OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Global project

World Fertility Survey
(Continuation of Phase III)

Estimated UNFPA contribution: $1,500,000
Duration: One year
Estimated starting date: Ongoing project
Executing Agency: International Statistical Institute (ISI)
I. Summary

1. At its eighteenth session in June 1974, the Governing Council approved UNFPA assistance in the amount of $4,507,505 for three years to the World Fertility Survey (WFS). In January 1977, at its twenty-third session, the Governing Council approved in principle the extension of the project for five years, July 1977 to June 1982, and financial support in the amount of $2,348,000 for the first two years (July 1977 to June 1979). In June 1979, at its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council approved a UNFPA allocation to the project in the amount of $3,658,000 for two years, from July 1979 to June 1981, with the understanding that the Council would be notified in 1981 of the allocation for the remaining years, July 1981 to June 1982. This document includes recommendations for UNFPA financial support for the year July 1981 to June 1982. Recommendations for UNFPA support beyond June 1982 will be presented to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.

II. Background

2. The WFS project is being executed by the International Statistical Institute under a Central Organization located in London. Funding has come primarily from the U.S. Agency for International Development and UNFPA, with additional assistance from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Netherlands, France, and the Canadian International Development Research Centre. The WFS project was originally conceived as a five-year programme with a pre-project phase lasting from January to June 1972 to assess the feasibility of the programme, a project development phase from 1972 to 1974 to set up the programme, and an implementation phase from 1974 to 1977 to undertake the country surveys, analyze the data collected and publish the findings. In January 1977 the programme was extended for five years, based on the intention of a number of governments of developing countries to participate after 1977, and on the fact that if the WFS were to terminate at the end of the present phase, not only would African country participation be at a minimum, but a considerable number of surveys to be initiated by mid-1977 could not be carried out. It was expected then that the WFS, in its current form as a single round of fertility surveys, would terminate in June 1982.

III. Review of project progress

Status of work

3. The work programme of the WFS has continued in line with the recommendations made by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in June 1979.

4. A final list of 44 developing countries to participate in the WFS programme was agreed to in 1980. Among these, 12 are in Africa, 13 in Asia and the Pacific, four in the Caribbean, one in Europe, nine in Latin America and five in the Middle East. However, the surveys in two of these 44 countries, Burma and Chile, were later cancelled.

1/ DP/FPA/1/Add.9 and Corr.1
2/ DP/FPA/6/Add.6, para. 27.
3/ DP/FPA/10/Add.26
5. Of the 42 countries participating, 39 have already completed field activities, and in the remaining three (Benin, Mauritania, and Nigeria), data collection in the field is scheduled to be undertaken during 1981.

6. With regard to data processing, 30 countries will complete all work by July 1981, seven will be completed during the period mid-1981 to mid-1982 and five are expected to be completed by early 1983.

7. Country Report I is already available for each of 21 countries. Eight more individual country reports will either be published or in process by mid-1981. Five more reports will be published by mid-1982 and the remaining eight in 1983.

8. Further analysis of the data includes national meetings, evaluation workshops and in-depth analysis of the data. By mid-1981, national meetings will have taken place in each of the countries following the completion of the first country report. Twelve evaluation workshops will have been conducted with the participation of 22 countries for the purpose of assessing the quality of the data collected in the countries and to identify further analysis projects. With regard to country-specific analytical studies, by the end of 1980, well over 250 projects were in progress or completed, covering 24 countries. About half of these studies were initiated by the countries concerned and some received technical assistance from the WFS. By June 1982, the minimum programme will have been completed in 20 countries and analysis will be in progress in another 15. By mid-1982, the remaining countries will be in position to begin these activities.

9. In regard to comparative analysis of national data, the WFS has continued to carry out a minimum programme which consists of collaborating with organizations within the United Nations system and other organizations in undertaking specific studies and in the production of Cross-National Summaries.

10. WFS has been involved in building up and maintaining data files for each participating country. This refers to the acquisition and storage of national tapes and documentation, cleaning and standardization of tapes as well as the distribution of data and data documentation to users upon request.

Review of the programme

11. In 1980, two events took place which have implications concerning the future of the Programme: the WFS Conference and the Evaluation of the Programme.

12. The WFS Conference, held in London from 7 to 11 July 1980, was attended by 608 participants from 90 countries. In general, the participants acknowledged the achievements of the WFS Programme and stressed the high quality of the work accomplished. Some reservations were made regarding: a) the high cost of the Programme; b) the limited achievements in building national capabilities for future survey research; and c) the limitations of the data collected (the national surveys provide a good measurement of fertility but limit the facility to interpret it due to the lack of appropriate socio-economic variables). Furthermore, the participants suggested: a) revision and improvement of the methodology and survey instruments (including validity studies); b) the continuation of further analyses of the data collected, including socio-economic and cultural factors; and c) the orientation of efforts towards building national capabilities for survey research and analysis.

/...
13. UNFPA and the United States Agency for International Development (U.S. AID) jointly conducted an evaluation of the WFS Programme from June to October 1980. The evaluation mission was directed to provide information on and assessment of the accomplishments of the Programme as well as a series of recommendations for decision-making, concerning the future of WFS activities. The mission was also asked to provide various alternative options in regard to the future of the Programme. The evaluation focused on the actual and potential use of the generated data in and by developing countries. The mission participated in the WFS Conference, visited ISI/WFS headquarters, six countries (Dominican Republic, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal and Philippines) and the Population Division of ESCAP. The Report of the evaluation mission provides an overview of the WFS Programme: origins, objectives, organizational aspects, inputs, methodology and analysis, conduct of national surveys, building national capabilities and dissemination and utilization of data. The mission concluded that the Programme has been successful in achieving its initial objectives, although achievements in regard to the building of national capabilities for survey research were found to vary from country to country. With regard to the recommendations, UNFPA endorsed most of them but for those concerning the future of the Programme the Executive Director has reserved his position until he is prepared to make recommendations to the Governing Council.

Financial review

14. UNFPA assistance to the Central Organization of WFS through June 1981 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative to June 1977</td>
<td>$4,545,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation authorized by the Governing Council in January 1977</td>
<td>2,348,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(July 1977 to June 1979)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional allocation for direct technical assistance</td>
<td>802,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1977-1979)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance for computer acquisition</td>
<td>192,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation authority by Governing Council in June 1979</td>
<td>3,658,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(July 1979 - June 1981)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFS Conference, July 1980</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further analyses of WFS data</td>
<td>180,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,976,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. In addition to the UNFPA contribution to the Central Organization, U.S. AID has contributed $14.6 million, and other donors have contributed $175,000.

16. In addition to direct funding to the Central Organization, assistance for country surveys, second stage analysis, and complementary support to the WFS through the United Nations system totals $20,245,000, of which UNFPA has provided $8,831,000.
VI. Future UNFPA support to WFS

17. The UNFPA has committed its support to the WFS Programme through June 1982.

18. From the appraisal of the present status of the Programme, it is evident that to ensure the full benefit of the Programme it should include the following activities of which the first item should be given top priority:

   a) completion of the 42 first-round surveys, with the understanding that "completion" means completion of the first country reports;
   b) continuation of second-stage or in-depth analyses, the understanding being that they should be accomplished primarily at the country level;
   c) continuation of a minimum programme of comparative analysis and encouragement of participation of the countries concerned therein;
   d) assessment and revision of the WFS methodology and instruments in consultation with other competent organizations, including the United Nations;
   e) maintenance of the archival functions (storage and retrieval of data) on a limited basis; and
   f) provision of technical assistance for backstopping and building up national survey capability, including advisory services, organization of seminars, workshops, etc.

19. The above list of activities basically conforms to the present work programme, but it gives more emphasis to the assessment and revision of the WFS methodology and instruments. These programme activities were recommended by UNFPA at the WFS Programme Steering Committee on 6 February 1981.

20. In order to carry out these activities, UNFPA support has to be extended to mid-1983 under the present or modified institutional arrangements. However, given the reduced scale of the work load, the total staff of the International Statistical Institute/World Fertility Survey should be reduced and UNFPA financial support for the years 1981-1983 would be lower than for the preceding years. This is also in accordance with previous decisions of the Governing Council.

21. Some of the above-mentioned activities will be completed by mid-1983 while others need to be continued beyond 1983. The in-depth analysis of all 42 WFS surveys are particularly important but only a certain minimum programme should be supported to avoid prolonged research activities. As the past has shown, these tasks can hardly be carried out satisfactorily by the countries themselves without some international support. Furthermore, it is clear that there will be a need for some international assistance to future fertility surveys in many developing countries.

22. An international programme or some focal point seems to be needed to promote and co-ordinate data processing and analysis activities, to provide technical assistance to countries on assessing and analyzing their fertility situation and the impact of population programmes on fertility. In-depth analysis of the data of the 42 first-round surveys should be promoted, and conducted insofar as possible at the country level and should focus on policy-relevant analysis.

/...
23. It should be emphasized that in recommending a continued role for UNFPA in this area, it is not proposed that WFS as such, in the present form executed by ISI, should necessarily be continued. There are several alternatives which may be considered regarding the configuration and location of an international programme or focal point, including a unit lodged within the United Nations system supported by other donors but whose services UNFPA may utilize on a case-by-case basis and with case-by-case funding, or a continuation of WFS executed by ISI but at a reduced level at the most suitable location taking into account inter alia the cost factor. A proposal on the above will be submitted by UNFPA to the Governing Council at its next session.

24. Following the recommendations of the WFS Programme Steering Committee, the International Statistical Institute (ISI) has prepared a proposal for support to the Central Organization through 1985 which was recently submitted to the funding agencies which are now in the process of appraisal. The total amount requested for the period from July 1981 through June 1982 is $4,387,000.

25. In the initial appraisal, UNFPA anticipates some modification in the work plan presented and the corresponding budget. UNFPA is consulting with U.S. AID about the work plan and U.S. AID assistance to the Programme. UNFPA recommends for the period July 1981 to June 1982 that it contribute $1.5 million for staff, travel, workshops/seminars, publications, office requirements, research contracts, computer services, and other direct costs.

26. At present it is not possible to specify the UNFPA contribution for the period July 1982 to June 1983, but it is anticipated that the UNFPA contribution will be at a somewhat lower level than for 1981-1982.

V. Recommendations

27. The Executive Director recommends that, subject to availability of funds, the Governing Council:

   a) Approve a UNFPA allocation to the World Fertility Survey project in the amount of $1,500,000 for the period July 1981 to June 1982;

   b) Approve, in principle, the extension of the project from July 1982 to June 1983, on the understanding that UNFPA will submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session a new project proposal; and

   c) Authorize the Executive Director to make the appropriate arrangements with the International Statistical Institute for the period July 1981 to June 1982.