

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 Malawi

Support of a population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance:	\$1,040,000
Estimated value of the Government's contribution	To be determined
Duration:	Four years
Estimated starting date	July 1983
Executing Agencies:	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Government Co-operating Agency:	Ministry of Finance

MALAWI

Demographic and related indicators at a glance

Area (in 1,000 sq. km.)	118
Gross national product per capita (1980 US \$)	\$230
Population total (in 1,000)	6162
Median age	16.1
Population by age group (percentage of total)	
0-14	47.7
15-64	49.9
65+	2.5
Dependency ratio	100.6
Women aged 15-49 (percentage of total women)	43.6
Population density (/sq. km.)	52
Population density on arable land (/hectare)	2.21
Per cent urban (percentage)	33.6
Rate of population growth (percentage)	3.20
Annual population increase (in 1,000)	182
Crude birth rate/1,000	51.1
Crude death rate/1,000	19.1
Natural increase rate/1,000	32.0
Total fertility rate	7.00
Gross reproduction rate	3.45
Net reproduction rate	2.38
Infant mortality rate	163.0
Life expectancy: male (years)	44.4
Life expectancy: female (years)	47.6
Life expectancy: total (years)	46.0

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infant mortality rate: Population Division, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, unpublished estimates and projections of infant mortality rates; all other data: Population Division, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social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 programme in the total amount of \$1,040,000 over the four-year period mid-1983 to mid-1987 to assist the Government of Malawi, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, in achieving its population and development objectives. The programme which is based on the findings and recommendations of a UNFPA Needs Assessment Mission that visited Malawi in July 1980, includes assistance to conclude the ongoing projects in the areas of maternal and child health and census data analysis as well as for new projects in the field of population and family life education and communication, basic data collection and analysis and population dynamics. UNFPA would support advisory services, fellowships and local training activities, study tours, expendable and non-expendable equipment, and workshops and seminars. Implementation of the maternal and child health project approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session (decision 80/13) in 1980, would continue through 1985. UNFPA assistance to a census data analysis project, begun in September 1982, is proposed for continuance through 1984.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Malawi has a total area of about 118,000 square kilometres, of which 24,000 square kilometres is lake surface. The United Nations estimates the population at 6.16 million (1980). Malawi is one of the more densely populated countries in Africa. The over-all population density is about 52 persons per square kilometre but the fertile arable region of the south has a density as high as 262 persons per square kilometre.

3. Nearly 48 per cent of the population are under the age of 15. According to United Nations estimates the crude birth and death rates (1975-1980) are 51.1 per thousand and 19.1 per thousand respectively. The annual population growth rate is estimated at 3.2 per cent, and the gross reproduction rate at 3.45. Recent United Nations projections indicate an accelerating rate of population growth through 1990. Life expectancy at birth is 44.4 years for males and 47.6 years for females. The infant mortality rate (1975-1980) is estimated by the United Nations at 163 per thousand live births.

4. The annual per capita gross national product for 1980 is estimated by the World Bank at \$230. Malawi has no known mineral or oil deposits. Agriculture is, therefore, the mainstay of the economy. The industrial policy is geared towards promoting labour-intensive, agro-based enterprises.

5. The Government has recently been giving high priority to maternal and child health programmes, including attention to the consequences of unregulated pregnancies on the health of mothers and children. There is also a desire to redress the country's regional imbalance in population distribution. Actions taken in this regard include the relocation of the national capital to Lilongwe in the relatively sparsely populated northern region, and the development of agriculture to curtail rural to urban migration.

6. UNFPA is a major donor to the activities related to the strengthening and upgrading of Malawi's maternal and child health programme. A one-year preparatory

project in this area, begun in 1978, was followed by a large-scale project which was approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session (decision 80/13) in 1980 in the amount of \$1,038,460. This large-scale project began its operations in 1981 and is expected to be completed in 1985. Under the large-scale project, UNFPA assistance has enabled the Government to strengthen and upgrade the country's network of maternal and child health service delivery points. Training, including workshops for paramedical staff, was undertaken and health education activities were implemented. As a result of UNFPA's assistance to this project, the Government has become more aware of the consequences to mothers and their children of unregulated pregnancies, and an action programme developed to address this problem would be implemented in the context of this project. UNFPA intends in the 1983-1985 period to allocate the balance of \$600,000 from the 1980 Governing Council approval of \$1,038,460. The continuation of UNFPA assistance to the maternal and child health project would enable the Government to implement action programmes concerning unregulated pregnancies as well as to further strengthen maternal and child health services. Support would continue to advisory services, consultancies, fellowships and other training activities, vehicles and audio-visual equipment.

7. In other areas, Malawi received UNFPA assistance for the 1977 population census, and for a project to strengthen the census mapping capability of the National Statistical Office. Funds totalling \$1,043,212 were allocated for the implementation of these two projects. A household and labour force survey is scheduled for 1983 and UNFPA is providing support for consultancies in survey methodology and equipment.

8. Other multilateral population-related assistance to Malawi has included technical and/or financial support from FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and the World Bank for data collection activities, for various primary health programmes and for manpower development. Bilateral assistance to the health sector to support the upgrading of health facilities, training of nationals or the provision of advisory services has been given by the Governments of Canada, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

III. THE PROGRAMME

9. The Needs Assessment Mission that visited Malawi in July 1980 recommended that assistance be provided in various population areas. Specific activities which were recommended include the following:

(a) The continuation of support to the maternal and child health programme, with activities to be directed at the population in the remote areas. Attention should be focused on the maternal health component of the programme. Efforts aimed at identifying and training traditional birth attendants should be supported and their training should include health education, motivation and follow-up on mothers and children in their community.

(b) The training of extension workers should be revised and modified to include population and family life concepts and the development of interpersonal

communication skills. Family life education materials and audio-visual aids should be developed to reflect national conditions.

(c) Priority in data collection should go to "a comprehensive programme of training in demography" for the middle-level staff of the Statistical Office and in specialized areas for the professionals. Support should be given to establish a demographic unit at the University of Malawi.

(d) Assistance should be provided for a programme of population research and seminars to sensitize the Government about population issues and to pave the way for the consideration of population factors in the development planning process.

10. The four-year programme to which UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of \$1,040,000 has the following components:

Population and family life education and communication

11. UNFPA proposes to support activities in this programme area in the total amount of \$100,000. The potential for implementing activities in this area is considered to be high due to the relatively highly developed agricultural extension training and service system of Malawi. UNFPA would collaborate with other United Nations agencies assisting the extension services system including FAO and UNICEF with support for consultancies, fellowships, study tours and other training activities in the area of population and family life.

Basic data collection and analysis

12. UNFPA proposes to allocate a total of \$580,000 to two projects in this programme area.

13. Assistance to census data analysis. UNFPA allocated \$78,600 in 1982 to this project and more funds would be required to conclude activities sometime in 1984. UNFPA is supporting advisory personnel to complete the analysis of the data of the 1977 population census and local training activities. The United Nations is the Executing Agency.

14. Assistance to civil registration. The Government has already formulated plans for upgrading the national civil registration system and for using the data as an additional source for reliable demographic information. On a pilot basis, UNFPA proposes to support advisory services to the Government. Funds would also be provided for local training, fellowships, study tours, and equipment. The United Nations would be the Executing Agency.

Population dynamics

15. UNFPA proposes to allocate \$360,000 to this area for demographic training activities, which would be executed by the United Nations.

16. Demographic training. At the request of the Government, a project proposal has been formulated for support to the University of Malawi to establish an interdisciplinary demographic training programme. It is also envisaged that in the context of this assistance, middle-level training programmes for the staff of the National Statistical Office would be implemented. UNFPA would support advisory services and funds would be provided for fellowships as well as for the training activities envisaged for the National Statistical Office. UNFPA would also support policy-oriented demographic research activities and provide funds for workshops to disseminate the findings of the studies.

17. The proposed UNFPA contributions, subject to the availability of funds, is as follows:

Programme area

. Population and family life education and communication	\$ 100,000
. Population data collection and analysis	580,000
. Population research and training	<u>360,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$1,040,000</u>

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

. Approved	\$ 640,000
. Foreseen	<u>400,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$1,040,000</u>

IV. RECOMMENDATION

19. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the assistance to Malawi for new programmes in the total amount of \$1,040,000 for the four-year period 1983-1986; and

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