

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/11/Add.8
26 February 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Twenty-seventh session
June 1980
Agenda item 7 (a) (ii)

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Assistance to the Government of Upper Volta

Support of a comprehensive population programme

| | |
|---|---|
| Estimated UNFPA contribution: | \$ 7.5 million |
| Estimated value of the Government's contribution: | To be determined for each project |
| Duration: | Four years |
| Estimated starting date: | January 1980 |
| Executing Agencies: | United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Health Organization (WHO) |
| Government Co-operating Agency: | Ministry of Planning and Co-operation |

I. Summary

1. As a result of the findings of a population needs assessment mission in May 1979, UNFPA proposes to support a programme in the amount of \$7.5 million, over a four-year period, to assist the Government of Upper Volta, a priority country for UNFPA assistance. The programme will include major projects in the following areas: demographic data collection and analysis; demographic research and population policy formulation; maternal and child health and child spacing; population information, education and communication; and women, population and development. The UNFPA contribution will provide for international experts, salaries of national personnel, in-country and overseas training, supply of expendable and non-expendable equipment, and construction costs.

II. Background

2. Upper Volta, a landlocked nation in western Africa, covers an area of 274,200 square kilometres. The first modern census, conducted in December 1975 with UNFPA assistance, showed an enumerated population of 5.6 million. The United Nations estimates the present population at just under 7 million. About 44.5 per cent of the population are under the age of 15, and 45.1 per cent of the women are in the fertile age of between 15 and 49 years.

3. About 91 per cent of the population live in the rural areas, and more than 90 per cent of the active population are employed in the primary sector. Population density is about 25 persons per square kilometre overall, and between 40-100 inhabitants per square kilometre of arable land. The population is unevenly distributed (density by department varies from 8 to 43 persons per square kilometre) and this is the cause of important internal migratory movements from densely to less densely populated areas. Some of this internal migration is spontaneous, and some is directed by the Government under a population resettlement programme in the Volta Valley, where onchocerciasis (river blindness) has recently been eradicated. Furthermore, the demographic situation in Upper Volta is heavily influenced by external migration, especially to Ghana and the Ivory Coast. At the date of the census, 6.4 per cent of the population had been residing outside the country within the last six months.

4. Estimates of crude birth and death rates are 47.8 per thousand and 22 per thousand respectively, implying an estimated rate of natural growth of about 2.6 per cent per annum.

5. Life expectancy at birth is estimated at 42 years, with the infant mortality rate at about 180 per thousand live births. Only about 15 per cent of all young children (0-4 years) are cared for under the maternal and child health system, and only about 5 per cent of all pregnant women receive prenatal care. The present health and nutrition situation is considered highly unsatisfactory. Medical personnel are insufficient at all levels, and the medical infrastructure is inadequate.

6. Upper Volta is one of the world's poorest countries, with a per capita gross national product in 1976 estimated at only \$100. The third development plan, covering the period 1977-1981, identifies the main development objectives as: improvement of the living conditions of the impoverished; satisfying the population's food requirements, self-sufficiency in food production; and reduction of unemployment. The strategy proposed to reach these objectives gives high priority to rural development, including resettlement of the rural population to achieve balanced use of land. Particular emphasis is also placed upon supplying preventive medicine to the population and on increasing the use of existing health facilities, as well as on building an educational system that is responsive to national needs.
7. Upper Volta does not yet have an explicit national population policy. However, the Government is clearly aware of the population-related problems facing the country, and it has adopted some population objectives. These are: reducing morbidity and mortality levels, with particular attention to improving maternal and child health; improving the spatial distribution of the rural population; solving problems associated with external migration; and involving more women in the development process.
8. As several Government-sponsored demographic research activities are currently under way, it is expected that a population policy will be formulated soon, and that it will be integrated into the next development plan (1982-1986). It is also expected that a national population committee will be created in 1980 to study problems relating to population growth and its impact on development.
9. UNFPA has provided assistance totalling \$2.2 million to Upper Volta since 1973. It gave support to a national population census designed to collect demographic information to be used for administrative purposes as well as in social and economic planning; the enumeration took place in December 1975, and data processing and demographic analysis are near completion. Support was given for two seminars on population and sex education, in 1976 and 1977, which sought to determine the most appropriate methods of sex education in Upper Volta. Other UNFPA assistance was provided for a two-year training programme preparing teachers to introduce sex education in the secondary schools; for a "population and development planning" project aimed at strengthening and co-ordinating population research and at integrating population factors in development planning; and to the Women's Association for activities connected with the revision of the national family code.
10. Other multilateral population assistance was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Bank as part of the support these organizations give to the country's primary health care services; it covers training of medical personnel, of traditional midwives and of rural artisans, promotion of equal opportunities for women, and provision of food for schools, hospitals and workers.
11. As for bilateral assistance, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has supported the study of migration. Sweden has been assisting the development of a nutrition section in the Ministry of Rural Development, and the United States has been giving support to the training of women and the development of villages in zones free from onchocerciasis.

III. The programme

12. The needs assessment mission that visited Upper Volta in May 1979 recommended that UNFPA develop a substantial programme of assistance in the following areas: demographic data collection and analysis; demographic research and population policy formulation; maternal and child health and child spacing; population information, education and communication; and women, population and development.

Data collection and analysis

13. Upper Volta has no effective country-wide system of reporting vital statistics and priority will therefore be given to projects that will strengthen long-term institutional capacity in demographic data collection and analysis; it is proposed to earmark \$1 million for this area, to be divided between the two projects described below when project proposals submitted by the Government have been finalized.

14. Survey on infant and child mortality: The Government has submitted a request for assistance in extending the survey on infant and child mortality currently being carried out in the capital to the other urban centres and to rural areas. The survey is designed to assess current infant and child mortality, and to propose action programmes for improving life expectancy at birth. UNFPA has been asked to fund international experts and to cover the costs of some local salaries, fellowships, vehicles, data processing, data analysis, data reporting, and printing. The Government will provide some salaries and premises, and will cover expenses not funded by UNFPA. The United Nations will be the Executing Agency.

15. Improving the national civil registration system: The basic objectives of this project are to obtain the high-quality data needed for administrative purposes (for instance, by establishing an identification card for each individual) and to observe population trends through continuous recording of births and deaths. The proposal calls for conducting a review of the current registration system; developing a strategy for the recording of vital events to be applied on a pilot basis; and gradually expanding civil registration activities to cover the whole country. UNFPA will cover costs of an expert, some local salaries, equipment and vehicles. The Government will provide some local salaries and premises and will cover costs not provided for by UNFPA. The United Nations will be the Executing Agency.

Demographic research and population policy formulation

16. The Government is initiating several demographic research activities designed to help in the formulation of a national population policy. UNFPA proposes to allocate a total of \$1.5 million to assist these activities. The sum of \$889,770 has been allocated for the first two projects mentioned below, and the remainder will be divided between the third and fourth when project proposals are finalized.

17. Establishment of a data bank: UNFPA has allocated \$558,600 to support the establishment of a population data bank. The objectives of this project are to collect all available demographic data, record them in a standardized form on a computer, make the data available to all concerned Government institutions, and ensure that the data are used in preparing the next national development plan (1982-1986). Project activities will include collecting, correcting, and synthesizing data; organizing a meeting of users; and training administrators in the use of information systems. UNFPA funding will cover expert and consultant services in demographic data analysis and data processing, fellowships in demography and data processing, a seminar on the use of a data bank, the purchase and installation of a small computer, and provision of office equipment and supplies. The Government's contribution will cover salaries of national personnel, premises, and other expenses not provided for by UNFPA assistance.

18. Study of cultural values and practices: UNFPA has allocated \$331,170 to support a study of traditional beliefs which should yield information on cultural and social values necessary for formulating an effective population policy. The objectives of the project are to compile the findings of anthropological research already carried out and complete them by field surveys among the main ethnic groups; integrate the research findings into the on-going population education programme; and publish a monograph on socio-cultural practices to serve as a reference for planners and educators. UNFPA funding will provide the services of an anthropologist and of consultants, and cover the costs of some local salaries, a seminar, vehicles and tape recorders for the field surveys, some office equipment and supplies, reporting and printing, and the purchase of foreign anthropological publications on Upper Volta. The Government's contribution will cover the salaries of some nationals, premises, and other expenses not provided for by UNFPA.

19. Survey on internal migration: The Government has submitted a proposal for a survey on internal migration and its influence on fertility and the role of women. In the principal arrival zones of migrants, the survey will collect data on the relations between host groups and newly arrived people; in the zones of departure, it will collect data on the impact of the migration of men, and on the effect that the consequent assumption of agricultural tasks by the women has on fertility, on the family, and on rural society in general. UNFPA is requested to fund experts (an economist/demographer and a sociologist), salaries of some local personnel, training and equipment. The Government's contribution will consist of some salaries and of premises, and it will also cover costs not provided for by UNFPA.

20. Socio-economic study in the Kou Valley: The Government is planning a socio-economic research study on the structure of households, fertility, and infant mortality in the Kou Valley, an area in the western part of the country with some 9,000 people distributed in seven villages. The project will gather information on social, economic, sanitary, and nutritional conditions, and establish the relationship of these conditions with fertility and with infant and maternal mortality. The purpose is also to promote improvement in the health and nutrition of mothers and children and change in the attitudes of men. UNFPA will be requested to cover the costs of consultants, some salaries for local personnel, training, equipment, and printing. The Government will finance some salaries and premises, as well as the costs not covered by UNFPA.

Maternal and child health and child spacing

21. Support for maternal and child health/child spacing within the health system: The Government has formulated a ten-year programme for improving the basic health system. Within the framework of this programme, UNFPA proposes to allocate \$2 million to support a maternal and child health/child spacing project. The project, still in the formulation stage, will have the following components: improvement and strengthening of the maternal and child health infrastructure and of maternity wards in urban and rural areas; development of a comprehensive family health training programme for all categories of medical and para-medical personnel; introduction of birth-spacing courses into the curricula of medical and health-services schools; organization of a training programme for traditional birth attendants; and establishment of a research programme on selected aspects of sterility and on diseases causing infertility.

Information, education and communication

22. UNFPA proposes allocating a total of \$500,000 to support activities in this area.

23. Providing village women with handicraft and agricultural skills: This project aims at preparing village women to increase family income and thus improve their family welfare and living conditions. UNFPA funds, in the amount of \$440,000, will support the training of high-level and medium-level personnel, both at the central level and at the community level. Training will be provided in the country and abroad.

24. Other projects: Pending the submission of proposals from the Government, the remaining funds allocated to this area will support some or all of the following activities: designing courses on population and development, on health, and on nutrition as part of the curriculum of the Ministry of Information's training centre; training rural radio personnel in population matters, and making use of the findings of the study of cultural and social values in radio programmes on population subjects; and strengthening the centre for health education in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Women's programmes

25. Training to promote integration of women into development: This project, for which UNFPA expects to allocate about \$1 million, is designed to train traditional birth attendants and female rural development personnel on the role of women in development and on how women can be integrated into community development activities. The training will involve 75 trainers, 300 motivators and 300 traditional birth attendants and will cover topics such as family health and hygiene, nutrition, and technical training required to allow women to increase their incomes and improvement in working conditions for women; it will be a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the country's Regional Development Organization, and will benefit 150 villages in three regions of the country.

Programme reserve

26. In the near future the Government is expected to submit proposals for projects in two areas: population redistribution (the Government plans to resettle 55,000 families, or about 500,000 people, in the Volta Valley in the next fifteen years, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 per family), and the teaching of demography at the National University of Upper Volta. Discussions on co-operation between UNFPA and the Government on these two projects had not yet been initiated at the time of writing but UNFPA proposes to set aside a programme reserve of \$1.5 million for expected assistance to these projects.

27. The proposed UNFPA contribution by category and year is as follows:

| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Data collection and analysis | 465 000 | 157 000 | 181 000 | 197 000 | 1 000 000 |
| Demographic research and population policy formulation | 727 785 | 488 705 | 173 280 | 110 230 | 1 500 000 |
| Maternal and child health/child spacing | 300 000 | 600 000 | 600 000 | 500 000 | 2 000 000 |
| Information, education and communication | 131 000 | 131 000 | 117 000 | 121 000 | 500 000 |
| Women's programmes | <u>202 000</u> | <u>238 000</u> | <u>255 000</u> | <u>305 000</u> | <u>1 000 000</u> |
| Sub-total | 1 825 785 | 1 614 705 | 1 326 280 | 1 233 230 | 6 000 000 |
| Reserve | | | | | <u>1 500 000</u> |
| | | | | | 7 500 000 |

28. The status of programme development at the time of writing is as follows:

| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1981</u> | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Approved | 527 785 | 288 705 | 73 280 | - | 889 770 |
| Pending | 988 000 | 711 000 | 638 000 | 713 230 | 3 050 230 |
| Foreseen | 310 000 | 615 000 | 615 000 | 520 000 | 2 060 000 |
| | | | | | <u>1 500 000</u> |
| | | | | | 7 500 000 |

IV. Recommendation

29. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the programme in Upper Volta in the amount of \$7.5 million for four years; and

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

