utilization of resources made available to ECWA; and,
- to co-ordinate the activities of the Secretariat of ECWA with those of other United Nations organs and Specialized Agencies, and to maintain close relations with the Governments participating in the work of the Commission.

Resources required: Professional and above: 72 m/n

3.4. Substantive activities

3.4.1. Continuing activities

This programme category encompasses

- the activities aiming at keeping abreast with the developments in the countries of the Region in the fields falling within the competence of the Commission;
- the reporting to United Nations Headquarters on many topics, at the request of the Secretary-General, following up on the General Assembly and ECOSOC Resolutions;
- the advisory services to be rendered, at their own request, to the Governments of the Member States; and,
- the substantive support to operational activities undertaken in the countries by the Specialized Agencies of the UN system.

Resources required: Professional and above: 192 m/n

3.4.2. Ad hoc projects and studies

1. Priority A

(a) Agriculture. The implementation of the work programme in agriculture will be carried out in close co-operation with FAO. The establishment of a joint Division ECWA/FAO is under consideration.

3.4.2.1. Development of water resources

Justification. The scarcity or limited availability of water is a major development constraint which faces, in various degrees, all countries of Western Asia. Increased water resources and more efficient water use is a pre-requisite for any future development of the agricultural and industrial sectors, and is a necessity for the rapidly growing urban centres.

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In the past two decades, most countries of the Region have made considerable, but piecemeal efforts to develop their systems of water resources. A comprehensive approach to the planning and development of water resources has been lacking. Throughout the world, there is a growing awareness and concern about water problems. It seems obvious that, unless urgent and significant action is taken in this field, the Region will face a serious "water-gap" in not too distant a future, and the full potential for the development of the ECWA Region may not be realized.

Objectives. The proposed project would study the following aspects:

- (a) Projections of demand for water in agriculture, industry and human use until the year 1990 in all countries of the Region;
- (b) Stock-taking of present and expected availability of surface and underground water (including its quality), and planned water resource development through non-conventional techniques (desalination plants). The outlook for water availability in the 1990's.
- (c) Ways and means of bridging the "water-gap" in 1990:
 - ways and means to use more efficiently water in the agricultural sector;
 - multipurpose water use (through recycling of water and through agro-industrial complexes);
 - what to expect (technico-economic approach) from the new technologies;
 - possible contributions of regional and sub-regional co-operation for bridging the gap;
 - investigation of the possibility and usefulness of a Water Resources Development Centre for Western Asia; and,
 - indication of an order of magnitude and priorities for the investment that may be needed to cope with the problem, using conventional and non-conventional methods.

Duration. One year. Completion by end 1975.

Resources required.

Professional	: 48 m/n
Consultants	: 6 m/m
Research Assistants:	24 m/n
Travel	: \$...

Remarks. Some elements of the project will be used as a contribution to the Worldwide Water Conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1977, and to a Regional Symposium scheduled for end 1975.

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3.4.2.2. Incentives for accelerating cereals-livestock production:
a short-term approach to the solution of the food deficit

Justification. The outlook for the world supply of cereals and animal products is not very encouraging. In spite of a remarkable but a limited success in some countries of the Region, progress in cereals and livestock production, on which the livelihood of the bulk of the farm population depends, has been discouragingly small. In general, food production in Western Asia has not risen fast enough to support the increase in population and to match the demand from rising per capita incomes. The Region is already a major importer of foodstuffs and the food deficit is bound to widen steadily in the future.

Many factors are responsible for the present state of affairs, which can be corrected only through a long-term programme. However, immediate results can be obtained by providing more adequate incentives to farmers. Until now, use of such incentives, as a component of agricultural policy, has received little attention in the countries of the Region.

Objectives. The proposed project consists of the study of the possibility of introducing incentives, which may have a positive impact in the short-term on the production of the cereals-livestock sector, by arriving at appropriate relationships between wheat and barley, between cereals and other cash crops, between cereals and fodder crops, and between fodder crops and meat and milk.

The study:

- would be conducted on a country-by-country basis, leading to a regional synthesis;
- would compile and evaluate up-to-date information on the feed and forage production and the livestock resources, as well as the plans and potentials for the development of the cereals-livestock industry; and,
- would attempt at estimating present and future cereals-livestock products' deficit in the Region.

The main aim of the study would be to give the Governments of the Region an indication of the policy alternatives for accelerating the development of their cereals-livestock sectors in the short-term.

Duration. One year (to be completed in 1975).

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Resources required. Professional : 24 m/n
Research Assistants: 18 m/n
Travel : \$...
3 workshops (2-3 days each) at the national or subregional level.

Remarks. (a) The findings of the study could be discussed at the meeting of the FAO Near East Commission for Animal Production and Health, scheduled for

(b) This project may be considered as a first phase (short-term solution towards solving the food deficit) of a larger project for 1976 and the following years on increasing food production.

3.4.2.3. The integrated rural development approach applied to projects and to agricultural zones

Justification. Integrated rural development as an approach for the development of the rural areas has gained importance in the Region. In fact, faced with the problem of rising rural unemployment and under-employment, and the strong aspirations of the rural population to participate in the building of their countries, a new strategy emerged to help the rural communities escape from economic stagnation. The approach aims at drawing guidelines on integrating rural institution building with increased productivity. Until now, efforts have been concentrated mainly on the strategy and action at the national level, while relatively little attention has been paid to the application of this approach to specific agricultural zones or project areas. Measures for increasing productivity, integrated with a purposeful programme of institution building (land tenure, credit, extension work and marketing), and gradually complemented by factors such as technical innovations, input supply, processing, etc. are the core of the approach to be applied to specific zones and project areas, such as the Euphrates project (Syria), one of the major irrigation projects in Iraq, the Al-Hassa project (Saudi Arabia), the Wadi Zabid project in Yemen, the Ghor project in Jordan, etc.

Objectives. 1. To review and assess the strategy and efforts for integrated rural development at the national level.

2. To survey and assess the socio-economic situation of the farmers in selected areas of the ECWA Region.

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3. To formulate a strategy for integrated rural development of the project area and to draw up a plan for implementing the strategy.

4. To study the institutional problems of integrated rural development of the project, including the relationships between the project and the national institutions.

5. To assist in implementing the proposed strategy for the project area.

Duration. First phase (objectives 1 to 4): one year (1975)
Second phase(objective 5) : six months (1976)

Resources required. Professional : 36 m/m
Research Assistants: 24 m/m
Travel : \$...

Remarks. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, which is implementing a programme of integrated rural development at the national level.

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- b) Industry. The implementation of the work programme in industry will be carried out in close cooperation with UNIDO. The establishment of a joint Division ECWA/UNIDO is under consideration.

3.4.2.4 Development of the fertilizer industry.

Justification. Food production has failed to keep pace with world demand and, in many developing countries, the low levels of consumption and nutritional standards are adversely affecting their economic growth. A key factor in rectifying this situation is to increase the production of fertilizers. The projected world consumption of fertilizers in 1980 would be double that of 1970 for developed countries and triple for developing countries.

Objectives. In order to assist the countries of the ECWA Region in coping with the need for the increased production of fertilizers, ECWA will devote a good part of its programme in industry in 1975 to the assessment, promotion and marketing of the productive capacities of fertilizers in the Region.

To this end ECWA will:

a) undertake a survey of the productive capacity of the fertilizer industry in the countries of the Region in relation to present and future demand on the world markets (in the light of the joint FAO/UNIDO statement on fertilizers at the Third Industrial Development Conference of Arab States in Tripoli in April 1974);

b) organize a consultation and planning meeting with representatives of member states, governmental and inter-governmental organizations in the Region active in industrial development, and UNIDO (or FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Industry Technical Advisory Group - if constituted) to review the state of the fertilizer industry, its future expansion and the rationalization and coordination of productive capacities in the Region.

It is hoped that, as a result of these efforts, a plan of action would evolve for guiding the future development of the fertilizer industry in the Region.

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<u>Duration</u>	One year. Completion by the end of 1975.
<u>Resources required</u>	Professional : 24 m/m
	Consultants : 6 m/m
	General Service : 12 m/m
	Travel : \$...

3.4.2.5 Industrial infrastructural development: manpower training

Justification. To speak of the availability of capital and the utilization of natural resources for industrial development, where there is a lack of adequately trained and skilled personnel, is to overlook a serious bottleneck to this development. The shortage of skilled personnel in the ECWA Region is aggravated by the inefficient use of existing skills in the management of human and material resources. Unless treated expeditiously and effectively, this problem is bound to become progressively more acute with the advances in industrialization of the countries of the Region, resulting from increased flows of capital and its use in development projects.

The dimension and urgency of the problem, as well as the wide disparity between the countries of the region in the availability of skilled personnel, dictate an overall regional attack on this problem rather than treating it piecemeal, or country by country. ECWA intends, therefore, to investigate the possibilities for cooperative efforts in the field of industrial training between the countries of the Region, or any number of them, in cooperation with the activities of governmental and inter-governmental organizations in the Region and of UNIDO, UNDP and other UN bodies.

Objectives. For this purpose ECWA will:

- a) undertake a preliminary survey of industrial training facilities and capabilities in the Region;
- b) carry consultations with the Governments and institutions in the Region in the light of these findings; and,
- c) convene a planning and promotion meeting of experts in the field, government officials, representatives of governmental and inter-governmental

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organizations active in the field of industry and its promotion, and of UNIDO and UNDP, in order to draw up a coordinated approach to the needs of industrial training in the Region and agree on appropriate specific institutional arrangements to deal with these needs.

<u>Duration</u>	One year. Completion by the end of 1975.
<u>Resources required</u>	Professional : 12 m/m
	Research Assistants : 6 m/m
	Travel : \$...

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c) Natural resources and energy

3.4.2.6 A strategy for action on alternative uses of oil.

Justification. The countries of the ECWA Region are endowed with a substantial part of the world reserves of oil, which at present is mainly consumed as fuel. The latter does not represent a maximization of the economic value of oil which can be put to more remunerative uses. Oil can be processed into fertilizers, petrochemicals, synthetic protein, pharmaceuticals, etc. Moreover, in the long-term, the economic importance of oil as a fuel may decrease. Indeed, the western world is already engaged in a major search effort for alternative sources of energy, particularly after recent developments in the oil situation. It is of crucial importance that the oil-rich countries of the ECWA Region consider a strategy designed to encourage the processing of the "raw material" oil into products other than fuel in gradually increasing proportions and that the Governments of ECWA fully participate in the establishment and expansion of these industries in the ECWA Region and in other regions of the world.

Objectives.

1. To assess the present end-uses of oil in the world (by regions).
2. To assess the medium- and long-term outlook for the use of oil as a raw material for industrial and agricultural development (the uses other than fuels) in the ECWA Region and the other regions of the world.
3. To define and study the ways and means for implementing a strategy designed to encourage the use of oil as a "raw material" for industrial and agricultural development (optimal end-use allocation of oil).
4. To study the modalities for, and feasibility of, establishing such industries in the ECWA Region, joint ventures in this field in other developed or developing countries, etc. and the ways and means of participating in the development of these industries and in the coordination action needed.

Duration In 1975. First phase (objectives 1,2 and 3)
In 1976. Second phase (objective 4)

Resources required.

Professional	: 30 m/m
Research Assistants	: 24 m/m
Travel	: \$...

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3.4.2.7 Regional Co-operation in the Development of Mineral Resources

Justification. In their efforts to diversify their economies, the Governments of the ECWA Region have not yet taken full advantage of the potentialities resulting from the development of their mineral resources. The present piecemeal approach to mineral exploration stands to gain enormously from a comprehensive, integrated and regional approach. It is indeed necessary to proceed by utilizing the most modern techniques of photogeology, geophysics, geochemistry and the like in mineral exploitation, and endeavour to establish or strengthen the relevant infrastructure of national and regional services and accelerate the process of training in the required fields.

Objectives.

1. To survey the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources in the countries of the Region.
2. To assist in the improvement of mining codes or legislation and the establishment of the institutional framework for mineral resources development.
3. To study the possibilities for regional co-operation, particularly through the establishment of a Regional Mineral Resources Development Institute. The training of local technical personnel and participation in the development of mineral resources, through basic mapping and systematic exploration, would be among the major objectives of the Institute.

Duration. One year (1975)

Resources required.

Professional	: 18 m/m
Consultants	: 6 m/m
Research Assistants	: 12 m/m
Travel	: \$...

Remarks. Co-operation of the Natural Resources and Transport Division (UN New York) will be sought. ECWA will continue to assist in this project in subsequent years.

d) Public administration and finance

3.4.2.8 Training programme in Public Finance and Development Administration.

Justification. The apparent lack of adequately skilled cadres in in the field of public finance in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman and the Yemen Arab Republic has been a serious bottleneck in the running of government machinery and in the implementation of public programmes. The present nature of fiscal and financial institutions makes it necessary that real efforts be made to upgrade high-ranking officials, as well as lower cadres, responsible in the field of public finance.

While training for senior officials could be organized more efficiently in Beirut, the task of training lower cadres could best be accomplished with the help of country-based training programmes especially tailored to fit local needs. Consultations with the Governments concerned will determine the most immediate problems to be tackled in these local programmes. More attention will be devoted in these programmes to operational activities which help carry out the decisions taken, namely, in the fields of tax implementation and tax administration, budget execution, government and public enterprise accounts, and auditing.

Objectives. The proposed project would:

- provide for holding in Beirut a training session in 1975 in the context of the training programmes, initiated in 1973, and addressed essentially to high-ranking officials in positions of responsibility in their respective countries. These training programmes have been providing courses which (a) emphasize the fundamentals of the different subjects offered in the programme for the purpose of giving the participants a broad knowledge of public finance and its relationship to other disciplines; (b) stress the development of the participants' knowledge in the fields of direct relevance to their work; and, (c) underline the practical aspects of the training, without losing sight of the academic content;

- provide for holding locally in the countries concerned training programmes, with a view to tackling concrete aspects of inadequacies in skills, as felt by the governments, at lower echelons of the administrative

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3.4.2.7 Regional Co-operation in the Development of Mineral Resources

Justification. In their efforts to diversify their economies, the Governments of the ECWA Region have not yet taken full advantage of the potentialities resulting from the development of their mineral resources. The present piecemeal approach to mineral exploration stands to gain enormously from a comprehensive, integrated and regional approach. It is indeed necessary to proceed by utilizing the most modern techniques of photogeology, geophysics, geochemistry and the like in mineral exploitation, and endeavour to establish or strengthen the relevant infrastructure of national and regional services and accelerate the process of training in the required fields.

Objectives.

1. To survey the situation pertaining to the development of mineral resources in the countries of the Region.
2. To assist in the improvement of mining codes or legislation and the establishment of the institutional framework for mineral resources development.
3. To study the possibilities for regional co-operation, particularly through the establishment of a Regional Mineral Resources Development Institute. The training of local technical personnel and participation in the development of mineral resources, through basic mapping and systematic exploration, would be among the major objectives of the Institute.

Duration. One year (1975)

Resources required.

Professional	: 18 m/m
Consultants	: 6 m/m
Research Assistants	: 12 m/m
Travel	: \$...

Remarks. Co-operation of the Natural Resources and Transport Division (UN New York) will be sought. ECWA will continue to assist in this project in subsequent years.

machinery. Consultations with governments will determine areas of emphasis in each local training programme.

Remarks.

(a) The training programmes are conceived as a continuing ECWA activity until an adequate cadre, in number as well as in quality, has been constituted in the countries concerned.

(b) The Regional Project for Public Finance and Administration (PROPFAD), which is decentralized to ECWA, will be responsible for this training programme within the standing terms of reference and present financing from the UN Regular Programme.

3.4.2.9. Regional financial resources: prospects and uses

Justification: As a result of the recent developments in the world oil situation, the oil-producing countries in the ECWA Region are expected to derive vast revenues from their oil exports. The utilization of these large resources poses certain grave problems, both within and outside the ECWA Region. It is, therefore, of crucial importance that these financial resources be put to productive use, with the help of existing or newly created national and regional institutions and in association with international financial institutions, to promote a more rapid development of the countries of Western Asia, as well as other Arab and developing countries, within the framework of a stable international economic order and monetary system.

Objectives.

1. Assess the prospects for the accumulation of financial resources in the Region over the next 10 to 15 years, taking into account existing and relevant new studies.

2. Explore alternative uses of regional financial resources in the ECWA Region, in the light of investment opportunities in both capital-surplus and capital-deficit countries in the Region, and the use of excess funds in other Arab countries, developing countries, and in industrialized countries; and,

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3. Investigate appropriate channels for the efficient use of these financial resources, through a careful study of existing national, regional and international financial institutions, and by exploring possibilities for further co-operation and co-ordination of their activities, and the establishment of new institutions whenever necessary.

Duration: one year; to be completed in 1975.

Resources required: Professional : 24 m/m
Consultants : 6 m/m
Research Assistants : 12 m/m

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e) Economic development

3.4.3.0 Cooperation with existing institutions in the Region

Justification Regional cooperation has often been recognized as a strategic factor for the development of the countries in the Region. All the potentialities have not been explored yet and there is plenty of room for co-operative efforts designed to make better use of existing facilities, to take advantage of regional complementarities and to secure economies of scale for productive investment.

Actually, the spirit of cooperation is very much alive in the Region. Not only the United Nations system (including ECWA), but many inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations are also actively engaged in the economic and social development of the Region.

In a situation like this, it is of utmost importance to coordinate activities, with a view to securing maximum use of scarce resources and avoiding, wherever possible, duplication and overlapping of work in the Region.

Objectives The proposed project would include:

- the preparation of an up-to-date register of all existing organizations and institutions (local, sub-regional and regional, as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental, some of them located outside the territorial jurisdiction of ECWA) engaged or interested in economic and social development activities of the Region.
- A survey of the relatively more important among such organizations and institutions in terms of their aims and objectives, organizations and functions, institutional associations with other agencies, etc.
- An analysis of the work programme of these organizations and institutions with a view to:
 - a) assisting and strengthening them in the discharge of their responsibilities;
 - b) creating new institutions and facilities where warranted; and,
 - c) undertaking joint action programmes, with ECWA participation.

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Duration One year (1975).

Resources required

Professional:	12 m/m
Research Assistants :	6 m/m
Travel	: \$...

3.4.3.1 Establishment of an ECWA Documentation Centre

Justification There is no denial that scientific research can be a most effective instrument in promoting economic and social progress in the countries of Western Asia. A serious handicap to the application of research to the solution of the Region's development problems has been accessibility to relevant information. Socio-economic information on the countries of Western Asia is not only deficient with respect to coverage and quality, but perhaps more seriously it is, quite often, not readily accessible to the research worker, whether he is an academician, a government official or an international expert. In a broader sense, the question of access to information extends to embrace the results of theoretical and applied research in other parts of the world that could or should be brought to bear on solving the problems of the Region. ECWA, by virtue of the links it has with the countries of the Region, the academic and private research institutions, and the international community at large, is in a position to take initiative in this respect and establish a Documentation Centre in support of research activities on the problems of the Region to serve all concerned with the promotion of development in Western Asia.

Objectives The proposed project would

- involve collecting, classifying and storing selected kinds of information and documentation which could serve to promote a better understanding of the Region's problems and contribute to their satisfactory solution (including factual information, reference works and relevant results of theoretical and applied research emanating from private public and international sources from within and outside the Region); and,
- provide a variety of services (including research abstracts, bibliographies, copies, etc..) based on the Centre's collection of

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documentation and make its facilities available to a selective but world wide audience.

- To the extent possible, the Centre's documentation will be made available in Arabic, English and French.

Duration One year. Completion of the first phase by the end of 1975.

<u>Resources Required</u>	Professional:	12 m/n
	Travel	: \$...

Remarks The objectives of the project are to be realized over a period of several years, extending into 1980, with 1975 representing the first phase and involving preparatory activities relating to the establishment of the Centre.

3.4.3.2 Regional co-operation for the promotion of tourism

Justification Efforts at economic co-operation among the countries of the Region have, in the past, been mainly concentrated in traditional areas of trade and industry. For various reasons, these efforts have had only limited successes. While such efforts need to be intensified in order to find more workable arrangements, other areas of co-operation should be seriously explored. A potentially promising field in this respect is tourism. While tourism has been of real economic significance for only one or two countries in the Region (Lebanon and, to a lesser extent, Jordan), its full potentiality in these two countries, and in the rest of the Region, remains to be explored and exploited. This potentiality is likely to be put to best use through close co-operation between the interested countries, given the rich and diversified touristic endowments of the Region and the availability of other relevant complementarities (entrepreneurship and finance).

In co-operation with international, regional and national bodies (both private and public) which are active in the field of tourism, ECWA's efforts could be usefully directed towards assisting the countries of the Region in identifying possibilities and suggesting modalities of co-operation and investment (offering

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a bundle of touristic services), and in helping to bring about the necessary collective endorsement and action. A start in this direction would involve Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Subsequently, Iraq could be added to form, with these three countries, a larger touristic sub-region. In addition, possibilities for co-operation in the field of tourism, involving other countries in the Region, would be explored, particularly between the people's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Objectives The proposed project would:

- Study the present situation of tourism in the Region, with a special emphasis on co-operative aspects;
- Formulate action-oriented proposals for the most promising areas of co-operation, and indicate feasibility studies to be undertaken which could eventually lead to actual investment; and,
- Define the most appropriate modalities of co-operation and means of financing, with a special emphasis placed on possibilities of launching joint ventures involving specific countries and based on a social cost benefit analysis, taking into consideration the opportunity cost of investing in tourism.

Duration One year (to be completed by the end of;1975)

<u>Resources Required</u>	Professional	: 12 m/m
	Consultants	: 6 m/m
	Research Assistants	: 24 m/m
	Travel	: \$...

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3.4.3.3 The brain-drain problem: causes, consequences and remedies

Justification Among the more serious handicaps to accelerating the pace of economic and social progress in countries of Western Asia is the inadequacy of human skills permeating all aspects of life. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that the Region's scarcest resource lies in its trained and talented people. The impact of this constraint will be increasingly felt as savings and foreign exchange resources rapidly accumulate in the Region, as a result of recent development on the oil scene.

While the problem of skills could be traced to the present state of development in the Region, the constant outflow of talent outside the Region, or what may be referred to as the "brain-drain" process, has had a detrimental effect in this respect. Present conditions in the Region require that something should be done to remedy this situation. ECWA could and should take the initiative to study the causes and consequences of this "brain-drain", and develop programmes designed to lessen from its intensity and hopefully reverse the trend in the future.

Objectives The proposed project would:

- Initiate a study of the present situation, with a special emphasis on the compilation of comprehensive information on academic qualifications, occupation, motivation behind emigration or residence abroad, etc.. on nationals of the countries of Western Asia which work and reside abroad, and compare the findings with the kind of skills and talents in demand in the Region;
- Examine the underlying causes of the outward migration of skills and talents and formulate policy-oriented proposals, with a view to reducing and ultimately reversing the direction of the flow; and,
- consider ways and means of making use of the services of Arab talent residing abroad in order to further the cause of development in the Region.

Duration One year (to be completed by the end of 1975).

<u>Resources required:</u>	Professional	:	12 m/m
	Consultants	:	4 m/m
	Research Assistants:		12 m/m
	Travel	\$...

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f) Social development

3.4.3.4 Social factors in productivity

Justification. Productivity in agriculture, industry, and other sectors have reached only sub-potential levels throughout the ECWA Region. Low productivity in the various sectors is, to a great extent, associated with various social and human factors which, in some cases, impede progress. Acceptance of new techniques, systems and development instruments is closely related with social and human values, particularly so in sectors, like agriculture, where production is chiefly dependent on private initiative. Measures to obtain greater productivity have often been applied without adequate regard to their possible impact on the social environment, resulting very often only in marginal returns. The process of modernization and social change as well as economic growth are directly related to social attitudes and values.

Objectives. The project would be composed of the following components:

a) Identification of social factors impeding increased productivity in selected socio-economic sectors with particular reference to agriculture, and industry.

b) Identification of traditional social and cultural factors which have functioned positively with regard to progress, with particular reference to agriculture, and industry.

c) Survey of standing policies relevant to this issue.

d) Formulation of recommendations for appropriate social policies aiming at increasing productivity.

Duration. One year. Completion by the end of 1975.

Resources required:

Professional:	24 m/m
Consultants:	3 m/m
Research Assistants:	12 m/m
Travel:	\$...

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3.4.3.5 Urban slums

Justification. Marginal human settlements (slums and shanty towns) constitute sizable proportions of the total city population of many cities in the ECWA Region. It can be assumed, taking into account the typical demographic characteristics of such settlements, that slum populations will grow excessively. Hence, marginal human settlements may easily become the major parts of large-sized cities in terms of urban patterns, living conditions and environment if present approaches towards such settlements are to be pursued, while intra-city inequalities will be further accentuated.

Objectives. The proposed project will consist of the following components:

- a) Determination of the existing marginal urban settlements within selected countries of the ECWA Region;
- b) Analysis of the factors leading to the formation of such marginal urban settlements;
- c) Projections of growth of such settlements in relation to total city population under present policies;
- d) Survey of present approaches used for the solution of urban marginal settlements;
- e) Develop, on the basis of the foregoing components, new and alternative development approaches, programmes and policy recommendations for the improvement of urban marginal settlements, including investment requirements.

Duration. One year. Completion by the end of 1975.

Resources required:

Professional:	36 m/m
Consultants:	3 m/m
Research Assistants:	18 m/m
Travel:	\$...

Remarks. Elements of the project will constitute the preparation for an ECWA Regional Conference on Human Settlements to be held early in 1976 in preparation for the UN Conference Exposition on Human Settlements scheduled to be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 31 May to 11 June 1976.

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3.4.3.6 Children and youth in national development

Justification. Children and youth constitute in almost all ECWA countries nearly 50 per cent of the total population. Although tremendous progress has been made with the establishment of selected services for children, nowhere has a comprehensive long-term development policy and plan been formulated for the formation of the adult generations of tomorrow. The present younger generation is confronting development planners with a great number of problems calling for attention and solution. Increasing youth unemployment, greater outputs of educational systems, marginally educated youth resulting from and in high drop-out rates and limited opportunities for further practical education and training and the need for social integration of special groups like juveniles, handicapped, etc. are major questions facing policy makers of today.

Objectives. The project will be composed of the following components:

a) A status report (assessment) on the present facilities and policies dealing with the preparation of the younger generation with particular reference to unemployed youth, out-of-school youth and special youth groups (including services for young workers).

b) A survey of the trends with regard to unemployed youth, out-of-school and special youth groups including projections.

c) A development programme for children and youth in selected ECWA countries including policy recommendations for greater social integration and participation.

Duration. One year ending 1975.

Resources required:

Professional:	12 n/n
Research Assistants:	18 n/n
Travel:	\$...

Remarks. The project will provide the working papers for the Second Conference on Children and Youth in National Development to be held late in 1975 under the joint auspices of UNICEF, the Arab League and ECWA.

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3.4.3.7 The role of women in national development

Justification. The problems of social integration of national societies in the ECWA Region are particularly reflected in the status and role of women in the development process. Factors like political and legislative reform (voting rights and new personal status laws), wider educational opportunities for girls, industrialization and urbanization with their accompanying modernization processes (involving employment) are basic sectors to be taken into account in this connexion. Educational opportunities for particular types of education are still limited and female activity rates in the labour force are still extremely low throughout the ECWA Region. Hence, the mobilization of women for development demands a substantial acceleration of the social integration processes in all ECWA countries.

Objectives. After the initial assessment of the role of women in development, to be completed by ECWA during 1974, the proposed study will consist of the following components:

- a) A survey of the factors determining the access of girls to education with particular reference to the cost of education.
- b) A survey of the factors determining the access of women to employment including the relationships between the salary and wage structure and the activity rate of women.
- c) An analysis of the relationship between the status of women in relation to population growth (family planning, fertility).
- d) An analysis of the role of women in development in relation to the legal status of women.
- e) Formulation of policy recommendations for the accelerated integration of women in education and employment and the services required in this regard.

Duration. One year ending 1975.

Resources required:

Professional:	24 n/n
Consultants:	3 n/n
Research Assistants:	12 n/n
Travel:	\$...

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Remarks. The project will form the preparatory work for a Regional Seminar on the Role of Women in National Development to be organized under the auspices of ECWA in September 1975 within the context of the International Women's Year (1975). As part of the overall preparation for this Seminar, ECWA countries may wish to develop special programmes for use by their mass media, concentrating on the importance of the role of women in national development.

3.4.3.8 Comparative study of main structural characteristics of population in the ECWA Region.

Justification The results of the 1970 round of population censuses taken in the region have been, or will be, published soon. By 1975, other data will have become available from research and other empirical surveys carried out in the region. Based on these data, ECWA will prepare a comparative study on main structural characteristics of population in the ECWA Region.

Objective The objective of this study is to provide a picture of the demographic situation and geographic distribution of the population in countries of the region. It will represent a basic document showing the main population parameters to be used in economic and social planning. It will also provide the workers in the field of population study and research with a systematic methodology of analysis and data on the structural characteristics of the population in countries of the region.

Duration This project will start early in 1975 and will be completed in 1976.

<u>Resources needed:</u>	Professional	:	24 m/m	...
	General Service	:	12 m/m	
	Travel	:	\$...

3.4.3.9 Evolution of cities of 100,000 inhabitants and more in the Region.

Justification More countries in the Middle East have been experiencing high rates of rural-urban migration. It is an established fact that the expansion of Arab cities and towns is due, to a large extent, to migration as well as to the natural increase in population. An attempt will be made to analyze the pattern of migration in cities of 100,000 inhabitants and over, with a view to forecasting the margin of evolution for the next ten or twenty years.

Objective The project aims at studying the demographic characteristics of the cities of 100,000 inhabitants and over and to calculate projections for the next twenty years. The project also aims at investigating the extent of migration into the cities and its consequences on urbanization in order to provide policy guidelines.

Duration The project will start in 1975 and will be completed in 1976.

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<u>Resources Requested</u>	Professional	:	12 man/months
	General Service	:	12 man/months
	Travel	:	\$

3.4.4.0 Inter-relation between Population and Economic Growth:
The Study of Demographic and Economic Investment in Iraq.

Justification During 1972-1973, a consultant prepared for UNESOB a study on Demographic and Economic Investment - in the case of Syria. This study included the following three sections: (1) a discussion of Professor Sauvy's definition of the concept of demographic and economic investment; (2) a review of the method used; and, (3) an evaluation of the demographic investment in Syria. During the First Regional Population Conference of ECWA, a recommendation was made to widen the scope of this study to include other countries in the region, and to explore more systematically the complexity of relations that exist between demographic and economic factors in the development process.

Objective The project aims at studying the impact of economic and social investment on population trends and structure in Iraq and the inverse relationship.

Duration One year. (February 1975 to February 1976).

Remarks UNFPA funding will be requested. In 1975, 10 m/m of consultant, 2 m/m of professional and 4 m/m of general service will be needed for this project.

3.4.4.1 Socio-Demographic Survey of five cities in the Sultanate of Oman, (Muscat, Mutrah, Mizwa, Sohar and Sur).

Justification The Government of Oman is fully aware that reliable demographic data are essential for their planning exercise. No census of population has ever been taken, various estimates of population are currently discussed, ranging from 500,000 to 1,500,000. The Government is planning to take a population census as soon as possible in order to be able to produce a development plan for the country and a master plan for the capital. As part of the preparatory

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work for the census, it is felt that a socio-demographic survey on a pilot basis should be organized jointly by the Government of Oman and ECWA. This survey could provide the necessary basic information for planning and would serve as a training exercise for the census, and for estimating its costs and personnel requirements.

Objectives The survey aims at providing the necessary basic information for planning on the volume, structure, socio-economic characteristics and components of the population of the five cities. In addition, the survey aims at providing information on housing characteristics and needs.

Duration Two years. (June 1974 to June 1976).

Resources Requested UNFPA share 65,400 US dollars, government share 14,400 US dollars. In 1975, 10 m/n of professional and 2 m/n of General Service will be needed for this project.

Remarks ECWA will try to co-ordinate this survey with the FAO Economic Farm Survey.

3.4.4.2 Migration survey in major cities in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait.

Justification In the Gulf States and Emirates, large proportions of the population consists of expatriates. The situation is particularly important in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, where the natives of these two countries consist of less than 50 per cent of the total population in each. Both Governments are very keen to encourage economic growth by permitting the expatriates to work freely but to the point of not losing the identity of the country. Both Governments are interested in undertaking a pilot survey on migration to determine the size, sex, age, nationality, marital status, occupation, level of education, place and duration of residence and other characteristics of the migrants. The findings will help national governments in formulating the necessary population policies.

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Objectives The project aims at determining the causes and effects of migration, with a special emphasis on the movement of educationally qualified persons among the countries of the region.

Duration Two years. (June 1975 to June 1977).

Resources requested In 1975, 12 m/n of Professional and 10 m/n of General service.

Remarks This project will be prepared and presented to UNFPA around mid 1974.

3.4.4.3 Infant Mortality Survey in Baghdad (Iraq).

Justification During the period 1971-1973, two surveys on infant and childhood mortality were carried out successfully in Damascus (Syria) and Beirut (Lebanon). The First Regional Population Conference recommended that such surveys should also be undertaken in other cities in the region.

Objective The objective of the survey is to determine the level and pattern of infant and childhood mortality, to explore and analyze the differentials according to such criteria as education, occupation, income, etc, and to investigate the role of environmental practices concerning the care and nursing of infants and young children.

Duration Two years. (June 1975 to June 1977).

Resources required Funding for this project will be requested from the UNFPA. In 1975, 10 m/n of professional and 5 m/n of general service will be put on this project.

3.4.4.4 Socio-Demographic Survey of Hadeida and Taz in the Yemen Arab Republic

Justification In 1972, a socio-demographic survey was jointly implemented by UNESOB and the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic in order to obtain demographic data for planning. This survey was considered as a pilot

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exercise for the census and for estimating its requirements. The census is now underway. The Government of the Yemen Arab Republic is very keen to underake the same type of survey in Hodeida and Taz; the two major towns in the country for the purpose of obtaining demographic data.

Objectives

The project aims at providing information on the volume, structure, socio-economic characteristics and the components of the population growth of these two cities. The results of this survey will also be used to determine the population of both cities.

Duration Two years. (September 1974 to September 1976).

Resources requested UNFPA funding will be requested for the implementation of this project. In 1975, 6 m/m of Professional and 10 m/m of General Service will be put on this project.

Remarks A mission from ECWA will soon visit the Yemen Arab Republic to finalize a project request and present it to the UNFPA.

3.4.4.5 Techniques of evaluating demographic parameters from defective demographic data.

- a) Regional Seminar
- b) Regional Training Course

Justification The need for demographic data is becoming increasingly necessary to measure parameters, due to the fact that most countries of the region are planning for economic and social development. Unfortunately, the basic data are actually often lacking or, if they exist, they are of poor quality. Therefore, it is a necessity to review all methods allowing an estimation of the demographic parameters with the available data.

Objective The objective of this project is to review and analyze the techniques to evaluate the demographic parameters from defective demographic data provided by censuses or surveys and to acquaint demographers and other research workers in the region with such techniques.

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Duration The seminar will be held for six days in June 1975. The training course will be held for six weeks in October/November 1975.

Resources required Funding for this project will be requested from the UNFPA. The technical work of preparation will require 14 m/n of Professional and 6 m/n of General Service. The services of one consultant for three months and two lecturers will be needed for six weeks during the regional training course.

3.4.4.6 Population Bulletin

Justification Based on the recommendations of the various Expert Group Meetings that were convened under the auspices of the United Nations, the first issue of the Population Bulletin was published in June 1971. Thereafter, issues No.2 to 6 were published on the basis of two issues a year in January and July, respectively. In 1974, issues number 7 and 8 will be published. In addition, considerations are being given to issuing a special issue in 1974 in observance of the World Population Year. In 1975, two issues will be published. Also, in 1975, the Bulletin will be published in Arabic, in addition to English.

Objective The basic objective is to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the population problems among government officials, professionals and scientists, as well as the general public in the various countries served by ECWA. The Arabic version of the Bulletin will help to achieve this objective.

Duration The two issues will be published in 1975.

Budget The project will be financed by UNFPA. In 1975, 12 m/n of Professional and 4 m/n of General Service will be put on this project. In addition, 6 m/n of a professional translator (English/Arabic) will be needed.

2. Priority B

a) Science and technology

3.4.4.7 Inter-University cooperation for the promotion and dissemination of technical information and findings of applied research

Justification. The application of operational research to the solution of development problems has not yet taken roots in the countries of Western Asia. Inadequate emphasis, at all levels, on the necessity and utility of research is reflected in the general lack of breadth and depth of research underlying development efforts. This attitude is also reflected in the little and sporadic inter-action, in the area of exchanging technical information and the results of applied research, between universities and research institutions at the inter-regional and intra-regional level.

Action could be initiated to encourage the flow of information between the universities of the Region, on the one hand, and between these universities and outside universities, on the other hand, thus encouraging cooperative efforts in operational research. The ultimate aim of such an endeavour should be the creation of favourable conditions for undertaking and applying the findings of serious research by Arab scholars, taking advantage of the areas of strength of national universities and providing opportunities for foreign scholars to bring their expertise to bear on the development problems of the Region.

Objectives. The proposed project would:

- survey the existing structure of local universities, with a view to determining areas of strength and fields of special interest;
- study the potentialities of these universities, as revealed in their plans of growth; and,
- formulate proposals and define modalities for cooperation in operational research and exchange of information involving the universities in the Region and outside universities.

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The basic aim should be to agree ultimately on a list of well-defined research projects and establish a system of research distribution, visiting professorships, and fellowships for bright graduates to the local universities for participation in such projects, and to work out arrangements to enable foreign universities to participate in these research efforts through visiting professors and fellows.

Duration. One year (to be completed by the end of 1975).

<u>Resources required.</u>	Professional	: 12 m/m
	Consultants	: 6 m/m
	Research Assistants	: 12 m/m

Remarks. 1. To develop real interest in this project, a seminar could be held in 1976 in order to bring together university scholars (both from the Region and from outside) to study the findings and recommend specific and operationally useful actions.

2. This project will be implemented in consultation, and eventually in co-operation, with the interested specialized agencies of the United Nations.

3.5. Supporting services

3.5.1. Management of technical co-operation activities

This programme is mainly concerned with the management and speedy implementation of technical assistance projects assigned to ECWA for execution. ECWA is responsible for technical assistance projects of a regional nature designed for the general benefit of the countries in Western Asia as a whole. In view of the special needs and requirements of the least developed of the developing countries in the region, ECWA wishes to assist in locating and obtaining additional resources to finance specific projects which may be requested by those countries.

<u>Resources required</u>	Professional :	24 m/m
	Travel :	\$

3.5.2. Administrative, conference services and common services

Under this programme, ECWA would have available to it, to assist in achieving the substantive programme objectives established and approved by members of the Commission, a range of important and essential services:

- i. administrative services, such as budget, finance, legal affairs, personnel management and protocol;
- ii. common services which, during the initial phase of ECWA's programme development, would comprise information and library services. Both activities are essential to the efficient functioning of the Commission and also to making available to Members of the Commission relevant information about the activities of the Commission and its Secretariat. The establishment of a modern Documentation Centre has been dealt with above, as a separate project in paragraph 3.4.3.2.

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iii. conference and general services for servicing conferences and meetings as approved by Members of the Commission in its calendar of meetings. This includes, in particular, translation, editing, reproduction and distribution of documentation, interpretation services, essential house-keeping, maintenance and repairs of furniture, fixtures and equipment.

The desirable level of staff resources will be built up over a period of three years (1975, 1976 and 1977) with a total of 32 professionals and 100 general service at the end of the period.

Resources required (in 1975) Professional : 240 m/m
General Service : 720 m/m

3.6.	<u>Summary of resource requirements for 1975</u>	Professional m/m
	Policy-making organs	-
	Executive Direction and Management	72
	Substantive activities	
	i. continuing activities	192
	ii. <u>Ad hoc</u> projects and studies (priority A)	432
	Supporting services	240
	Total	<hr/> 936

3.7. In view of the decision of the General Assembly at its twenty-eight session regarding the resources for the programme budget of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, specifically based upon the consideration of that programme budget by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary would appreciate receiving clear and precise guidance from the Members of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and their views regarding the priorities of the above work programme suggestions.

CHAPTER IV

The medium term Plan (1976-1979) and the
first biennial Work Programme (1976-1977)

4.1. ECWA is expected to approve, at its second session in early 1975, general priorities for the medium-term Plan (1976-1979) and the work programme for the biennium 1976-1977. The Executive Secretary will submit in due course, a draft plan and programme, developed in the same priority areas which the Commission will have adopted for 1975, unless otherwise indicated. He would, therefore, appreciate receiving, in this connexion, precise guidance from the members of the Commission.

4.2. It seems advisable to plan for a reasonable expansion of the activities of the Commission over the 1976-1977 period in order to reach relatively rapidly a "cruising level". That could be endorsed by the ACABQ and approved by the General Assembly. To this effect, and for planning purposes only, the work programme for 1976-1977 might be established within the following framework in terms of staffing requirements (in professional man/months)

Policy making organs	-
Executive Direction and Management	72
Substantive activities	720
Supporting services	312
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