OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Morocco

Comprehensive population programme

Estimated UNFPA contribution: $10 000 000

Estimated value of the Government's contribution: $86 900 000

Duration: Four and one-half years

Estimated starting date: July 1981

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 of Planning
I. Summary

1. UNFPA proposes to support a four and one-half years (1981-1985) comprehensive population programme in Morocco, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, in the amount of $10,000,000. The proposed programme is based on the findings and recommendations of a needs assessment mission that visited the country in 1979. It would include projects in the areas of data collection and analysis, population dynamics and policy formulation, maternal and child health and family planning as well as education in this area, population education, and special programmes. UNFPA assistance would provide international experts and consultants; training, seminars and study tours; some operational expenses; equipment; vehicles; and textbooks and other teaching and research materials.

II. Background

2. Morocco covers an area of 659,970 square kilometres. The population was estimated by the United Nations at 20.3 million in 1980, and population density at 45 persons per square kilometre over-all, ranging from less than two persons per square kilometre in the southwest to over a thousand per square kilometre in Casablanca. About 39 per cent of the population live in urban areas.

3. The crude birth rate and death rate (1975-1980) as estimated by the United Nations are, respectively, 44.1 per thousand and 11.7 per thousand. The annual population growth rate is estimated at 3.24 per cent; if this rate continues, the population will more than double by the year 2000. Women of reproductive age 15-49 account for about 45 per cent of all women.

4. Life expectancy at birth is estimated by the United Nations at about 55 years. According to World Bank estimates, the nationwide infant mortality rate is 149 per thousand while in urban areas it is 100 per thousand.

5. The per capita gross national product, as estimated by the World Bank for 1978, is $670. The literacy rate is 27 per cent for males and 13 per cent for females.

6. The first Government-sponsored family planning clinics were opened in 1966, and the Government has continued to consider demographic factors in the context of national development since the formulation of the Five-Year Development Plan for 1968-1972. In 1978, in his most recent public pronouncement on Morocco's population problem, the King said that dealing with demographic problems was one of the country's top priorities. However, although many population-related activities have been initiated, these do not constitute the consistent, systematic programme needed to address the situation. The Ministry of Health's family planning programme has reached only about 2 per cent of the fertile population.

7. Three principal objectives of the 1981-1985 Five-Year Plan are to: a) develop the capability to construct a broad statistical base on which to formulate rational economic development plans that build on demographic factors; b) introduce measures to develop the country's human resources through provision of health services, education, and skills training; and c) reduce the present very large disparity in standards of living between urban and rural areas.

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8. Although it has a large agricultural potential, Morocco has recently begun to import basic food items, primarily wheat and meat. To remedy this situation, the Government plans over the next five years to concentrate on increasing agricultural production. An essential step in the plan for achieving this increase is to decentralize development efforts by giving provincial governors and technical experts authority to initiate activities appropriate to the regions for which they are responsible.

9. In June 1976 the Governing Council at its twenty-second session approved UNFPA support of $2.9 million to assist the Government's national family planning programme in the public health sector and to promote the status of women. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) served as executing agencies for this programme. Inter-provincial seminars were conducted to train, inform and motivate approximately 350 directors of women's centres, and about 2,000 medical and paramedical personnel and motivators. A national health and family planning seminar was held for teaching staff and students of Morocco's medical faculties. Nursing school graduates were also instructed in the theory and practice of contraception. Twelve doctors and nurses underwent training in Belgium and France. Eight documentary films and four television spots were produced, eight different posters were printed, and two textbooks and a widely distributed summary of the national seminar were published. Vocational training and skills were imparted to young women to enable them to participate meaningfully in development efforts, principally through the women's centres of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The assistance also provided medical equipment and vehicles. Twenty-two clinical mobile units containing audio-visual equipment, especially designed to reach the rural population, were delivered before the end of 1980.

10. Several other activities have received funding from UNFPA to lay the groundwork for the comprehensive five-year population programme proposed in this document. To lay the foundation for a population education programme in the primary and secondary school system, UNFPA provided funds for a) a national seminar allowing educational leaders to discuss the need for and scope of this programme, b) for tours for selected leaders to permit them to observe ongoing population education programmes in other countries and study methods and achievements, and c) for a professor of demography at the National Institute of Economics and Applied Statistics to begin development of a full-scale, Arabic language graduate programme in demography. In co-operation with the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID), UNFPA allocated $210,000 in 1980 for the purchase of vehicles for the Health Ministry's U.S.AID-assisted household contraceptives distribution pilot programme in Marrakech province. Total UNFPA assistance to Morocco through 1980 amounted to about $3.5 million.

11. Bilateral support for population activities has come chiefly from U.S. AID, which has provided contraceptive supplies and equipment, technical assistance, training and other support, including construction of thirteen provincial family planning referral centres. U.S. AID assistance has also supported a pilot programme to provide contraceptives directly to the homes of all families in Marrakech province as well as the design and implementation of a national fertility and family planning survey. Other activities that have received U.S. AID support include establishment of mobile outreach services in the provincial family planning referral centres, training of several categories of Moroccan family planning personnel, contraceptive distribution through a private sector programme, and information and education activities of the
Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale, the affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). U.S.AID total obligations were expected to amount to about $6,977,000 by January 1981.

12. As for non-governmental organization assistance, the International Fertility Research Programme (IFRP) is assisting the Government with the evaluation of the household contraceptives distribution project to determine if this approach increases utilization. Results are expected to be published in 1981. The Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale complements the national programme by operating clinics and a community-based distribution programme in rural areas with some 90 distribution points.

13. The needs assessment mission that visited Morocco in 1979 suggested several priority areas for external population assistance:

   a) data collection and analysis - cartographic work for the up-coming census, and improvement and enlargement of the vital statistics collection system;
   b) population dynamics and policy formulation - organization of a co-ordinating body within the Ministry of Planning, which would include government officials and representatives of universities and other institutions, to oversee population policy-making and programme planning and to co-ordinate population data collection and analysis as well as the planning and implementation of a number of socio-economic research studies;
   c) maternal and child health and family planning - support to the Government's maternal and child health and family planning programme as well as for training health personnel at all levels, for supplying necessary equipment and for improving the information system for reporting MCH/FP statistics;
   d) population education - holding of a national seminar to assist Moroccan officials to prepare the basis for a population education programme in schools, the establishment of an interagency task force to draw up a comprehensive plan for such a programme and train the people who will implement it and assistance to the Educational Radio and Television Service in designing population education programmes; and
   e) special programmes - support to the Women's Division of the Ministry of Youth and Sports to provide programmes for rural women, the formation of local agricultural organizations to which health and family planning programmes could be attached, and assistance to vocational training programmes for women and youth.

III. The programme

14. UNFPA assistance under this programme would contribute to putting the Moroccan population programme on a firm footing; the bulk of this assistance would be utilized to strengthen health and family planning services, especially through training of personnel.

15. The projects making up the proposed programme, for which a total of $10 million is being requested, are described below. Some of these would extend and expand activities already assisted by UNFPA.
Data collection and analysis

16. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $1,500,000 for three projects in this category:

17. **Cartography and collection of data on community infrastructure.** This project would assist the Ministry of Planning with modernizing its cartographic services in preparation for the census (originally scheduled for 1981 and now rescheduled for 1982). The Government is also hoping to use preparations for the census as a basis for collecting data at the local level on the country's community infrastructure, that is, on the location and distribution of hospitals, schools, and community centres, etc. (See paragraph 22.) This data would be utilized in drawing up regional development plans and gauging progress in reducing regional inequities. UNFPA assistance of $612,000 would provide the services of a cartographic expert beginning in 1981 as well as vehicles and field expenses of the survey team. The Executing Agency would be the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNTCD).

18. **Other projects.** The remaining $888,000 under this category would be divided, in line with needs assessment recommendations, between two projects which remain to be formulated:

   a) an evaluation of the vital statistics collection system and a pilot project to improve this system. At present data on births and deaths can only be estimated on the basis of periodic surveys, because registration in both urban and rural areas has not been effective; and

   b) assistance to analyse census data. Much valuable data from previous censuses, particularly those of 1960 and 1971, remains to be analysed for lack of expertise and co-ordination among agencies with different yet overlapping interests.

Population dynamics and policy formulation

19. Under this category UNFPA proposes assisting five projects in the amount of $1,500,000.

20. **Establishing a demographic studies programme at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA).** UNFPA proposes assisting the establishment of a graduate-level demographic studies programme within the National Institute of Applied Economics and Statistics (INSEA). The graduates of this programme would be qualified to undertake the advanced demographic research and analysis of census data and results of other surveys. This work is expected to contribute significantly to development planning in Morocco. UNFPA assistance, totalling about $400,000, would fund the work of an Arabic-language professor of demography on the staff of the Institute, support one doctoral candidate studying abroad who is scheduled to return to teach demography at the Institute, supply basic texts, documents and teaching materials, and provide administrative support costs and a vehicle. In addition, assistance would allow INSEA to organize a seminar for representatives of government and academic organizations to discuss current demographic data on Morocco in order to decide on areas of future research. The Executing Agency is expected to be UNTCD.

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21. Assistance to the Centre for Demographic Research and Analysis. This project, in the amount of $320,000, would reinforce and expand the Centre's capability for analysing demographic data and carrying out research on the Moroccan population in relation to social and economic development planning. UNFPA assistance would provide for the services of a senior demographer to afford guidance to the Centre in the development of its research programme and, where possible, participate in the INSEA teaching programme. In addition, these funds would allow the Centre's Director to visit countries with similar centres to study how these centres are operated and managed. Finally, the assistance would aid the Centre's library in building up the reference capability in regard to resource materials and basic documents. The Executing Agency would be UNTCD.

22. Other projects. The remaining $780,000 under this category would be allocated among the following three projects: a) creation of a co-ordinating body within the Ministry of Planning to oversee population policymaking and programme planning and co-ordinate data collection and analysis; b) studies and surveys to be conducted in connexion with the 1982 census of the demographic dimensions of poverty levels, including inventories of community resources; and c) strengthening research and training capabilities of appropriate institutions dealing with issues of population and development.

Maternal and child health and family planning

23. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $3,700,000 for two projects in this category:

24. Extension of MCH/FP services. This project would build on previous assistance to the Ministry of Health, and would expand and improve the level of MCH/FP services offered by dispensaries and rural health centres. Twenty-one dispensaries would be equipped and staffed to play a central role by providing maternal and child health and family planning services and health education. The dispensaries would also be equipped to deliver a small number of babies. Twenty-nine rural health centres would be strengthened to provide a first point of contact for greater numbers of people. Under this project UNFPA also proposes to support expansion of the programme for household distribution of contraceptives. Continued assistance would also be provided for the 22 mobile units which are equipped to provide, in rural communities without access to comprehensive health services, a full range of diagnostic health care and family planning services as well as audio-visual educational programmes on these subjects. UNFPA assistance would provide training, equipment, some administrative support costs, and vehicles. The total amount proposed for the project is $1,400,000, with $900,000 earmarked for the first three years. Before the end of 1983 an evaluation would determine the level of activities and the distribution of funding for the final two years. UNFPA would expect to use the reimbursable procurement services of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to execute this project.

25. Training in family planning information, education and communication for health personnel. The objective of this project would be to provide refresher courses and on-the-job training in family planning information, education, and communication techniques to all levels of personnel responsible for training nurses, midwives and other health workers. About 3,500 people in all would be trained. An evaluation of current training procedures and the content of courses now used would provide the basis for establishing training programmes oriented towards rural needs. The courses would
utilize group dynamics and other techniques drawn from adult education programmes. By the end of the project, it is expected that the Ministry of Health would be able to continue this training for all medical and paramedical personnel. UNFPA assistance would cover the services of a consultant who would conduct the evaluation and plan training programmes as well as review curricula in schools for health professionals at all levels in order to plan for the permanent integration of the instructional procedures and materials that have been developed. Assistance would also provide: a) short-term tours for staff of the Ministry of Health during which they could study successful training courses in other countries; b) audio-visual and printing equipment; c) textbooks, documents and teaching materials; and d) vehicles for supervisory personnel. The total budget for the project would be $2,300,000, of which $1,600,000 would be earmarked for the first three years. The project design has built-in requirements for semi-annual reports and evaluation, and an in-depth review would be made before the end of 1983. Results would be used to determine the distribution of funding for 1984-1985. It is expected that the World Health Organization (WHO) would be the Executing Agency.

Population education

26. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $1,800,000 for two projects in this category:

27. Developing a population communication capability in the Division of Health Education, Ministry of Health. This project would provide personnel of the Division of Health Education with the training and equipment necessary to enable them to motivate and educate the population in health and family planning. The Division would also be able to assist with the health education activities of other ministries such as the Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports, and Agriculture. The Division would develop a national strategy for reaching the diverse population groups in Morocco, as well as training programmes in the techniques of inter-personal communication and production of appropriate materials. Regional seminars to train health educators and their supervisors would be held throughout the country in line with the Ministry's plans to decentralize authority and activities to the regional level. UNFPA assistance would be used to provide a consultant; train production staff to plan and produce materials, both printed and audio-visual; supply equipment for reproduction and projection of materials; and provide a vehicle for supervising field activities. The total amount requested would be $1,100,000 with $700,000 earmarked for 1981-1983. Before the end of 1983, an evaluation would be made and the results used to determine the work plan for 1984-1985. It is expected that this project would be executed by WHO.

28. Introduction of population education into the primary and secondary school curricula. This project would support the establishment of a unit within the Ministry of Education which would be responsible for developing educational programmes for primary and secondary school children. UNFPA has already provided support for visits by selected leaders from the Ministry to ongoing population education programmes that have been successfully integrated into the national school systems, as well as for a national seminar for leaders in the education field to discuss the implementation of such a programme in Morocco. In order to train the teaching staff who would be involved in this programme, seminars would be held at the regional level at which teaching materials would be developed. To introduce population education courses...
into teacher training institutions, seminars would be organized to train professors from these institutions who would be provided teaching materials and texts. The project also calls for establishing a unit within the Educational Radio and Television Service which would design programmes for home consumption by students, their parents and teachers. UNFPA funds in the amount of $700,000 would provide some training on population issues for members of the unit, filming equipment, and a vehicle to facilitate filming on location. UNESCO would be the Executing Agency.

Special programmes

29. UNFPA proposes assistance totalling $1,500,000 in this category:

30. Health education and family planning for rural and poor urban women. Designed primarily to reach rural women but also to include women in low-income areas surrounding the cities, this pilot project calls for assisting the Women's Division of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Division organizes women into co-operatives to improve their skills in agricultural production, tailoring, rug weaving and production of handicrafts. UNFPA assistance would allow the Division to provide these women with health education and family planning services. A total of $800,000 is being requested for the project, to cover seminars for re-orienting the training of field workers for rural areas, the cost of field work, and vehicles designed to reach rural areas. This project would be executed by the Government.

31. The remaining $700,000, it is expected, would be used for a project designed to introduce into vocational training programmes for youth a component on health and population issues organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare.

32. The proposed UNFPA contribution for the four and one-half year period, subject to the availability of funds, is as follows:

| Data collection and analysis | $1 500 000 |
| Population dynamics and policy formulation | 1 500 000 |
| Maternal and child health and family planning | 3 700 000 |
| Population information, education and communication | 1 800 000 |
| Special programmes | 1 500 000 |

10 000 000

33. The status of programme and project development, as of February 1981, is as follows:

| Approved | $ 612 000 |
| Pending | 4 988 000 |
| Foreseen | 4 400 000 |

10 000 000
4. The Government's contribution to the programme would consist almost entirely of the salaries of all personnel involved and the buildings to be used for project activities.

IV. Recommendation

5. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

   (a) Approve the country programme for Morocco for the four and one-half year period in the amount of $10,000,000;

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