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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 Niger

Support of a comprehensive population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance:	\$2,060,000
Estimated value of the Government's contribution:	\$1,558,000
Duration:	Five years
Estimated starting date:	July 1983
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

NIGER

Demographic and related indicators at a glance

Area (in 1,000 sq. km.)	1267
Gross national product per capita (1980 US \$)	\$ 330
Population total (in 1,000)	5318
Median age	16.6
Population by age group (% of total)	
0-14	46.6
15-64	50.8
65+	2.6
Dependency ratio	96.8
Women aged 15-49 (% of total women)	44.1
Population density (/sq. km.)	4
Population density on arable land (/hectare)	1.39
Per cent urban (%)	12.5
Rate of population growth (%)	2.91
Annual population increase (in 1,000)	144
Crude birth rate/1,000	51.4
Crude death rate/1,000	22.4
Natural increase rate/1,000	29.0
Total fertility rate	7.10
Gross reproduction rate	3.50
Net reproduction rate	2.25
Infant mortality rate	148.5
Life expectancy: male (years)	40.6
Life expectancy: female (years)	43.8
Life expectancy: total (years)	42.1

Sources: Area and population density on arable land: derived from Food and Agricultural Organization, FAO Production Yearbook 1980; Gross national product per capita: World Bank, World Development Report 1982; infant mortality rate: Population Division, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, unpublished estimates and projections of infant mortality rates; all other data: Population Division, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Demographic Indicators of Countries: Estimates and projections as assessed in 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.XIII.5).

I. SUMMARY

1. UNFPA proposes to support a comprehensive population programme in the amount of \$2,060,000 for five years beginning July 1983 to assist the Government of Niger, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, in a variety of population areas. The programme would include major projects in demographic data collection and analysis; demographic research and training; and population education and communication. UNFPA assistance would provide for international experts, salaries of local personnel, in-country and overseas training and support of expendable and non-expendable equipment.

2. This proposed programme of assistance follows upon support for the Niger Family Health programme in the amount of \$2,194,000 for a period of five years beginning July 1979, approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in June 1979 ¹/. The programme of assistance approved in 1979 was designed to aid the Government in developing an integrated maternal and child health and birth spacing programme and in establishing a centre for medical care, training and research in Niamey.

3. The present proposal includes a request for additional assistance in the amount of \$160,000 for construction costs for the Niamey National Family Health Centre because expected funds in this amount from multi-bilateral sources did not materialize. These funds are needed for completion of the construction of the Centre.

II. BACKGROUND

4. Niger, a landlocked nation in Western Africa, covers an area of 1,267,000 square kilometres. Some 65 per cent is Saharan desert, 30 per cent falls into the Sahelian zone and about 5 per cent into the Sudano-Sahelian zone. The first modern census, conducted in late 1977 with UNFPA assistance, showed an enumerated population of 5.09 million. According to 1980 United Nations estimates, the country had a population of 5.3 million. About 46.6 per cent of the population are under 15 and 44.1 per cent of the women are in the fertile ages 15-49 years.

5. Approximately 87.5 per cent of the population live in the rural areas, and almost 90 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture. There is a wide variation in the distribution of the population between the northern and the southern parts of the country due to differing geographical characteristics. The Departments of Agadez and Diffa, which together represent more than 65 per cent of the total territory, have barely 6 per cent of the population. On the basis of the national census of 1977, 88 per cent of the population live on 12 per cent of the land. According to United Nations estimates, the over-all density is 4 persons per square kilometre.

6. The United Nations estimated crude birth and death rates (1975-1980) at 51.4 per thousand and 22.4 per thousand respectively, implying an estimated rate of natural growth of 2.9 per cent per annum.

7. Life expectancy at birth for the total population is estimated at 42.1 years

(40.6 years for males, 43.8 years for females). The infant mortality rate is high, estimated by the United Nations at 148.5 per thousand live births.

8. Niger is a priority country for UNFPA assistance. Also, because of its unfavourable geographical situation as a landlocked country, its mainly agricultural economy, its low per capita gross national product (about \$330 in 1980, according to World Bank figures) and its arid climate, Niger has been designated by the General Assembly as a Least Developed Country.

9. According to the Needs Assessment report, "Niger has no explicit population policies, however, the Government is concerned about a variety of population related issues, especially the very high rates of maternal and child mortality and the inter-action between fertility, mortality, and socio-economic factors. Maternal and child health care is thus a priority issue, and child spacing for the sake of the health of mothers and children has been supported by authorities".

10. UNFPA assistance to Niger through 1982 totaled \$3,059,627 for the following projects:

a) Population Census. UNFPA has provided assistance to the Government of Niger for undertaking a complete and simple enumeration of the population. The enumeration took place in late 1977. The over-all objective of the project was to provide the Government with data regarding the demographic situation of the country which could serve as a basis for economic and social development planning and also for promotion of human resources. The preliminary census data have been made available to the Government for the elaboration of the socio-economic development plan (1979-1983). Data processing, analysis and publication are at an advanced stage. UNFPA assistance supported international experts, local salaries, expendable and non-expendable equipment, and operation and maintenance of equipment.

b) Family Health Programme. In 1979, at its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council approved assistance in the amount of \$2,194,000 for five years in support of a national MCH/birth spacing programme, which included the creation in Niamey of a National Family Health Centre with responsibility for: formulating and executing a national family health programme; co-ordinating and supervising the existing maternal/child health care system; planning and implementing training in the country through a series of seminars and courses for medical and paramedical personnel; co-ordinating training abroad through fellowships for health and family planning personnel; developing research in the field of MCH and birth spacing; and provision of MCH care and education, including birth spacing information and services. Due to the lack of qualified personnel and the poor health infrastructure, the project became operational only in early 1982.

11. Other multilateral population-related assistance has been provided by UNDP to assist in the preparation of the 1977 population census by providing cartographic assistance.

12. Bilateral assistance to Niger in the population and health areas has been

provided by the Federal Republic of Germany for funding of doctors for the rural health programme.

III. THE PROGRAMME

13. The Needs Assessment Mission that visited Niger in June and July 1979, recommended that priority assistance be provided in various population categories, including the following:

(a) "Priority in data collection, because of planning needs, should be given to implementing a demographic survey to update the indicators of natural population change as measured in a 1960 survey..."

(b) "In Niger the civil registration system is inadequate, although authorities are working on its improvement. To support actions already initiated, an assistance programme covering all the fields that would be involved in such an undertaking (information, awareness, collection, utilization, and publications) should be favourably considered".

(c) "Demographic and socio-economic research activities have been inhibited by the lack of data, the lack of qualified personnel, and limited institutional capacity. The establishment of research priorities and the co-ordination of research efforts are therefore essential.... The Ministry of Planning and all technical units have an urgent need for more middle-level personnel trained in such fields as demography, statistics, sectoral and regional planning, and employment problems. The Mission recommends...expanding the technical capacity of the Ministry of Planning, by providing accelerated training and by increasing the specialization of staff".

(d) "The Mission...recommends the strengthening of elements of population education already existing within the educational programmes through national or departmental seminars to raise the awareness of staff about population problems.... The Mission also recommends the introduction of a population programme (demographic studies) into the two training cycles of the Institute of Applied Rural Development (IPDR) in Kolo..."

14. The five-year programme to which UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of \$2,060,000 has the following components:

Basic data collection

15. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of \$650,000 in this area to be divided between the following two projects:

16. Demographic survey. The Government has requested assistance for a nationwide demographic sample survey to collect data on the structure of the population, internal and external migration, marriage, divorce, fertility, and mortality to be used for the elaboration of national and regional development planning. UNFPA assistance totalling \$450,000 would support an international expert for 30 months,

two consultants for one month each, administrative support personnel, some local salaries, training of middle-level personnel, office equipment and supplies, eight vehicles, data processing equipment rental, operation and maintenance of equipment, and report and printing costs. The United Nations would be the Executing Agency.

17. Improvement of the civil registration system. The Government has requested assistance for a civil registration pilot project of one year's duration to develop a strategy for the complete recording of vital events with particular emphasis on registration of births and deaths; to improve the administrative structure of civil registration centres and to reinforce the statistical and administrative control of the system; to sensitize and educate the population to obtain its full participation; to train civil registration personnel at all levels in the pilot areas; and to undertake a coverage study to evaluate the progress achieved. UNFPA assistance totalling \$200,000 would cover a civil registration consultant for two months, travel per diem for project personnel, training of personnel, office supplies, three vehicles, operation and maintenance of equipment, and report and printing costs. The United Nations would be the Executing Agency.

Population dynamics

18. UNFPA proposes a total of \$400,000 for the strengthening of the technical capacity of the Ministry of Planning to train middle- and higher-level personnel in demography and statistics in order to facilitate the integration of population variables into sectoral, regional and national development planning; to provide the basis for action programmes; to establish a permanent survey unit to collect sectoral data and thus respond to the needs of numerous government agencies; and to organize inter-ministerial working meetings on data utilization. The assistance would cover an international expert for 18 months, administrative support personnel, fellowships, in-country training, office supplies and equipment, books, one vehicle, operation and maintenance of equipment, and report and printing costs. ILO would be the Executing Agency.

Information, education and communication

19. UNFPA proposes to provide \$850,000 in this programme area to support the following three projects:

20. Communication support for the population programme. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of \$250,000 to assist the Government in defining a structure for co-ordination of communication activities dealing with varied topics of the population programme; to provide audio-visual materials such as films, tapes, chemical developers and graphic material to support population-related activities for raising public awareness; to enable the Radio and Television Office (ORTN) of Niger to focus its programming policy and develop test broadcasts on health, population education and rural development; and to undertake a content study of the rural programmes of the Radio Clubs Association of Niger in order to define in detail the steps needed to restore their full efficacy. UNFPA assistance would be provided for a communication consultant for six months, audio-visual equipment and materials, training of personnel, two vehicles, reporting and printing costs, some

local salaries for the study, and operation and maintenance of equipment. UNESCO would be the Executing Agency.

21. Population education in schools. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of \$350,000 to support activities related to strengthening and incorporating population education, including sex education, into the two training cycles of the Institute of Applied Rural Development in Kolo as well as into the primary, secondary and higher formal schools curricula. The assistance would cover one international expert for one year, administrative support personnel, provision of teaching materials, training of teachers and on-the-job training of national trainers, fellowships, establishment of a small library, one vehicle, operation and maintenance of equipment, and report and printing costs. UNESCO would be the Executing Agency.

22. Population education out of schools. The Government has proposed a family welfare project in the organized sector to undertake a family life education programme, including birth spacing for the sake of the health of mothers and children, in the 29 social centres throughout the country, as well as in the co-operative movement, particularly in the rural areas; to elaborate a national family code; to sensitize the organized sector population to the relationship between population variables and economic development; to develop didactic materials; and to train trainers for family life education. Assistance totalling \$250,000 would cover an international expert for 12 months, audio-visual materials, office equipment and supplies, training seminars, travel per diem for project personnel, administrative support personnel, two vehicles, operation and maintenance of equipment and report and printing costs. ILO would be the Executing Agency.

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

Programme area

• Basic data collection	\$ 650,000
• Population dynamics	400,000
• Maternal and child health and birth spacing	160,000
• Information, education, and communication	<u>850,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$2,060,000</u>

24. The status of programme and project development, as of June 1983, is expected to be as follows:

• Approved	\$1,650,000
• Pending	<u>410,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$2,060,000</u>

IV. RECOMMENDATION

25. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the programme in Niger in the amount of \$2,060,000 for five years;
and

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

NOTES

1/ Governing Council decision 79/28 (see DP/FPA/10/Add.4).