

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Guatemala

Support of a comprehensive population programme

Estimated UNFPA contribution:	\$ 5.3 million
Estimated value of the Government's contribution:	\$ 22.1 million
Duration:	Four years
Estimated starting date:	January 1980
Executing Agencies:	United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) World Health Organization (WHO)
Government Co-operating Agencies:	National Planning Council Directorate General of Statistics Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Education Ministry of Social Welfare

I. Summary

1. UNFPA proposes to support a comprehensive population programme in the amount of \$5.3 million over a four-year period to assist the Government of Guatemala, a borderline priority country for UNFPA assistance. The programme, the outlines of which were worked out by a project development mission which followed a needs assessment in mid-1979, will include projects in the areas of data collection and analysis, including support for a national census; population and employment research and policy formulation; maternal and child health; and advancement of women.

II. Background

2. Guatemala, a nation of 108,900 square kilometres with an estimated population of 7.3 million in 1978, is Central America's most populous country. Population density overall is 67 people per square kilometre, and more than double that number per square kilometre of arable land. About 61 per cent of the population live in rural areas.

3. According to United Nations estimates, Guatemala has a crude annual birth rate of 38 per thousand and a crude annual death rate of 9 per thousand, resulting in a rate of natural increase of 2.9 per cent per annum. Forty-four per cent of the population are under the age of 15, and 46 per cent of the women are in their childbearing years.

4. Life expectancy is estimated at 57.8 years but among the indigenous population, which accounts for 44 per cent of the total population, it is significantly lower. The literacy rate was estimated at 47 per cent in 1975, with a much lower percentage among the indigenous group; the absolute number of illiterate Guatemalans has increased between 1970 and 1973. The infant mortality rate is 89 deaths per thousand live births, and it is estimated that 81 per cent of the children under five suffer from clinically diagnosable malnutrition.

5. The per capita gross national product was \$910 in 1978 according to World Bank figures. The National Development Plan 1979-1982 emphasizes the importance of generating employment and developing human resources so that eventually all Guatemalans will be able to afford the basic necessities of life. The Government's principal population concerns are reducing morbidity and mortality and improving the spatial distribution of the population.

6. UNFPA assistance to Guatemala began in 1971 with support to the population and housing census of 1973. UNFPA has also assisted the National Economic Planning Council in its efforts to incorporate population variables systematically into development planning. In addition, UNFPA has been contributing to a study in one department designed to analyze migration patterns and to correlate the patterns with socio-economic variables.

7. WHO has assisted the Government in strengthening maternal and child health services and in training health personnel, particularly in rural areas. The United Nations Children's Fund has also assisted in the expansion of maternal and child health services.

8. The Guatemalan affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Asociación Pro-Bienestar de la Familia (APROFAM) operates six clinics, supplies contraceptives to Government hospitals and health posts, conducts a population information and education campaign and, working with rural co-operative groups, has initiated some pilot programmes to provide community-based services. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided funds to APROFAM for training, for logistic support and for projects in information, education, and communication, and in developing community-based family planning services. The Association for Voluntary Sterilization continues to support the consolidation and expansion of voluntary sterilization services and related training programmes at various hospitals and centres. World Neighbours supports several integrated community development programmes in rural areas which include family planning activities. Other bilateral assistance in population activities has been provided by Columbia University, the Ford Foundation, the Pathfinder Fund and the University of Michigan.

III. The programme

9. As part of the needs assessment exercise, a UNFPA programming mission assisted the Government of Guatemala in mid-1979 with the preparation of a group of project proposals. All of the projects described below have been approved or are pending. The Employment and Population Department of the General Secretariat of the National Planning Council has been charged with co-ordinating the programme.

Data collection and analysis

10. UNFPA proposes to allocate a total of \$995,000 for two projects in this area.

11. 1981 Population and housing census: The main objective of UNFPA support to the census will be to improve the quality of the cartographic work, strengthen the census-taking capacity of the Directorate General of Statistics, provide a reference point and data base for a series of household surveys, and ensure the publication of census data by mid-1982. UNFPA assistance, in the amount of \$665,000, will cover the costs of international personnel, training, and equipment. The Government's contribution will be about \$625,000. The Executing Agency will be the United Nations.

12. Strengthening the demographic data collection and analysis system: This project will build on the infrastructure of the national statistical system created with UNDP assistance. A survey of family income and expenses has already been carried out. Under the project, the Directorate General of Statistics will conduct further surveys, on internal migration, fertility and mortality as well as on employment and unemployment. UNFPA has been requested to allocate \$330,000 to cover the costs of advisory services, training, and equipment. The Government counterpart contribution will be about \$1.2 million, and the United Nations will be the Executing Agency.

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Population and employment research and policy formulation

13. UNFPA proposes to fund a project in the amount of \$970,000 to improve the ability to incorporate population and employment variables into social and economic planning. Project activities fall into two main groups: Those designed to generate and analyze data on population and employment trends for the use of planners and policy-makers, and to create a population data bank and documentation service at the National Planning Council and those designed to increase the Government's technical capacity for policy formulation through training of national personnel in research, analysis, planning, and policy-formulation techniques.

Maternal and child health

14. A project aiming at lowering maternal and child mortality and morbidity and raising the general level of family health will include: strengthening regional health offices to ensure co-ordination of the related efforts of various Government and voluntary agencies; improving the referral system for high-risk pregnancy cases; increasing the number of Government maternal and child health clinics; extending community education programmes in health and responsible parenthood; developing a complete medical record system; research to determine ways of overcoming ethnic and socio-cultural barriers of use of health services and acceptance of health education, and incorporating research findings into project activities; and training medical, para-medical, and traditional health personnel. UNFPA assistance, over a four-year period, will total \$2,273,800 and will cover costs of technical advisory services and consultants, per diem salaries for national staff engaged in supervision and co-ordination, subcontracts for research, training, and equipment. The Government counterpart contribution is estimated at about \$19 million. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance will be the Government Co-operating Agency, and WHO will be the Executing Agency.

Women in development

15. UNFPA proposes supporting two projects in this area, with a total allocation of \$755,000.

16. Training agricultural extension workers to provide population and family life education: The long-term objective of this project is to train home improvement workers of the Ministry of Agriculture so they can educate rural women in nutrition, family life and small-scale agricultural production skills. The project calls for training workers and their supervisors, developing educational materials for rural women, and organizing courses for rural leaders. UNFPA is requested to provide \$318,000 over two years to cover costs of technical experts, training, training materials, equipment and transport. The Ministry of Agriculture will be the Government Co-operating Agency, and FAO the Executing Agency. The Government counterpart contribution will be \$338,616.

17. Promoting the rural family by facilitating productive activities of women: UNFPA has been requested to support a project to help rural women in very poor villages increase their contributions to family and community well-being by creating opportunities for their productive employment. Pilot projects in several highland rural communities will educate women in the use of simple technological aids, of credit and marketing systems, in nutrition, and in generally improving family life. UNFPA's contribution, \$437,000 over a two-year period, will cover the costs of international and national personnel, training, educational materials, audiovisual equipment, a vehicle, materials needed to start small-scale production, and sub-contracts for credit and marketing studies and evaluation design and training. The Government counterpart contribution will be \$485,000. The Executing Agency is to be decided, and the Government Co-operating Agency will be the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Programme reserve

18. The Ministry of Education and Social Assistance is developing a request to UNFPA for assistance with a project in the area of sex education and child-care education for adults. This project will be implemented in co-ordination with APROFAM. UNFPA proposes holding \$300,000 in reserve to be allocated to this project over a four-year period.

19. The expenditure components of the four-year programme will be as follows:

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Data collection and analysis	204 900	436 100	253 500	100 500	995 000
Population and employment and policy formulation	294 600	265 800	253 300	156 300	970 000
Maternal and child health	679 400	598 400	529 800	466 200	2 273 800
Women in development	<u>418 000</u>	<u>337 000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>755 000</u>
	1 596 900	1 637 300	1 036 600	723 000	4 993 800
Programme reserve					<u>300 000</u>
					5 293 800

20. The status of programme formulation at the time of preparing this document was as follows:

<u>Projects</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Approved	597 000	757 400	424 300	174 300	1 953 000
Pending	999 900	879 900	612 300	548 700	3 040 800
Reserve	-	-	-	-	<u>300 000</u>
					5 293 800

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IV. Recommendation

21. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the programme in Guatemala in the amount of \$5.3 million for four years;

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to allocate funds and to make the appropriate arrangements with the Government of Guatemala and the Executing Agencies.
