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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN THE
ECLA REGION

as of 30 June 1955

This document has been prepared by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and is an addendum to document E/CN.12/372, transmitted as a background document to item 7 of the Provisional Agenda.

This document is intended to provide information on the development of technical assistance projects in Latin America during the first six months of 1955 and to give a short description of projects initiated during this period. Projects already described in document E/CN.12/372 and on which there is no additional information to report have been omitted.

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I. COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

BOLIVIA

Projects continued from 1954

Oil Resources Development

The assignment of the oil geologist who was appointed in 1954 has been extended until the end of 1955. The expert continued his surveys and his cartographic work during the first half of the year.

Public Administration

The work on this project has continued at an accelerated pace during the first six months of 1955, as the result of the appointment by the Government of a Commission on Administrative Reform. The United Nations team will be further strengthened by the appointment of experts in Organization and Methods, Government Accountancy and Customs Administration. One scholarship in Public Administration has been awarded in 1955.

Public Finance Administration

This project will be continued in the second half of 1955 with the appointment of a Taxation expert who will work under the supervision of the Technical Consultant to the Finance Ministry. The Government has also requested the services of a Capital Budget expert. Two scholarships in Public Finance were also awarded to Government officials in 1955.

Mineral Resources Development

The expert in hydrometallurgy continued to advise on technical problems as well as on the reorganization of the Mining Bank.

The geologist completed his assignment in March 1955 and prepared a detailed final report embodying his recommendations for a geological survey of the country.

New Projects

Statistics

A statistical adviser who will be responsible for the organization of a system of economic statistics and for the collection of relevant data required by the Bolivian Planning Council was appointed in June 1955 for two years.

Railroads

An expert in railway administration was appointed in April 1955 for six months to advise on the reorganization of the State railroads and on policy problems in connexion with the operation of the privately owned companies in the country.

River Navigation

An expert in river navigation was appointed in June 1955 for six months to advise on problems relating to the development of inland waterways and port installations.

BRAZIL

Projects continued from 1954

Economic Development of the Northeast

The economic adviser to the Bank of the Northeast of Brazil has continued his work in 1955; the training programme which he initiated to provide a research and planning staff for the Bank has been concluded and work has already been undertaken on several research projects.

School of Business Administration

The United Nations expert completed his assignment in May as scheduled, marking the end of United Nations assistance to this school.

CHILE

Projects continued from 1954

Penicillin Production

All of the UNICEF equipment has been delivered with the exception of three or four minor pieces which were ordered late. Installation of the equipment is expected to be completed towards the end of the present year. It is anticipated that production of penicillin will begin early in 1956, but three or four months will be required to reach full production, to train personnel and to work out other operational details.

Tax Codification and Administration

Arrangements have been completed for the return of the expert during the second half of 1955. One Government official completed his training in the United States under a United Nations scholarship and a second is expected shortly to take up his award.

COLOMBIA

Projects continued from 1954

Customs and Tariffs Administration

The United Nations expert continued in the field until July 1955. His final report and recommendations will soon be sent to the Government.

Materials and Construction Techniques

The United Nations has provided an expert in building materials, stationed at the Inter-American Housing Centre, who is now working on the development of low-cost wall and roofing materials. A fellowship has also been awarded by the United Nations to a staff member of the Centre to observe advanced building research institutes in several European countries.

Public Administration

A training course in Organization and Methods was organized and successfully completed during the first half of 1955. Substantial progress has been made in personnel classification and other aspects of the work of the mission. Three scholarships have so far been awarded in this field.

Small Scale Industries

A fellowship has been awarded to a Colombian to study technical advisory services for small industries in Denmark.

New Projects

Transport and Distribution Statistics

An expert is advising the National Department of Statistics on the preparation of a work programme for a new Section of Transport and Distribution Statistics and on the selection and training of staff. The project is a continuation of previous assistance in the field of statistics and complements work done by United Nations experts in the past.

Economic Planning

In May 1955 a preliminary survey of the co-ordination of the planning and operational levels of economic programming and policy-making was made. The final report of the expert will be submitted to the Government.

COSTA RICA

Projects continued from 1954

Medical Social Work

The work of the expert in this field was completed in March 1955.

Town and Country Planning

The expert completed his assignment in the middle of 1955.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Projects continued from 1954

Meteorology

The experts stationed in the country are assisting in the preparation of a regional Hurricane Seminar to be held in February, 1956, in the Dominican Republic.

ECUADOR

Projects continued from 1954

Power Production and Distribution

The expert returned to Ecuador late in 1954 and will finish the second part of his assignment by December 1955.

Following his departure, another expert specialized in the commercial exploitation of electric power will carry on the project.

Public Finance Administration

As of 30 June, the United Nations Fiscal Mission in Ecuador has been temporarily discontinued pending consideration by the Government of the adoption of the various proposals submitted by the Mission in the fields of income tax, budgeting and government accounting.

Ports and Road Construction

The expert continued to advise the Comité de Vialidad de Guayas on the preparation of studies and plans for the relocation of the port of Guayaquil. He also trained personnel and supervised work in improvements to various small ports in the Guayas province. His mission will be completed by August 1955.

National Housing Development

The expert on low cost housing recently completed his assignment. The Government is implementing his recommendations, using local personnel trained under the direct supervision of the expert during his stay in the country.

New Projects

Census Operation

An expert in vital and census statistics was requested to prepare a comprehensive study as a first step in the establishment of a national statistical service. The project is a natural development from assistance rendered by the United Nations in carrying out the first national census in 1950 and in tabulating the data obtained.

The expert is at present working with the Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos, a branch of the Ministry of Economy, on the collection of vital statistics data, their presentation and analysis. It is expected that his work will be completed early in 1956.

EL SALVADOR

New Projects

Training in Public Administration

A National School of Public Administration for the training of middle and lower grade civil servants had been planned by the Government to complement at the national level the regional activities of the Advanced School of Public Administration for Central America (ESAPAC). The Director designate of the School received special training at ESAPAC. The United Nations lecturer, who has co-operated in the organization of the School and who will assist in the instruction during the first year, arrived in San Salvador in May, after a briefing period at the ESAPAC in San José. The organizational work has been completed with the assistance of the United Nations expert and the School is scheduled to open on 15 July.

GUATEMALA

Projects continued from 1954

Administrative Management

The expert completed his assignment in March 1955 and is preparing his final report to the Government.

HAITI

Projects continued from 1954Hotel Management

The expert in hotel management completed his assignment in May 1955 and has drafted a final report setting out his recommendations for the development of the tourist trade.

New ProjectsMeteorology

As a result of a preliminary mission carried out by a United Nations expert in 1954, the Government has requested expert assistance to make a survey of wind velocity. Two short-term experts advised on the installation of measuring stations utilizing equipment supplied by the United Nations in accordance with specifications drawn up by the first expert.

HONDURAS

Projects continued from 1954Cement

The expert has been advising on the financial aspects relating to the creation of a cement factory.

New ProjectsIndustrial Management and Research

An expert to advise the National Development Bank of Honduras on the organization and administration of industrial enterprises began a one-year assignment in April 1955.

JAMAICA

Projects continued from 1954Water Resources Development

The hydraulic engineer completed his assignment in February 1955.

New Projects

General Economic Survey

The United Nations is providing the services of a senior adviser to the Chief Minister of the Government of Jamaica to assist in establishing a national programme in the whole field of economic and social development. This involves advice on the preparation of development plans and of schemes for the domestic accumulation and external solicitation of capital funds, the establishment of investment priorities, assistance to the Department of Finance in drawing up the annual budget and the integration of these plans and proposals with the policies of the Government.

MEXICO

Projects continued from 1954

Mineral Resources Development

The expert submitted his final report and it is now being processed for submission to the Government.

Economic Programming

The expert on economic statistics completed his assignment in the middle of this year and submitted his final report. The senior expert on economic programming will remain in the field until December 1957.

NICARAGUA

Projects continued from 1954

Organization of Statistical Services

In February 1955 a second expert was assigned to continue the programme of economic statistics for one year.

Public Finance Administration

During the first six months of 1955 the expert worked on budget administration and has now initiated a survey of the tax administration of Nicaragua, in accordance with the Government request. An additional expert in the latter field is envisaged later this year.

A fellowship has been approved to enable the Deputy Director of the Budget to attend the London School of Economics.

PANAMA

Projects continued from 1954

Psychiatric Social Work

The expert completed her field work during the middle of 1955.

PARAGUAY

Projects continued from 1954

Economic Programming

The acting economic adviser to the Planning Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Bureau of Economic Affairs, is working on a long-range economic programme for Paraguay.

Postal Administration

Assistance in this field continued throughout the first half of 1955. Many of the expert's recommendations were successfully put into effect during this period. One scholarship was awarded in this field.

Statistics

On completion of his assignment, the expert in statistics left Asunción in May 1955. Another expert will continue this project, with emphasis on the reorganization of statistical services in Paraguay.

New Projects

Town and Physical Planning

Following the recommendations made by a United Nations expert, Paraguay is now in the process of installing needed water services in the city of Asunción. In addition to advising on plans for the installation of the water services, during 1955 the expert has assisted in the preparation of a real estate map and has given technical advice on the drafting of legislation covering the required services for presentation to the Paraguayan Congress. It will also be necessary to train local personnel to be engaged in this work.

URUGUAY

Projects continued from 1954

Training of Social Welfare Workers

Two experts have continued to work in the School of Social Work and are expected to remain in the country during 1956.

In accordance with the experts' advice, the School has been incorporated as a branch of the Law School of the University of Montevideo.

New Projects

Census Operations

Upon receipt of a revised request from the Government of Uruguay, a project on census operation was started at the beginning of 1955 with the arrival of an expert to assist the city of Montevideo in carrying out its first census in conjunction with the taking of a national census. Preliminary work in the form of questionnaires and tabulation matters is well under way and it is the present plan that the census of Montevideo will be taken in April 1956. The expert is expected to remain until the end of 1956 in order to help with the tabulation and analysis of the data.

VENEZUELA

Projects continued from 1954

Power Production and Distribution

Two experts are now in the field: one as general adviser to the Government on the implementation of plans for the Caroni River project and the other advising on the organization and administration of Government-owned power plants.

Mineral Resources Development

In addition to advising the Government on the preparation of plant specifications for chemical engineering works, the expert has studied the present and future fertilizer needs of the country in relation to the production programme of the fertilizers manufacturing plant. With the co-operation of local agronomists, he has prepared plans for the establishment of an agricultural station to test the application of various chemical fertilizers to locally cultivated crops.

Primary Metals Industry

In 1955, the United Nations expert co-operated with the Government in the preparation of specifications for the design and construction of the steel mill.

Eight graduate engineers from Venezuela are receiving training in Volta Redonda, Brazil, under United Nations fellowships; they will receive further training in the Huachipato steel mill in Chile.

II. REGIONAL

Projects continued from 1954

Central American Economic Integration Programme

An extraordinary session of the Committee on Economic Co-operation was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, in May 1955. The Committee reviewed the progress already made on the technical assistance projects and agreed upon requests for technical assistance in 1956. The Working Group on Technical Assistance of the Central American Economic Integration Programme met at the same time. This Group, which is made up of representatives of the Organizations participating in the programme also reviewed the work accomplished thus far. Its report was discussed at the 33rd meeting of the Technical Assistance Board and the extent of the participation of each Agency for 1956 was agreed upon at that time.

1. Transport

(a) Highways

The staff member assigned to this project has completed his survey of road traffic regulations and his report will be presented to the Third Meeting of the Committee. The United Nations plans to provide in 1955 the services of two additional experts; one will assist the Governments in carrying out the recommendations of the expert assigned in 1954, the other will prepare a report on the problems of co-ordinated action in connexion with a programme for the construction of a regional highway net-work.

(b) Ports and Shipping

In addition to the two experts assigned in 1954, a third expert has been studying freight rates practices. A joint report of this team will be presented to the Third Meeting of the Committee.

2. Power Production and Distribution

The final report on this project will be presented to the Third Meeting of the Committee.

3. Industrial Economy

The industrial economist assigned to the Integration Programme collaborated with the FAO mission on Forestry Products, Pulp and Paper. At its extraordinary session, the Committee approved the report of the mission and agreed to establish a pulp and paper plant in Honduras.

4. Central American Technological Research Institute

At its extraordinary session the Committee approved the report recommending the establishment of the Institute. The United Nations has designated one of its experts as director of the Institute and plans to provide this year a combined technical and administrative staff of twelve and equipment for a documentation service.

5. Advanced School of Public Administration

The successful operation of the School continued in 1955 with the opening of the second general course in March. Students from the five Central American countries participated in this course. United Nations assistance consisted of: the Director, three faculty members, one visiting professor, 23 special scholarships, books, equipment and the translation of material into Spanish.

School of Public Administration (Brazil)

The first semester of 1955 opened in March with a student body slightly larger than in previous years. As before, under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Getulio Vargas Foundation, scholarship holders from other Latin American countries attended the courses. The United Nations provided four faculty members, three special scholarships awarded to future Brazilian members of the faculty and unspecified equipment.

Industrial Management and Research

The Expert Working Group Meeting on Iron and Steel Transformation Industries sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Technical Assistance Administration, which was originally scheduled for 1955 has been postponed to 1956. Preparatory work, including writing of background documents, has been carried out during the present year.

Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics

The United Nations continued to co-operate with the World Health Organization and the Government of Chile in conducting the Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics which is now in its third year. In addition to providing expert assistance, eleven fellowships were awarded to Latin Americans to attend the Centre.

Follow-up of Meeting of Experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry of Latin America

The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization will set up a Pulp and Paper Advisory Group to be stationed in Santiago, Chile, and to be available to advise individual Latin American countries on pulp and paper development problems.

Economic Development Training Programme

In December 1955 the Economic Development Training Programme, jointly sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Technical Assistance Administration, will have completed four years of operation and trained 83 economists, engineers and other personnel from the Latin American countries and two from the Middle East (Egypt and Iran). Fifteen of the twenty Latin American Republics have benefitted from the Programme to date. In past years a limited group of senior economists (43 in four years) has received intensive training at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago, Chile. However, there is also a need to prepare more junior personnel in the Latin American countries and this year an extension course of about three months duration will be held in Bogotá, Colombia, for the benefit of 40 Colombian students. If this course is successful, it will be repeated in other countries in future years.

Andean Indian Mission

Two social welfare experts were appointed early in 1955. One expert is working in the Bolivian Altiplano, the other in the Eastern lowlands. The latter has undertaken, with the Government's co-operation, a detailed survey of the possibilities for the settlement, in the region of Santa Cruz, of surplus labour from other parts of the country. It is expected that the re-settlement scheme will be initiated in the near future.

Expert Working Group on Technological Centres

The report of this group is being printed in Denmark and will be issued in August or September 1955.

In accordance with the recommendations of the group, a training programme in technical services to small industry has been organized in 1955 at the Copenhagen Technological Institute in co-operation with the Government of Denmark and the International Labour Organisation. The programme will run from 26 September 1955 to 24 March 1956. For the participants, the United Nations will provide 12 fellowships and the ILO four. Candidates for the United Nations fellowships have been nominated by a number of governments, including six in Latin America.

The training programme is not intended for top-level personnel of technological or similar institutes. A conference of such personnel has been recommended by the expert working group and may be convened in 1956.

New Projects

General Economic Survey

An expert in economic planning accomplished three brief survey missions in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

In Peru he reviewed development plans for the Cuzco Department and gave his advice on these.

In Bolivia he advised the authorities on the organization and functioning of the Bolivian Planning Commission, which was established in October 1953. He also gave advice on general principles of economic planning.

In Ecuador he advised the appropriate officials on the field of economic planning and lectured on the subject.

ANNEX I

Number of United Nations Experts in the Field
as of 30 June 1955, by Recipient Countries

	<u>Excluding Social Welfare</u>	<u>Including Social Welfare</u>
Bolivia	10	10
Brazil	5	5
British Guiana	-	-
Chile	1	1
Colombia	8	8
Costa Rica	1	3
Cuba	1	1
Dominican Republic	2	2
Ecuador	10	11
El Salvador	1	3
Guatemala	1	2
Haiti	6	6
Honduras	1	1
Jamaica	1	1
Mexico	5	5
Nicaragua	2	2
Panama	-	1
Paraguay	4	4
Peru	-	-
St. Lucia	-	-
Uruguay	1	3
Venezuela	4	10
Sub-Total	64	79
Experts provided for Regional Projects	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>
Total	83	103

ANNEX II

Number of Fellowships and Scholarships
Awarded as of 30 June 1955

	<u>Excluding Social Welfare</u>	<u>Including Social Welfare</u>
Argentina	1	1
Bolivia	3	4
Brazil	7	7
British Guiana	-	-
British Honduras	-	1
British West Indies	-	1
Chile	-	1
Colombia	1	1
Costa Rica	-	-
Cuba	-	2
Dominican Republic	-	-
Ecuador	-	1
El Salvador	1	1
Guatemala	-	1
Haiti	-	1
Honduras	-	-
Jamaica	1	1
Mexico	-	1
Netherlands West Indies	-	-
Nicaragua	1	1
Panama	-	-
Paraguay	1	1
Peru	-	1
Puerto Rico	-	-
Surinam	-	-
Trinidad	-	1
Uruguay	1	1
Venezuela	9	9
Virgin Islands	-	-
Total ^{1/}	<u>26</u>	<u>38</u>

^{1/} In addition to the above figures, studies were undertaken by participants in regional projects under United Nations auspices as follows: Central American Advanced School of Public Administration 34, School of Public Administration (Brazil) 21, Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics 7, Economic Development Training Programme 11.

