OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Guinea

Comprehensive Population Programme

Estimated UNFPA contribution: $5 400 000

Estimated value of the Government's contribution: $15 million

Duration: Five years

Estimated starting date: January 1981

Executing Agencies:

United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
UNFPA

Government Co-operating Agency: Ministry of Planning and Co-operation.
I. Summary

1. UNFPA proposes supporting a programme in the amount of $5,400,000 for five years (1981-1985) to assist the Government of Guinea, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, in meeting its population and development objectives. The programme is based on the findings and recommendations of a needs assessment mission that visited Guinea in January 1979. It would include major projects in the areas of demographic data collection and analysis; population dynamics; population policy formulation; maternal and child health and family planning; population information, education and communication; and special programmes for women. UNFPA assistance would provide for international experts, salaries of national personnel, in-country and overseas training, and expendable and non-expendable equipment.

II. Background

2. Guinea, situated on the West African coast, covers an area of 245,957 square kilometres. Despite several administrative censuses carried out since 1930, demographic data on the country's population is insufficient. Recent United Nations estimates indicate the present population is about five million. About 44 per cent of the population are under the age of 15, and women of child-bearing age (15-49 years old) account for about 45.5 per cent of all women.

3. About 81 per cent of the population live in the rural areas and more than 80 per cent of the economically active are engaged in the primary sector (farming, herding, fishing, and hunting). Population density in 1980, according to United Nations estimates, is about 20 persons per square kilometre. The population is unevenly distributed, density by region varying from 10 to 35 persons per square kilometre. The demographic situation in Guinea is heavily influenced by emigration, both permanent and temporary, especially to the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Liberia. The Government has estimated that at any given point in time, this permanent or temporary migration involves as much as one-fifth of the total population. Per capita gross national product is estimated by the World Bank at $210.

4. United Nations estimates of crude birth and death rates are 46.1 per thousand and 20.7 per thousand respectively, implying a rate of natural growth of about 2.5 per cent per annum.

5. Life expectancy at birth is estimated at 43 years, with the infant mortality rate at about 200 per thousand live births. Since independence, Guinean officials have sought to decentralize the health services and to promote preventive medicine and health education. Despite these efforts, health and nutrition levels are considered unsatisfactory, the number of medical personnel is insufficient, and the medical infrastructure is underequipped.

6. Both the five-year (1973-1978) plan for economic and social development and the Eleventh Congress of the Guinean Democratic Party held in November 1978 identified the following main development objectives: improvement of the living conditions of the population, achievement of self-sufficiency in food production, full utilization of manpower, and health service coverage for the entire population. The strategies proposed to achieve these objectives give high priority to developing fishing and livestock production, establishing small agricultural projects, constructing roads, setting up light industries, and providing curative and preventive medical services with the active participation of the population in all health activities.
7. The principal concerns of the Government in regard to population are the reduction of morbidity and mortality by strengthening and extending health care services and the diminution of substantial emigration to adjacent countries. To avoid problems of "brain drain", constraints have been imposed on the movement of skilled labour and students. The country is pursuing policies of urban and rural development, the aim being to equalize standards of living among the various regions.

8. Since the visit of the needs assessment mission in January 1979, the Government has created a National Population Commission, presided over by the President of the Republic, to draw up a national population policy in keeping with the socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the country. The Ministry of Planning and Co-operation will serve as the Commission's permanent secretariat, preparing all working documents for the Commission and co-ordinating the Government's population-related activities as well as international assistance in the population sphere.

9. UNFPA assistance to Guinea through 1980 totalled $713,000. UNFPA has provided support, beginning in 1972, in the form of consultant services to improve the methodology for collecting and compiling health statistics. The Fund also assisted preparatory activities for a national population census, including such activities as cartographic mapping, a pilot census, and study tours to Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Dakar, Senegal; and Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Other UNFPA assistance supported production of audio-visual material for sex and health education used in training sessions organized by the National Institute of Hygiene, Centres de Promotion Féminine, and other educational institutions at the community level throughout the country. The Institute also received UNFPA support in developing expertise in producing radio programmes and other health and sex education materials. UNFPA, in addition, supported a seminar designed to increase the awareness of Guinean officials of population questions and their relationship to development.

10. The needs assessment mission undertaken in January 1979 identified as priority areas for population programme assistance: 1) demographic data collection, training and research, to be fully integrated within over-all national planning; 2) improvement of planning methods and knowledge of the interaction of demographic and socio-economic factors; 3) strengthening and integration of mother and child health services designed to combat infectious diseases, malnutrition and insufficiently-spaced pregnancies at the same time; 4) strengthening of information, education and communication activities, including training of communicators and provision of materials; and 5) support to the Permanent Secretariat of the National Population Commission in fulfilling its policymaking and co-ordinating tasks.

III. The programme

11. The five-year programme to which UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $5,400,000 has the following components:

Data collection and analysis

12. UNFPA proposes a total of $1.3 million (including $270,715 already allocated for 1981 and 1982) in this area, to be divided among three projects:

13. Population census. A project to assist the Government with a nationwide population census to collect demographic data for use as a basis for economic and social development planning was approved in 1977. Cumulative allocations through 1980
total $518,825; allocations for 1981 total $240,715 and for 1982 $30,000. UNFPA now proposes allocating an additional $329,285 to assist the Government with completing field work, including communication support, for the census, to be carried out in February 1982, and with data processing and analysis. This additional amount, plus the $270,715 already allocated for 1981/82, totals $600,000. The United Nations is the Executing Agency for this project.

14. **Multi-round demographic survey.** The Government has requested assistance with a multi-round demographic survey to collect, process and analyse data on fertility, mortality, demographic trends, and internal and external migration. UNFPA assistance totalling $300,000 would fund one international expert and support some local salaries reporting, and printing costs. The Government would provide salaries and premises and other expenses not funded by UNFPA. The United Nations would serve as Executing Agency.

15. **Improving the national civil registration system.** The Government has proposed a five-year project aimed at developing a strategy for the complete recording of vital events, to be applied first on a pilot basis and then extended gradually to the entire country. Proposed UNFPA assistance totalling $400,000 would cover the pilot project, costs of an international expert, some local salaries, training of local personnel, office equipment and supplies, and vehicles. The Government would provide some local salaries and premises and would cover costs not provided for by UNFPA. The United Nations would be designated as Executing Agency.

**Population dynamics**

16. UNFPA proposes a total of $500,000 for two projects in population dynamics:

17. **Strengthening demographic training.** At present two institutions in Guinea offer training courses in demography: 1) the School of Administration where, during their second year, students take a course on the demography of developing countries and on data collection methods, and 2) the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Gamal Abdel Nasser Polytechnic Institute (IPGAN), where demography is taught jointly with geography and mathematics during the fourth year of the training programme. UNFPA proposes that the Governing Council approve $300,000 to improve the teaching of demography in these two institutions. This assistance would provide scholarships to the best students completing the course at IPGAN for study abroad and technical assistance in the teaching of demography.

18. **Study of migration.** UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $200,000 for a study on migration and its demographic as well as social and economic consequences. It is expected that the results would help the Government formulate a policy to deal with rural exodus and labour emigration to adjacent countries. ILO would be the Executing Agency for this study.

**Population policy formulation**

19. **Establishment of a population unit.** The Government of Guinea has submitted a proposal to establish a population unit within the Ministry of Planning and Co-operation to ensure needed training for professionals, define judicious policies for improving the spatial distribution of the population, determine measures for reducing morbidity and mortality, analyse those aspects of economic and social
programmes which aim to improve the status of women and to integrate women fully into development efforts, and prepare that part of the fourth development plan relevant to the population programme. UNFPA has been asked to provide support totalling $400,000 in order to fund an international expert, cover some local salaries and training and supply equipment and vehicles. The Government would provide some local salaries and premises and cover costs not provided for by UNFPA.

Maternal and child health and family planning

20. Development of a family health programme. UNFPA has assisted the Government in formulating a proposal for assistance amounting to $2 million to develop a family health programme. The objectives are: 1) to improve family well-being by reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality through child-spacing activities; 2) to strengthen and improve MCH/FP services at all levels of the health structure throughout the country; 3) to develop the human and material resources required to assure health and nutrition education as well as preventive medicine; 4) to carry out research to determine the influence of psychological and cultural factors on child-bearing behaviour and also on attitudes towards use of MCH/FP services; 5) to supply MCH/FP personnel with adequate material so they can extend educational and preventive services to the remote areas of the country; and 6) to set up a framework for research in nutrition and social paediatrics aimed at increasing the Government's awareness of the health problems of mothers and children. UNFPA has been requested to fund an international expert in MCH/FP, the consultancy of a sociologist, some local salaries, and training of health personnel as well as to cover the costs of office supplies and equipment, health kits, vehicles, fellowships, contraceptives, and operation and maintenance of equipment. The Government's contribution would consist of some salaries and premises and other costs not provided for by UNFPA. It is expected that WHO will serve as Executing Agency for this project.

Information, education and communication (IEC)

21. UNFPA proposes allocating a total of $900,000 for two projects in this area:

22. Support for the population programme. UNFPA has assisted the Government in formulating a proposal for assistance with a comprehensive IEC project to support population education, maternal and child health and family planning, and other population-related activities. The objective would be to make the population aware of and informed about such topics as the population factor in development planning, migration and its consequences for socio-economic development, nutrition, infectious diseases, family welfare, birth-spacing to improve the health of mothers and children, and the role of women in development. UNFPA assistance of $400,000 is requested to fund an information, education and communication expert and to prepare and provide audio-visual materials, film slide programmes, print materials, some local salaries, vehicles, and mobile units. The Government would cover some local salaries, provide premises, and meet other costs not provided for by UNFPA. It is expected that UNESCO will serve as the Executing Agency for this project.

23. Population education. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $500,000 to support activities related to incorporating population studies into the primary and secondary school curricula and strengthening the existing sex education programme. The Executing Agency would be UNESCO.

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Women, population and development

24. UNFPA proposes the amount of $300,000 for activities in the area of women, population and development. These funds would be utilized by the women's section of the national political party to strengthen the centres for the promotion of women supported by this organization, which provide adult education, literacy and health education activities at the community level.

25. The proposed UNFPA contribution for the five-year period, subject to availability of funds, by Work Plan category, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data collection and analysis</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population dynamics</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population policy formulation</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal and child health and family planning</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, education, communication</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, population and development</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,400,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>3,829,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreseen</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,400,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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IV. Recommendation

27. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) **Approve** the country programme in the amount of $5,400,000 for five years; and

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