

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNITED NATIONS FUNDS FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres

Estimated UNFPA contribution:

\$3 500 000 per year

Duration:

Four years: 1984-1987

Estimated starting date:

Ongoing project

Executing agencies:

United Nations
Regional Commissions

Implementing agencies:

International Institute for
Population Studies (IIPS)
Latin American Demographic
Centre (CELADE)
Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC)
Regional Institute for
Population Studies (RIPS)
Institut de Formation et de
Recherche Démographique (IFORD)
Centre Démographique ONU-
Roumanie (CEDOR)
Moscow State University, Centre
for Population Studies

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-ninth session in June 1982, the Governing Council, in endorsing UNFPA's proposed guidelines for the approval of new and continuing intercountry projects, also in decision 82/20, I, paragraph 3, requested the Executive Director "to provide assistance...to the various demographic training and research centres, as appropriate".

2. Because the current cycle of UNFPA assistance to intercountry activities, including its assistance to the various demographic training and research centres, ends in 1983, the UNFPA, in consultation with the United Nations, the Regional Commissions and the demographic training and research centres, is formulating a programme of assistance to these institutions for the next four-year cycle, 1984-1987.

3. This document provides a brief description of the programmes of the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres to which the UNFPA has provided assistance and outlines some general principles to guide future UNFPA assistance to these regional and interregional demographic training and research centres. The document requests the Governing Council to endorse the proposed general principles and approve the recommendation of the Executive Director in authorizing him to approve total allocations on a yearly basis during the period 1984-1987.

II. BACKGROUND

4. The Fund recognizes that the attainment of self-reliance in the areas of human resources development and national institutional capacities is a prerequisite for the success of population policies and programmes in the developing countries. The Fund's goal of promoting self-reliance in recipient countries has been endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 31/170 of 21 December 1976, and by the Economic and Social Council resolution 2025 (LXI) of 4 August 1976. While UNFPA continues to help countries to achieve self-reliance, especially in population studies and demographic training, there exist regions where the need for trained manpower remains critical. The attainment of regional self-reliance is also an important step in the achievement of national self-reliance. In this connection, the significant role that the regional and interregional demographic centres have played in the past and will play in the future in providing assistance to the countries within their regions or on an interregional basis needs to be underscored. Between 1956 and 1982, the United Nations sponsored and UNFPA has provided assistance to seven regional and interregional demographic training and research centres. These are:

International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) - India
Centro Latinoamericano de Demografia (CELADE) - Chile

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Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC) - Egypt
Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD)
(for French-speaking African countries) - United Republic
of Cameroon
Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS)(for English-
speaking African countries) - Ghana
Centre Démographique ONU-Roumanie (CEDOR) (for French-speaking
developing countries) - Romania
Moscow State University, Centre for Population Studies, U.S.S.R.

5. Basically, these demographic training and research centres have the same objectives: to serve as training and research institutes in demography and related fields for their regions or for students from developing countries from various parts of the world; to serve as research centres for the United Nations regional commissions and to undertake research in such fields as basic data collection, fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, urbanization, census data evaluation and adjustment, labour force, family planning, etc.; to provide sources of intensive classroom training or guided research in demography and related fields: to provide ad hoc courses, in-service training and special courses; and to publish and make available technical and other research studies on population trends and their relation to social and economic factors within their regions. None are donor agencies in the usual sense of the term. Most offer, in addition to the training courses mentioned above, consultancy services to the countries in their regions and to United Nations and other agencies; most also offer bibliographic and reference services to libraries, organizations and researchers both within and without the region. Many also offer training/fellowships. A short description of each of these centres follows:

Regional demographic training and research centres

6. International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS). The IIPS, located in Bombay, India, was established in 1956. The IIPS is now a national institution largely supported by the Government of India. It provides training in demography and on the interrelations between population and development to nationals of Member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. During 1956-1982, a total of 800 persons including 300 regional fellows have been trained in formal demography at the IIPS. UNFPA's cumulative assistance to IIPS during 1969-1982 has amounted to \$1.35 million. For 1983, a sum of \$286,000 has been allocated.

7. Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE) - Latin American Demographic Centre. CELADE, located in Santiago, Chile, was established in 1957. In 1975, it became a part of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). During the last twenty-five years, recognizing the different needs of the countries of the region, CELADE has been offering a number of courses of various types and varying levels of complexity. Presently, it conducts five different types of training activities - a course of study leading to a Master's Degree; a regional intensive course on demographic techniques; national intensive courses; specialization seminars; and a programme of research fellowship. About 1,500 students from the

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countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been trained by CELADE's programme. In view of the complete integration of CELADE's training activities with its population analysis and technical backstopping activities, it has been difficult in the past to apportion the training costs and other support to CELADE. However, UNFPA's cumulative assistance to CELADE during 1969-1982 has been estimated at approximately \$3.69 million. For 1983, a sum of \$470,000 has been allocated.

8. Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS). RIPS was established in 1971 and is located in Accra, Ghana. The Institute, which is situated on the campus of the University of Ghana, follows its academic rules and the degrees and diplomas offered by the Institute are those of the University. Though RIPS has an independent status, it is a part of the University. RIPS is making an effective contribution to meeting the need for trained demographers in the English-speaking Sub-Saharan African countries by conducting two regular courses in demography - diploma and Master's degree in population studies. Since its inception, RIPS has trained more than 200 students at the diploma level, of which 80 students have taken the Master's course. UNFPA's cumulative assistance to the RIPS during 1971-1982 has amounted \$4.76 million. For 1983, a sum of \$866,000 has been allocated.

9. Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD). IFORD, located at Yaoundé in the United Republic of Cameroon, was established in 1971 by agreement between the United Nations and the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon for meeting the needs for trained demographers of twenty-five francophone countries of Africa. It is an independent institution with its own Governing Council and Advisory Committee. The two-year training course conducted by IFORD, upon completion, awards Diploma d'Etudes Démographiques (DED). From 1974-1982, the Institut has trained 120 graduate students. In addition to the regular training programme, IFORD organizes seminars, carries out research activities and provides consultancy services upon request. UNFPA's cumulative assistance to IFORD during 1971-1982 has amounted to \$5.12 million. For 1983, a sum of \$858,000 has been allocated.

Interregional demographic training and research centres

10. Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC). The CDC was established in 1963 under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The CDC is an independent institution with its own Governing Council and Advisory Committee. It conducts its training courses in demography at four levels: General Diploma in Demography; Special Diploma in Demography; Master's of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Demography; and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) with specialization in Demography. About 800 students from various Arab countries as well as from Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia have received training from the CDC. The Centre's training and research programme focuses on population trends and other relationships with economic and social factors. The UNFPA's cumulative assistance to the CDC during 1969-1982 has amounted to \$4.22 million. For 1983, a sum of \$781,000 has been allocated.

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11. Centre Démographique ONU-Roumanie (CEDOR). CEDOR was established in Bucharest, Romania, in 1974, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Government of Romania. It conducts a 9-month programme in the French language for participants from developing countries. Since 1975, 166 students from 35 French-speaking countries have participated in the courses conducted by CEDOR. During the period 1975-1983, UNFPA has provided approximately \$3.0 million in assistance to CEDOR.

12. Moscow State University, Centre for Population Studies. The Demographic Training Programme of the Centre for Population Studies at Moscow State University was initiated in 1977. It provides training in an annual 3-month teaching seminar to 25 middle-level planners from English-speaking developing countries. Since 1977, UNFPA assistance has totalled nearly \$350,000.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE PROGRAMME DIRECTION

13. In light of the urgent need for countries and regions throughout the world to achieve self-reliance and in light of current international resource constraints and the reduced priority of the population dynamics sector for UNFPA assistance, it is vital that the various regional or interregional demographic training and research centres adopt training strategies that are cost-effective, largely self-supporting and responsive to the country needs of the regions and to the regional needs.

14. In this connection, the Fund recently undertook a fact-finding mission to the various centres to assess the priorities of each centre, as well as the unique situation that characterize these institutions. The UNFPA assessment revealed that there is room for programme improvement and a need for the centres to re-examine their programme contents, institutional arrangements, national staff development and financial self-sufficiency. While the various centres have achieved different degrees of success in these regards, the Fund notes with particular satisfaction the institutional development of the International Institute of Population Studies in Bombay, India, and the fact that it has reached a level of self-reliance so that UNFPA assistance can be provided on an increasingly reduced scale.

15. The Fund believes, as the Governing Council itself indicated at its twenty-ninth session, that there is a need to continue its support to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres. At the same time, it believes that in regard to programme matters and content certain modifications are essential. Towards that end, the Fund would like to suggest the following general principles to be taken into account by the UNFPA in regard to future UNFPA funding to these centres:

(a) The number, duration, content and emphasis of training programmes at the centres should closely reflect the needs of the countries which are served by the centres. It may thus be necessary to carefully review the programmes and to introduce the needed modifications and changes into them. While regional variations will continue to exist in regard to the relative emphasis placed on the

various types of training activities conducted at the centres, it would appear necessary to concentrate training courses on demographic analysis, population policy formulation and evaluation, and the interrelationship between population and development.

(b) It would appear desirable that each centre, recognizing its own specific situation and the regional needs, formulate the goals and objectives to be attained during the 1984-1987 period. This should not only help each centre in defining its priorities among its planned activities, but also in its own subsequent assessment of its achievements.

(c) In this regard, the form of the future institutional structure of the centres should be decided upon during the 1984-1987 period. The centres may wish to explore various alternative forms of arrangements compatible with their own individual situations. The centres may wish to consider establishing themselves as viable independent institutions with high academic standards, or alternatively, actively pursuing their integration with a national university as a long-term goal.

(d) The centres should achieve diversification in the sources of their support in the short-run and financial independence in the long-run.

(e) The regional focus of the regional centres should be maintained for considerations of cost, substance and institutional support. In this context; (i) programme content should specifically meet regional needs, (ii) the training and other activities of the centres should enjoy regional support, (iii) financial and other contributions from participating countries should rapidly grow in the near future in support of the centres, and (iv) countries of the region should make more effective use of the facilities at the centres.

(f) Some thought should be given by the centres to standardizing, among themselves, policies and practices in regard to: (i) selection and admission to the courses, and examination and grading system; (ii) policies with respect to the number and payment of national and international fellowships; and (iii) faculty and staff recruitment as well as job descriptions and the educational and professional background of international advisors.

(g) The monitoring and evaluation of programme activities at the centres should be improved by all the parties concerned. The involvement of the United Nations, the Regional Commissions, UNDP Resident Co-ordinators and the UNFPA Deputy Representatives and Senior Advisors on Population should be strengthened.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

16. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Endorse the general principles that should guide the UNFPA in providing future assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and

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research centres, as noted in section III above;

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to make total allocations, subject to availability of funds, up to a maximum of \$3.5 million per year during the 1984-1987 period to the various regional and interregional demographic centres, the allocations to each institution to be determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the United Nations and the Regional Commissions.

