

**UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME**



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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Rwanda

Comprehensive population programme

Estimated UNFPA contribution:	\$ 5.5 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 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Government Co-operating Agency:	Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

## I. Summary

1. As a result of the findings of a population needs assessment mission, UNFPA proposes to support a population programme in the amount of \$5.5 million over the four-year period 1980-1983, in Rwanda, a priority country for UNFPA assistance. The programme will include major projects in the areas of demographic data collection and analysis and of maternal and child health and family planning. UNFPA funding for these projects will cover long- and short-term technical assistance, support for national personnel in the form of salaries and in-country and overseas training, expendable and non-expendable equipment and construction costs. Assistance is foreseen for a demographic training and research centre, a national population office and for information, education and communication activities.

## II. Background

2. A general population census of Rwanda, conducted in mid-1978 with UNFPA assistance, indicated an enumerated population of 4.8 million. About 44 per cent of the population are less than 15 years old; only about 3 per cent 65 years or over. Women in the fertile age group 15 to 49 represent 45 per cent of the total female population.

3. About 95 per cent of the population live in the rural areas and are mainly engaged in agriculture. With an average density of 183 persons per square kilometre (270 per square kilometre of arable land), Rwanda is the most densely populated country in continental Africa.

4. The population growth rate is estimated to be as high as 3.1 per cent, with a crude birth rate of 50 per thousand and a crude death rate of 19 per thousand. The infant mortality rate is believed to be approximately 135 per thousand live births. Life expectancy at birth for the population as a whole is estimated to be 45.8 years.

5. Rwanda, with an estimated per capita gross national product of \$180 in 1978, according to World Bank statistics, is one of the world's poorest nations. The country's most serious problems are the precarious balance between food supply and demographic growth, a land shortage, underemployment, and malnutrition of children.

6. In the current development plan (1977-1981) the Government has indicated several priorities. To satisfy the food needs of the population two measures are envisaged: increasing food production by 3.9 per cent annually, and promoting the spacing of births, which would result in a reduction in the fertility rate, through an information and education campaign and by providing contraceptives to those willing to use them. Other priorities are eradicating underemployment and unemployment, and improving the living conditions of both the individual and the community by creating the necessary infrastructure and by developing a health care system.

7. By presidential decree a Population Council was created in 1974 to study all problems related to population growth; to assess the effect of these problems on the socio-economic development of the country; to propose solutions so that a balance can be reached between production and demographic growth; and to propose ways of integrating family planning into health education programmes. In 1978, on the recommendation of the Council, the Government approved pilot projects for family planning services in medical centres in three regions. The Government also decided to create a National Population Office which will be responsible for the planning, development, co-ordination and monitoring of all population activities.

8. As of December 1979, total UNFPA allocations for Rwanda amounted to \$1.4 million. Support was given to the population census, which was designed to provide demographic data for economic and social development planning; UNFPA covered the costs of providing census advisers, and a data-processing expert, salaries of local personnel, and equipment. The census enumeration took place in 1978 and the data were being processed in 1979.

9. Other multilateral population assistance has been provided by UNICEF and WHO as part of their support of the country's primary health care services. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Pathfinder Fund have supported some pilot family planning projects with the supply of contraceptives and medical equipment and with training. The Pathfinder Fund also sponsored the first Inter-African Seminar on Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning, held in Kigali in October 1978.

10. Bilateral population assistance is being given to Rwanda by the United States for a rural health and family planning programme.

### III. The programme

11. The proposed UNFPA programme, as described below, is based on the findings of the population needs assessment mission which visited Rwanda in early 1979. The mission recommended that population assistance be directed in particular to two major areas, demographic data collection and maternal and child health and family planning, and also to research and policy development, and information, education and communication in support of family planning.

#### Data collection and analysis

12. UNFPA proposes earmarking \$1.3 million for three projects designed to strengthen and up-grade Rwanda's institutional capacity for demographic data collection and analysis.

13. A post-census survey: UNFPA and the Government are in the final stage of formulating a project to carry out a post-census sample survey to collect more complete data on the rate of natural increase and migratory movements of the population. These data are indispensable for the formulation and implementation of population policy. UNFPA expects to allocate \$400,000 over two years for this project.

14. Other projects: UNFPA foresees allocating the remainder of the funds for this area between two other activities still in the project formulation stage. One is the completion by 1981 of the processing, analysis and publication of the results of the 1978 census. The other is a project to improve the national registration system, particularly in the area of methodology, so that it can provide the Government with more complete and reliable data on births and deaths throughout the country.

Demographic research and policy formulation

15. UNFPA proposes earmarking approximately \$700,000 for two projects in this area, both still in the formulation stage. The first would support the establishment of a demographic unit at the University of Butare; the unit would introduce the study of demography into the university curriculum, offer training in demography into the University curriculum, offer training in demography for middle-level civil servants, and participate in demographic research projects. The second project would provide assistance in setting up the National Population Office mentioned above in the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Office, which will rely on the advice and decisions of the Population Council, will be responsible for the planning, development, co-ordination and evaluation of all population activities.

Maternal and child health and family planning

16. The Government is committed to providing family planning services as an integral part of maternal and child health services. UNFPA proposes to contribute \$2.5 million to the Government programme over the next four years to support a variety of activities.

17. Creation of a division of maternal and child health/family planning in the Ministry of Health: The Government and UNFPA are in the process of finalizing a proposal for the creation of such a division. UNFPA support, in the amount of \$1,161,000 over three years, will assist with devising an organizational structure, providing staff and establishing premises for the new division.

18. Other projects: The remainder of the funds requested for maternal and child health and family planning will support some or all of these proposed projects, still in the formulation stage:

(a) Establishment of one fully equipped and staffed socio-medical centre per commune. The socio-medical centres will play a key role in the family planning programme; they will be responsible both for primary health care delivery, including delivery of maternal and child health and family planning services, and for educational activities related to health and nutrition;

(b) Development of a comprehensive training programme for all categories of health personnel including medical, para-medical, and socio-educational personnel involved in the delivery of family planning services;

(c) Strengthening of the health statistics system, primarily to enable close monitoring of the progress made in the family planning programme; and

(d) Research on the reproductive behaviour and motivations of the population; on the acceptability and applicability of introducing family planning services through the socio-medical centres; and on the population's attitudes, knowledge and practice regarding family planning methods. A UNFPA consultant has been assisting the Government in formulating a programme that incorporates the components described above.

Information, education and communication

19. UNFPA proposes setting aside \$500,000 to support projects in this programme area.

20. Training of trainers in population information, education and communication:

UNFPA and the Government are in the process of finalizing a proposal for this project; UNFPA's contribution would amount to \$190,000 over a two-year period.

21. Other activities: UNFPA expects to receive proposals from the Government for two other projects in this area: organization of a national seminar and a series of regional seminars to discuss and draw up a country-wide population education programme, and the launching of mass information campaigns in support of the introduction of family planning services. These projects, for which UNFPA is reserving a total of \$310,000 would not begin until 1981.

Programme reserve

22. UNFPA proposes setting aside a programme reserve of \$500,000 for further assistance to the Government in population activities.

23. The proposed allocations by category and year are as follows:

	<u>1980</u> \$	<u>1981</u> \$	<u>1982</u> \$	<u>1983</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
Data collection and analysis	372 000	428 000	300 000	200 000	1 300 000
Demographic research and policy formulation	150 000	225 000	275 000	50 000	700 000
Maternal and child health and family planning	604 000	890 000	656 000	350 000	2 500 000
Information, communication, education	<u>162 000</u>	<u>128 000</u>	<u>100 000</u>	<u>110 000</u>	<u>500 000</u>
Sub-total	1 288 000	1 671 000	1 331 000	710 000	5 000 000
Reserve					<u>500 000</u>
					5 500 000

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24. The status of programme development at the time of writing was as follows:

<u>Projects</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Pending	838 000	646 000	267 000	-	1 751 000
Foreseen	450 000	1 025 000	1 064 000	710 000	<u>3 249 000</u>
Reserve					500 000
					5 500 000

#### IV. Recommendation

25. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the programme for Rwanda for the period of four years (1980-1983) in the total amount of \$5.5 million;

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