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S U P P O R T

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

EVALUATION

Interorganizational Evaluation Study of Women's
Participation in Development

Progress report of the Administrator

Summary

This report responds to decision 83/12 part III, adopted at the thirtieth session of the Governing Council.

The report describes the purpose and methodology of an evaluation study of women's participation in technical co-operation undertaken by those organizations of the United Nations development system that are significantly concerned with women's role in development. The study was initiated in response to Governing Council decision 82/12 as well as proposals by several of the participating organizations. In addition to evaluating the effectiveness of the efforts to promote women's participation in development, the study will provide the basis for the formulation of recommendations for improved strategies to ensure that technical co-operation activities enhance women's participation in development and the benefits they derive therefrom. The report also indicates the specific activities that are in progress or will be undertaken by the participating organizations. At the time of preparation of this progress report, it was too early to indicate any substantive results of the evaluation.

This report is submitted to the Council for its information.

1. A number of organizations that form part of the United Nations development system have agreed to undertake a joint evaluation study of women's participation in technical co-operation for presentation to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985. The study responds to Governing Council decision 82/12 and also represents initiatives by other United Nations organizations. An annotated final proposal was agreed upon during interagency consultations held in Vienna early last year. The participating organizations are: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Department for Technical Co-operation for Development (UN/DTCD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Voluntary Fund for United Nations Decade for Women (VFDW), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Purpose and methodology

2. The key objective of the study is to evaluate the means, modalities and effectiveness of the efforts to promote a more active and deliberate involvement of women in development, based on government projects and programmes supported by the participating organizations. A further intention is to assess to what extent collaboration between the participating organizations and complementarity of their mandates contribute to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of technical co-operation. It is also expected that the concentration of resources on a joint undertaking will produce a report of greater quality and depth than could be done individually.

3. The ultimate purpose of the study is to formulate recommendations for improved strategies to ensure that technical co-operation activities enhance women's participation in development and the benefits they derive therefrom.

4. In view of the intention to study the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system collectively, it was decided to proceed by means of country case studies. In the interest of continuity it was, in principle, further decided to locate the study in the same four countries that participated in the joint Agency/UNDP study, Rural Women's Participation in Development, which was presented to the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. The four participating countries are Rwanda, Indonesia and Haiti and Democratic Yemen which was substituted for Syria, one of the countries in the earlier study.

5. Each participating organization will be responsible for the evaluation of all ongoing technical co-operation activities supported and executed by it. As concerns projects supported by the World Bank, coverage will be more limited due to the relatively large size of such projects. UNDP's role concerns mainly co-ordination of the study, preparation of background material and completion of the consolidated report, as indicated below.

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6. To ensure that the component studies that will be prepared by the participating organizations use a comparable approach to the evaluation, it has been suggested, and agreed by most participants, that a framework for analysis of women's participation in development, developed by the World Bank, will be used by all participants. The framework is based on concepts that are well known and commonly used. It has the added advantage of constituting a simple, logical and coherent framework that is suitable to all sectors.

7. The outline for the study foresees the preparation of sectoral studies covering the following main areas: rural development; agriculture, forestry and fisheries; transport; education and training; energy; industrial development; employment; drinking water supply and sanitation; population dynamics in relation to development; health; nutrition; and institutions and administration. The listing is not meant to exclude projects in other sectors that have a definite bearing on women's participation in development.

8. To provide for a wider perspective against which to consider the project evaluations, UNDP has agreed to prepare profiles of the role and situation of women in the four participating countries. The profiles are scheduled for completion by end-May 1984.

9. Following the completion of project evaluations, which are foreseen to involve actively project staff working in the participating countries, each participating organization will prepare a consolidated report of the results of the studies undertaken in the field. Here, too, most organizations will use the World Bank framework for analysis, possibly with suitable modifications and elaborations as dictated by the activities under examination. Upon receipt of the consolidated reports, UNDP will prepare the final consolidated report of the evaluation.

10. It is recognized that the preparation of these documents is a complex and time consuming process. In order to ensure the success and integrity of this interorganizational effort, the participating organizations have agreed to adhere to the following timetable:

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| - Choice of projects to be included
(participating organizations) | 15 December 1983 |
| - Completion of country profiles (UNDP) | 30 April-31 May 1984
(varies by country) |
| - Receipt by UNDP of consolidated evaluation
reports prepared by participating
organizations | 30 June 1984 |
| - Completion of draft comprehensive
report (UNDP) | 30 September 1984 |

- Interorganizational meeting to review draft report

31 October 1984

- Completion of final report (UNDP)

15 December 1984

Progress achieved to date

11. On the basis of information available at the end of January 1984, the status of the preparation of the study can be reported as follows.

12. As co-ordinator of the study UNDP has undertaken preparatory missions to the four participating countries. During the missions, discussions were held with UNDP as well as agency and project staff about the objectives, methodology and organization of the evaluation study, and arrangements were made for the establishment of local interorganizational co-ordinating committees for the evaluation study.

13. In addition, local consultants were identified and appointed for the preparation of the country profiles. The consultants were selected on the basis of extensive discussions and interviews with prospective consultants, as well as with government officials with an interest in the evaluation study. Government interest in the evaluation study was found to be strong, and substantial support in the preparation of country profiles was offered by ministries of planning, statistical offices, other offices and institutions and women's organizations.

14. The methodology for the evaluation of project activities varies among the participating organizations. In some instances, an organization may not have ongoing projects in all the countries. In others, time and other resource constraints may lead to different approaches. For example, FAO is evaluating projects in Indonesia with the assistance of an outside consultant and will report on projects in Rwanda, Democratic Yemen and Haiti on the basis of information available at headquarters. IFAD will not undertake field evaluations but will prepare a report on the basis of information available at headquarters. UNFPA will undertake field evaluations in Indonesia and Democratic Yemen during the first half of 1984 and also hopes to have some findings from a subsequent evaluation in Rwanda available for use by the study. The World Bank is engaged in field evaluations with the assistance of local consultants in Democratic Yemen and Rwanda and will prepare reports on projects in Haiti and Indonesia on the basis of material available at headquarters. It is not yet clear whether UNICEF and WHO will be able to include Rwanda in their evaluations. On the basis of information submitted to UNDP at the time of writing, a number of additional issues have been summarized in the annex to this report.

15. UNDP is pleased to co-ordinate and contribute to this interorganizational enterprise. Notwithstanding the limited geographic coverage of the study, it is hoped that it will provide solid evidence of the degree to which technical co-operation by the United Nations system is enhancing the involvement of women in development, as participants and as beneficiaries.

AnnexFEATURES OF IMPLEMENTATION AS COMMUNICATED TO UNDP ^{a/}

Organization ^{b/}	Projects to be included	Common questionnaire will be used	WB Framework for analysis will be used	HQ missions will be used	Local consultants, project or field staff will be used
FAO	Selected	Yes. Will construct their own in addition	Yes	Indonesia	No
IFAD ^{c/}	Selected	No	-	No	No
ILO	Selected	Yes	Yes	No	Project staff
UNCDF	-	-	-	-	-
UN DTCD	Selected	Probably	Yes	No	Project staff
UNESCO	Selected	Under consideration	-	No	Project and field staff
UNFPA	Selected	Yes	Own methodology but will benefit from all others as appropriate	Yes	Yes
UNICEF	-	UNICEF guidelines and questionnaire	Yes	No	Local consultants, project staff
UNIDO	Selected	Yes	Yes	No	Project and field staff
VFDW	Selected	No	Yes	No	Local consultants will be used
World Bank	Selected	Under consideration	Yes	Yes	Yes
WFP	Selected	With modifications	Yes	Yes	Field staff
WHO	Selected	Yes	Yes	Probably	Yes

^{a/}Dash (-) indicates that information is not available.

^{b/}UNDP, in collaboration with project staff, is evaluating a government-executed project in Indonesia.

^{c/}Participation will be limited to the provision of relevant information about ongoing projects available at headquarters.

