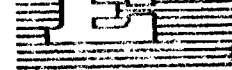


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REPORT BY THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
ADMINISTRATION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IN THE ECLA REGION

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IN LATIN AMERICA
1950 - 1955

Note by the United Nations
Technical Assistance Administration

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. General trends in the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme in Latin America.....	3
A. Economic survey and planning	3
B. Industrial development	4
C. Resources survey and development	5
D. Socio-economic aspects of development	6
III. The tools of development	7
A. Public administration	7
B. Public Finance	9
C. Statistics	10
IV. Co-operation in carrying out the Programme of Technical Assistance	10

Annexes

I. Number of United Nations Technical Assistance Experts in Latin America in 1955, by Recipient Countries	12
II. Number of Fellowships and Scholarships Awarded in 1955	13
III. Seminars, meetings of experts, working groups, development and training institutions organised for participants from Latin America with the assistance of the United Nations, or of specialised agencies or other organisations, in which the the United Nations cooperated.....	14

INTRODUCTION

The Technical Assistance Administration prepared for the Sixth Session of the Economic Commission for Latin America held in Bogotá in August 1955 a detailed report covering technical assistance in Latin America during 1954^{1/} and the first half of 1955.^{2/} In view of this, and since the Technical Assistance Board will shortly be presenting to the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council its 1955 Report covering, among others, every project undertaken under the Expanded Programme by the United Nations in Latin America, and the Secretary General will be reporting to the Council on projects financed from the Regular Programme,^{3/} an annual report of the type previously submitted has not been prepared for the current session of the Committee of the Whole. Instead, this short paper is being presented. It refers to administrative steps being taken to decentralise the Administration's Office for Latin America. In addition, it makes a more general review of the trends which United Nations technical assistance has taken as evidenced by the fields in which Governments have made requests since the establishment of the Administration in 1950.

2. The 1956 Programme of Technical Assistance has been prepared for the first time under procedures laid down by Resolution 542 (XVIII B) of the Economic and Social Council, generally known as "country programming". The essential feature of this procedure is a review by each Government of the proposals for assistance made by its various ministries and departments. Within a given total communicated by the Technical Assistance Board to Governments, the latter decide on the priorities of projects which they wish to assign to the eight Agencies participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The "country programmes" so prepared were in 1955 first reviewed by the Technical Assistance Board and then

^{1/} E/CN.12/372

^{2/} E/CN.12/372/Add.1

^{3/} For last report of Secretary-General on United Nations programme of Technical Assistance covering 1954 see E/2736

submitted to the Technical Assistance Committee of the Economic and Social Council for approval. Governments of the Latin American Republics are developing in increasing numbers coordinating machinery which enables them to obtain a balanced distribution of their requests to agencies prepared to make assistance available. The "country programming" procedure has further strengthened the place of coordinating machinery in governments. At the same time as it established "country programming", Resolution 542 (XVIII B) authorises the Executive Chairman of the Board to set aside five percent of the estimated resources for the financial year for allocation by him to meet any urgent needs which may arise during the implementation of the annual programme. At its 35th meeting the Technical Assistance Board approved the general criteria recommended by the Executive Chairman for examining and deciding on requests for each allocation from this Programme Contingency Fund.^{1/}

3. Since the establishment of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in 1950, in carrying out its responsibilities under General Assembly Resolutions 200, 418 and 723, and Resolution 222 of the Ninth Session of the Economic and Social Council governing the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, it has taken advantage of the advice and help of the Department of Economic & Social Affairs. It has acted jointly in many instances with the regional economic commission secretariats in connection with the organisation of seminars and meetings of experts, of study tours and in planning and organisation of development and training institutions. The Secretary-General, in his report to the Tenth Session of the General Assembly on the organisation of the Secretariat,^{2/} proposed organisational measures to devise means for an improved use of the combined staff resources of the Technical Assistance Administration and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs including its regional Secretariat, involving a limited measure of decentralisation of the Administration's Headquarters staff to carry out operational duties in the field with direct substantive support from the Secretariats of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The General Assembly authorised on an experimental basis the outposting of certain technical assistance programme officers so that they may take full advantage of the advice of these Secretariats. The Chief of the Administration's office for Latin America and three programme officers have taken up duty in Santiago and one officer is to be associated with

^{1/} TAB/SR/35 Paragraph 26, 30 March 1956.

^{2/} Document A/3041, 23 November 1955.

developing 1957 programmes in Mexico and Central America. It is hoped by this experiment to render more effective service to Governments, Members of the Commission.

II. GENERAL TRENDS IN THE UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN LATIN AMERICA

4. The number of experts engaged in providing technical assistance to countries of the ECLA region in economic development and public administration has increased from 28 in 1950 to 138 in 1955. There were in addition 24 social welfare experts in Latin America in 1955, bringing the total to 162.^{1/} The total number of fellowship and scholarship awards in economic development and public administration has risen from 27 in 1950 to 235 in 1955. In addition, 34 awards were made in 1955 in social welfare bringing the total to 269.^{2/} Though not exhaustive the following paragraphs summarise some of the more important fields in which expert assistance has been made available since 1950 and indicate the Governments who received it.

A. Economic Survey and Planning

5. The Central American Economic Integration Programme initiated in 1952 by the Ministers of Economy of the five Central American Republics, has received assistance from the United Nations since 1953, in the field of transport, port operations and shipping, customs nomenclature and customs regulations, power production and distribution and industrial economics. Other assistance in related projects under the Economic Integration Programme is mentioned under appropriate headings below. The Economic Development Training Programme, jointly sponsored by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and ECLA, has for the past five years been training Latin American economists in the preparation of development projects.

^{1/} See Annex I.

^{2/} See Annex II.

Five governments have taken advantage of United Nations assistance to secure general advice in analysis of their economies and formulating development policies and programmes. The Bank of the North-east of Brazil received the help of an expert in 1954 in an intensive training programme for its economic research staff and in supervising the preparation of economic studies by the staff. As a member and, later, as the head of the comprehensive mission sent to El Salvador by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies to outline over-all development plans for the Government, a United Nations expert recommended in 1952 increased economic collaboration with other Central American Republics, and the establishment of a development corporation to undertake basic industrial research and assist in the financing of new industrial and related agricultural undertakings. A short and intensive survey was made in 1955 by a United Nations expert on the best techniques to be used by the Government of Colombia for economic planning including coordination, priorities and implementation of projects within the general plan. Advice was provided to the "Junta de Reconstrucción de Fomento Industrial del Cuzco" of Perú on development projects in the region, and on methods of financing them. Since 1955 an adviser to the Chief Minister of Jamaica is assisting in the establishment of economic and social planning machinery, consisting of an economic advisory council and a central planning unit. Requests have been received from the Government of Argentina in connection with a general economic survey including national income, production and consumption, balance of payments, industrial development and from the Government of Panamá.

B. Industrial Development

6. Thirty-two experts have given assistance in this field to eleven governments requesting it and to the Central American region. Seventeen assisted in the planning of general industrial development. The Central American Technological Research Institute, part of the Central American Integration Programme, began in 1955 to assist governments and industries of the five Central American Republics through applied research in the use of raw materials and study of industrial processes and productivity. The Governments of Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Venezuela received advice in general industrial development questions. Twelve experts assisted with the establishment and modernization of

specific industries - for example, providing advice on the textile industry in El Salvador, including recommendations on plant improvements and mechanisation, as well as encouragement of hand weaving with a view to export possibilities; providing assistance in the installation of a sugar mill in the eastern lowlands of Bolivia, involving also supervision of the initial phase of operation of the mill, and the training of technicians to run the plant; advising on the manufacture of fertilizers and insecticides from natural gas, and the establishment of an iron and steel industry in Venezuela; advising on improved methods of processing henequen in México and making available assistance in the manufacture of cement to the Governments of Honduras and Perú. Preparatory work for a Meeting of Experts on Steelmaking and Steel Transforming Industries, to be held at Sao Paulo in October 1956, was initiated in 1955. The proposed Meeting will follow the same general lines as the gathering held at Bogotá in 1952. The Governments of Haiti and Colombia received advice in the establishment of small industries. Requests have further been received from the Government of Argentina for expert advice in industrial management and manufacture of insecticides; of Guatemala for an expert in cottage and small industries to improve the design of hand woven rugs; of Nicaragua in the formulation of the industrial programme of the Institute of National Development; of Paraguay for an expert to advise on technical aspects of refrigeration; and of Venezuela in petro-chemicals.

C. Resources Survey and Development

7. The services of thirty-nine experts have been made available to Governments in this field. Fourteen assisted ten governments, and a mission of three made a survey of power resources of the Central American countries and advised on their development. In most countries, as in Bolivia, British Guiana, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Perú and Venezuela, the work of the experts was in respect of hydro-electric development, and in the case of Santa Lucia and Mexico, thermal development. In El Salvador and in Haiti recommendations were made with regard to power distribution problems. Seven experts assisted three governments in the development of water resources; the Government of Jamaica received advice with reference to flood control and in the implementation of a stream-gauging programme; Haiti in soils analysis, chiefly for drainage purposes, and Venezuela in multi-purposes river development. Fifteen experts helped five governments with the development of mineral resources -- Argentina, El Salvador, with the development of petroleum

resources; Ecuador and Haiti in the development of lignites and the Government of Bolivia in all aspects of its mineral resources development, including the drafting of mining legislation. Requests have been received from the Government of Mexico for advice on potable water supply; from the Government of Argentina on the development of petro-chemical industries with special reference to the manufacture of fertilizers and from the Government of Ecuador on the organisation of power plants.

D. Socio-Economic Aspects of Development

1. Community Development

8. The United Nations has participated with the Specialized Agencies in the programme for the integration of the indigenous population of the Andean Plateau Region (Bolivia, Ecuador, Perú) into the economic and social life of their respective countries, providing two experts in social welfare, together with a considerable amount of equipment. The United Nations is participating in the Regional Fundamental Education Centre at Patzcuaro, Mexico: an architect carried out a construction programme of village planning and rural housing in several small communities and two experts, one social welfare adviser and one anthropologist conducted training courses and field work in the area. The Government of Haiti with the help of a United Nations expert has organised a National Council on Community Development and is conducting demonstration projects of which three have been started.

2. Housing and Physical Planning

9. An expert assisted the National Institute of Housing and Urbanism in Costa Rica in the establishment and operation of housing and planning institutes at the local level and in the preparation of a nation-wide housing, town and country planning programme; in Ecuador, United Nations experts assisted in drafting the legislation for the creation of a national housing institute now in operation and the establishment of a housing materials testing programme. Advice was given also to the Government of Haiti with housing problems subsequent to the 1954 hurricane and to Paraguay in town planning. A seminar on self-help housing schemes and cooperative and other non-profit programmes for housing and community development for the benefit of Latin American countries was organized in Copenhagen jointly by the United Nations, the ILO and the Pan American Union.

The Seminar was attended by 20 participants from 12 Latin American countries and Puerto Rico. A mission of three experts nominated by the United Nations and its Economic Commission for Latin America and the Pan American Union, made a survey of housing conditions in eight Latin American countries to assess possibilities and appropriate sources for financing housing. Requests have been received from the Government of Chile on planning of public works; of Nicaragua for advise on construction materials for housing, and of Jamaica on low-cost housing.

3. Population

10. A seminar on Population Problems in Latin America was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1955 under the auspices of the United Nations with the cooperation of the International Social Science Council at which 18 Governments were represented, as well as representatives of international organizations. The Seminar discussed trends toward rapid population increases in Latin America, uses to which demographic data can be put by Governments in planning economic and social development, types of studies required and needs for training demographers. The Government of Barbados has been assisted by a United Nations expert in its analysis of problems associated with the overpopulation of the Island.

III. THE TOOLS OF DEVELOPMENT

A. Public Administration

11. Sixty-one experts assisted ten Governments and the Central American region in public administration, through expert advice and training institutions. In 1951 the United Nations conducted a Training Centre in Public Administration in El Salvador to familiarize Salvadorian officials with modern principles and methods of public administration. In 1955 the Government of El Salvador opened a National School of Public Administration designed to train Government employees of intermediate and lower levels, with the cooperation of a United Nations expert who participated in the planning and organization of the school and remained as an instructor and general adviser. Since 1952 the Government of Bolivia has received the assistance of technical consultants serving in administrative and technical capacities in various fields of public administration and public finance. In the field of public administration, they assisted in the establishment of an Office for Administrative Research, and in drafting legislation for the establishment of a modern civil service system. In 1952 also, under an agreement of five

years duration between the United Nations and the Government of Brazil, technical assistance began to the Brazilian School of Public Administration, a training centre for officials and students from Brazil and other Latin American countries. A special course offers advanced training in specialized fields of public administration for intermediate and senior officials from Brazil and other Latin American countries. The United Nations has contributed the services of the Director of the School as well as seventeen lecturers and, in addition, fellowships for post-graduate studies abroad for Brazilians who are gradually taking over the duties of United Nations personnel. In addition United Nations provides scholarships for Latin American students to attend the School, through travel grants. A team of experts advised the Government of Colombia, through the National Commission for Administrative Reform, on the re-organization and improvement of administrative practices and methods, and of the civil service. This project, which is expected to continue for some years, carried out a training course for officers concerned with organization and methods, and involves the establishment of a classification plan, and advice on the re-organization of certain Government Bureaux. A Regional Seminar on the Administration and Training of Public Service Personnel was held in Montevideo in October 1955 with the assistance of United Nations experts dealing with the principal problems involved in personnel administration and training, with special reference to Uruguay and also in the more general perspective of the other Latin American countries represented. The Advanced School of Public Administration in Costa Rica a part of the Central American Economic Integration Programme, received, since 1954, the assistance of the United Nations through the Director of the School, and eleven lecturers, members of the permanent faculty or short-term visiting professors, and books and equipment as well as fellowships. The School gives advanced training to high Government officials of the Central American countries in specialized fields of public administration; it helped also with the establishment of the National Training Programme in Costa Rica and the National School of Public Administration in El Salvador with the use of publication of texts and translation; with expert advice to participating governments (Costa Rica and Nicaragua), and the organization of professional societies throughout Central America. The Governments of Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay have also received assistance in public administration. Requests have

further been received from the governments of Colombia, in connection with public administration aspects of the Cauca Valley development; of Nicaragua for the reorganization of the archives system; of Panamá, in training for civil service; of Paraguay in personnel policies; of Ecuador and Uruguay for continuation of programmes started in previous years; of Venezuela in customs and postal administration and of Brasil in connection with the administrative aspects of the North-east development plan.

B. Public Finance

12. Thirty-six experts assisted nine governments/^{and}in connection with the Budget Management Workshop for Central America in public finance. To assist the technical consultants attached to the Ministry of Finance and the Controller's Office of Bolivia, the United Nations has provided experts in tax administration, government accounting and customs administration; assistance was provided for the reorganization of the Finance Ministry where certain administrative reforms were carried out to facilitate the budgetary process. Outstanding among them has been the establishment in 1955 of a Budget Bureau and an Internal Revenue Bureau which have centralized the administration of government expenditure and revenue respectively. Ecuador has received the assistance of teams of experts concerned with various phases of public finance in order to enable the Government to carry out far-reaching reforms in tax legislation and tax administration, budget administration, customs and tariffs and fiscal accounting. The Governments of Chile, Colombia and Panamá received the aid of experts in tax administration and the Governments of Haiti and Nicaragua in fiscal and budget administration respectively. The workshop held in Mexico from October 1952 to September 1953 gave the opportunity to participants from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to discuss problems related to the preparation of budget and classification of accounts. Requests have been received from the Government of Chile for assistance in various aspects of fiscal administration, government budgeting; of Mexico for fellowships in public finance administration; of Nicaragua in taxation.

C. Statistics

13. Sixteen Governments received the assistance of 29 experts up to the end of 1955. In addition, sixteen United Nations experts participated in conferences and training institutions. The Governments of Bolivia, Barbados, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Nicaragua were assisted with problems of general statistical organization; Argentina and El Salvador in the conduct of sampling surveys. The Government of Colombia received comprehensive assistance involving statistical organization, census problems and transport and trade statistics. The Governments of Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, Jamaica and Panamá received help with the establishment of national income estimates. The population census of Ecuador was prepared and carried out with the help of United Nations advisers and census and vital statisticians assisted also the Governments of Chile, Colombia, Panamá, Paraguay and Uruguay. The Inter-American Centre of Biostatistics, a coordinated regional project for the promotion and development of demographic and health statistics in Latin America was established in Santiago, Chile in 1952, and received aid from the United Nations through the provision of the Coordinator of the Centre, four experts and sixteen fellowships.

IV. COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT THE PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

14. The United Nations Technical Assistance Administration in Latin America has constantly endeavoured to make the maximum effective use of the limited funds available for the benefit of the countries it serves. In these efforts it has received cooperation both from countries which have made available specialists and provided host facilities for fellows and scholars and for seminars, study tours and training programmes, as well as from countries receiving assistance. In carrying out the task the Administration has coordinated its activities with those of Agencies of the United Nations participating in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, and projects have been jointly undertaken where so required by the nature of the problems concerned. Liaison has also been maintained with the Pan-American Union and with bilateral aid programmes. In connexion with the projects in which assistance is being provided and especially in following up the work of experts in the field and to enable them to render the most effective service to governments, advice has been continuously obtained from the professional staff in the substantive departments at United Nations and the secretariats of the Regional Economic Commission. Finally the United Nations

Technical Assistance Administration has also, as appropriate, in cooperation with Specialised Agencies and other International Organisations, been associated with development and training institutions organised by Member Countries of ECLA, and planned seminars, meetings of experts and working groups in which Latin American Governments have participated.^{1/}

^{1/} For list see Annex III.

Number of United Nations Technical Assistance Experts in Latin America
in 1955, by Recipient Countries^{1/}

	<u>Economic Development and</u> <u>- Public Administration Experts</u>	<u>Total - including</u> <u>Social Welfare Experts</u>
Argentina	2	2
Barbados	1	2
Bolivia	16	16
Brazil	15	16
British Guiana	-	-
Chile	3	3
Colombia	10	10
Costa Rica	2	4
Cuba	1	1
Dominican Republic	2	2
Ecuador	11	12
El Salvador	1	4
Guatemala	1	2
Haiti	7	7
Honduras	1	1
Jamaica	2	3
Mexico	8	8
Nicaragua	3	3
Panama	-	1
Paraguay	4	5
Peru	-	-
St. Lucia	-	-
Uruguay	2	2
Venezuela	7	15
Sub-Total:	<u>99</u>	<u>119</u>
Experts provided for Regional Projects	<u>39</u>	<u>43</u>
Total:	138	162

^{1/} For information concerning previous years, see Technical Assistance Activities in the ECLA Region, 1954. E/CN.12/372, of 15 July 1955.

Number of Fellowships and Scholarships
Awarded in 1955^{1/}

	<u>Economic Development and Public Administration Awards</u>	<u>Total - including Social Welfare Awards-</u>
Argentina	4	4
Barbados	-	1
Bolivia	22	22
Brazil	16	19
British Guiana	2	2
British Honduras	-	1
Chile	18	21
Colombia	11	11
Costa Rica	7	7
Cuba	2	4
Dominican Republic	-	-
Ecuador	10	12
El Salvador	2	5
Guatemala	3	7
Haiti	-	1
Honduras	16	18
Jamaica	2	2
Mexico	10	11
Nicaragua	4	4
Panama	-	-
Paraguay	2	2
Peru	8	9
Puerto Rico	6	7
Surinam	6	7
Trinidad	1	2
Uruguay	8	13
Venezuela	12	13
Virgin Islands	-	1
Sub-Total:	172	206
Regional:	<u>63</u>	<u>63</u>
Total:	235	269

^{1/} For information concerning previous years, see Technical Assistance Activities in the ECIA Region, 1954. E/CN.12/372, of 15 July 1955.

Seminars, Meetings of Experts, Working Groups, Development and Training Institutions organized for Participants from Latin America with the Assistance of the United Nations, or of Specialised Agencies or other Organisations, in which the United Nations cooperated.

- Training Centre in Public Administration, El Salvador 1951.^{1/}
- Latin American Training Centre for Agricultural Statistics, San José, Costa Rica, January 1951 and Quito, Ecuador, 1952.
- Conference on External Trade and Balance of Payments Statistics,^{2/} Panama City, December 1951.
- Interamerican Training Seminar for Bio-Statistics, Santiago, Chile, September-December 1951.
- Latin American Training Centre on the Formulation and Economic Appraisal of Agricultural and Allied Plans and Projects, Santiago, Chile September-December 1951.
- Regional Seminar on Social Security, Lima, Peru, November-December 1951.
- Special Course in Public Administration and Seminar on Organization, Direction and Functioning of the Auxiliary Survey and Staff Agencies, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 1951 - March 1952.
- Brazilian School of Public Administration, established April 1952, Rio de Janeiro.
- Interamerican Seminar on National Income Research, Santiago, Chile, 1953.
- Fundamental Education Centre, Patzcuaro, Mexico, started 1952.
- Interamerican Centre of Bio-Statistics, Santiago, Chile, established in 1952.
- Meeting of Experts on Iron and Steel Industry in Latin America Bogotá, Colombia, October 1952.^{3/}

1/ Conferencias Dictadas en el Centro de Capacitación sobre Administración Pública.
Editado por la dirección general de Personal, Ministerio de Hacienda El Salvador.

2/ Report. ST/STAT/Conf.1/L.21/Rev.1

3/ A study of the Iron and Steel Industry in Latin America
ST/TAA/Ser.C/16, E/CN.12/293/Rev. 1

- Economic Development Training Programme, Santiago, Chile
Started in June 1952
- Central American Transport Seminar, in June 1953, San José, Costa Rica. 1/
- United Nations Seminar on Community Development and Rural Welfare in Latin America,
Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1953. 2/
- Budget management workshop for Central America and the Caribbean
Mexico, September 1953. 3/
- Meeting of experts on the Pulp and Paper Industry of Latin America
Buenos Aires, October - November 1954. 4/-
- Advanced School of Public Administration for Central America opened
San José, Costa Rica, April 1954. 5/
- Seminar on self-help housing schemes and cooperative and other non-project
programmes for housing and community development for the benefit of Latin
American Countries. Copenhagen. 1954. 6/
- Seminar on Civil Registration (Santiago, Chile, December 1954).
- Interamerican Housing Centre, Bogota, Colombia. UN provided equipment in 1954.
- Seminar on the Administration and Training of Public Services Personnel.
Montevideo, Uruguay, October 1955. 7/
- Seminar on Population Problems in Latin America, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,
December 1955. 8/
- Central American Technological Research Institute established in 1955 in
Guatemala City. 9/
- National School of Public Administration, El Salvador, opened 1955.

1/ El Transporte en el Istmo Centro Americano
ST/TAA/Ser. C/8 and Corr. 1; E/CN.12/356 and Corr. 1

2/ Report. TAA/NS/LA/1.

3/ Budget Management: Report of the workshop on problems of budgeting
classification and management. ST/TAA/Ser. C/14.

4/ Report. ST/TAA/Ser. C/19; FAO/ETAP No. 462; E/CN.12/361

5/ Annual Report for 1955, E/CN.12/LLE/40: ESAPAC/382/D.52.

6/ Report in preparation

7/ Report in preparation

8/ Report in preparation

9/ Informe sobre la organización de un Instituto Centroamericano de
Investigación y Tecnología Industrial, ST/TAA/J/CENTRAL America/R.2.

