



**Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1984/41

28 March 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-first session
June 1984, Geneva
Agenda item 6
UNFPA

SUPPORT

UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Executive Director
on programmes of the regional and interregional
demographic training and research centres

Summary

At its thirtieth session in June 1983, the Governing Council, in decision 83/17, I, paragraph 20, requested the Executive Director to provide a report to the Council at its thirty-first session on the programmes of the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres and the extent to which the various centres have incorporated the general principles relating to funding and programming as contained in DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8 submitted to the Council at its thirtieth session.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2
I. BACKGROUND	3 - 5
II. PROGRAMMES OF THE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES:1984-1987	6 - 22
A. Regional demographic training and research centres	6 - 15
B. Interregional demographic training and research centres	16 - 22
III. CONCLUSION	23 - 25

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirtieth session in June 1983, the Governing Council endorsed the general principles that should guide the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in providing assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres, as presented in document DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8, section III, and authorized 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 centres. Also, the Council in decision 83/17, I, paragraph 20, requested the Executive Director to provide a report to the Council at its thirty-first session on the programmes of the centres, noting the level of UNFPA support for the four-year period and the extent to which the centres have incorporated the general principles outlined in the above-mentioned document.

2. This document provides a brief description of the training programmes of the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres for 1984-1987 and the level of UNFPA financial support for this period. Also, it describes the measures that have been taken by the various centres to comply with the principles, endorsed by the Council for future programme direction.

I. BACKGROUND

3. During the current four-year cycle, 1984-1987, UNFPA will provide assistance up to a maximum of \$3.5 million per year, as authorized by the last Governing Council at its thirtieth session in June 1983, 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

Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) - Ghana

Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD) - Cameroon

Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC) - Egypt

Centre Démographique ONU-Roumanie (CEDOR) - Romania

Demographic Training Programme - Moscow State University

4. UNFPA's support to the centres is based on the concept of the attainment of self-reliance and gradual phasing out of international assistance. It is important, therefore, that the centres adopt training strategies that are cost-effective, predominantly self-supporting and responsive to the needs of the countries of the region and to the regional needs. For implementing these objectives effectively, the Council endorsed the general principles, as set forth in DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8, section III, providing future direction to the training programmes. These principles are:

(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.

5. A meeting of the directors of the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres was held in New York in September 1983. This provided an opportunity for representatives of the Fund to discuss the general principles for future programme direction and the level of assistance that UNFPA is authorized to provide to the centres for the four-year period, 1984-1987. Taking into account the principles for programme direction and funding decision recommended by the Council, UNFPA presented general guidelines to the directors for formulation and submission of the requests for assistance to UNFPA for the 1984-1987 cycle. The directors agreed to take into consideration the suggestions made by UNFPA in their submissions. This meeting, therefore, facilitated the submission of the requests, and the four-year programme of assistance to the various demographic training and research centres, and subsequently submitted, has been approved by UNFPA. While funds have been allocated for 1984-1985, allocations for 1986-1987 will be made after the review of the programme in 1985. A short description of the centres follows, outlining the training programme for 1984-1987, the level of UNFPA support and the action taken to incorporate the general principles recommended by the Governing Council.

II. PROGRAMMES OF THE TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES: 1984-1987

A. Regional demographic training and research centres

6. International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS). The IIPS, located in Bombay, India, is now a national institution largely supported by the Government of India. UNFPA assistance is mainly utilized for developing and strengthening population manpower in the countries of the Asia and Pacific region by providing fellowships to Government nominees for undertaking one-year certificate or two-year diploma programmes in population studies. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme (1984-1987). While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$180,300 for 1984 and \$185,300 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$195,300 for 1986 and \$205,300 for 1987 will be made in 1985.

7. In recent years, the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) have indicated increasing interest in the IIPS fellowship programme. Consequently, the number of fellows nominated by the various governments of the ESCAP region increased from 19 in the 1979/1980 academic year to 32 in the 1983/1984 academic year. Two out of three of these fellows are from the least developed countries in the region to which ESCAP accords high priority. The fellowship programme is making a concrete contribution to manpower development in the field of population in the countries of the region.

8. Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE) - Latin American Demographic Centre. CELADE, located in Santiago, Chile, is a part of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). The main objective of this programme is to train national personnel in the field of population through diversified activities specially designed to meet the different needs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The training programme for the period 1984-1987 has been formulated in the light of the recommendations of the Governments, the priorities identified for the next four years, and CELADE's capacity in terms of its teaching staff. The training activities that will be conducted by CELADE during this period are: a Master's degree programme; regional and national intensive courses; national courses on the use of demographic inputs in economic and social planning; regional courses on electronic data processing and the use of micro-computers as applied to population topics; national seminars on recent demographic techniques as applied to census or survey data; a programme of research fellowships; and courses in collaboration with other institutions. UNFPA has approved assistance for this programme and a sum of \$450,879 has been allocated for each of the years 1984 and 1985.

9. The Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN), a specialized body set up under resolution 310 (XIV) of the Commission, is responsible for specific functions of guidance and consultation with regard to CELADE's activities in the field of population (resolution 357). CEGAN, in its second meeting on population, held in Havana, Cuba, November 1983, approved CELADE's training programme mentioned above. Also, during the last CEGAN meeting, recommendations were made for increasing the financial contributions from the Governments to CELADE. This will be reaffirmed during ECLA's twentieth session to be held in Lima, Peru, in March/April 1984. Currently, CELADE also receives support from other sources such as the Government of the Netherlands, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Governments of Chile and Costa Rica, through their respective universities.

10. Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS). RIPS is located at the University of Ghana in Accra. It is a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa, but has its own Governing Council. The Council consists of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who is ex-officio the Chairman of the Council, a representative of the Government of Ghana, a

representative of each of the twelve countries served by the Institute, and a representative of the UNFPA entrusted with the responsibility of prescribing the general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, and giving general directives as to their implementation. An Advisory Board on Studies and Research advises the Council on the academic programmes of the Institute. The Institute serves the English-speaking countries of Africa. The work programme of the Institute for 1984-1987 includes two regular academic courses in demography - diploma and Master's degree in population studies - and also provides guided research, ad hoc courses and in-service training. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme, 1984-1987. While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$799,150 for 1984 and \$748,140 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$722,380 for 1986 and \$766,180 for 1987 are to be made after a UNFPA review of the programme in 1985.

11. The meeting of the RIPS Governing Council was held in February 1984. It reviewed the contents of the training programme and directed that a special Technical Committee be set up within three months for reviewing and restructuring the RIPS teaching curriculum. The Council revived a Standing Committee consisting of representatives of the Government of Ghana, the University of Ghana, RIPS and UNFPA to review RIPS management and the relationship between RIPS and the University of Ghana.

12. Though the participating countries - Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe - did not make pledges during the RIPS Governing Council meeting, all of the government representatives were unanimous in support of RIPS. There was strong consensus among the participating member countries with regard to developing RIPS as a viable, independent, regional institution to be supported by the English-speaking countries of Africa and all representatives promised to secure financial contributions from their Governments. The Council directed that contributions to the budget of RIPS be formally sought from all participating governments. Such contributions will be based on the United Nations scale of assessment approved at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. RIPS is also receiving funds from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

13. Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD). IFORD is located at Yaoundé in the Cameroon. It is also a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa. Like RIPS, it has its own Governing Council consisting of the Executive Secretary of the Commission as ex-officio the Chairman of the Council, a representative of the Government of Cameroon, a representative of each of the twelve countries served by the Institute, and a representative of the UNFPA. An Advisory Committee advises the Council on the academic programmes of the Institute. It serves the French-speaking countries of Africa. The work programme for 1984-1987 consists of a two-year course leading to the "Diplome d'Etudes Démographiques", which is equivalent to a Master's degree. In addition, it will conduct short-term courses, seminars

and promote demographic research in the member countries. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme, 1984-1987. While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$700,000 for 1984 and \$735,000 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$770,000 for 1986 and \$840,000 for 1987 are to be made after a UNFPA review of the programme in 1985.

14. The Governing Council of IFORD met in November 1983. The Council approved the proposal of the Economic Commission for Africa for an evaluation of programme activities of the Institute in the context of principles for future programme direction outlined in DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8, in order to suggest modifications and changes to the Advisory Committee of the Institute, which will be convened during May/June 1984. The evaluation mission of four independent and highly competent people will examine the training and research activities of IFORD. With regard to training, the mission will review the content of the curriculum, teaching methods, selection and admission to the courses, and examination and grading systems; with regard to research, the mission will examine IFORD's research programme in relation to the needs of the countries it serves, and its relevance to the teaching programme. The quality of research and the sources of funding for these activities will also be reviewed. In addition, the mission will study and advise on the future institutional structure of the Institute - whether as an independent regional institution or as an integrated part of the University of Yaoundé.

15. The IFORD Governing Council emphasized that the participating member countries should contribute to IFORD in 1984 an amount of \$12,000 each until the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa decides on a new assessment schedule for the member States that is approved by the United Nations Secretary-General. In 1983, five member countries contributed to the Institute a total amount of approximately \$71,500. In 1984, up to the present (March 1984), six governments had pledged a total of \$90,000. It appears that regionalization of IFORD is progressing and member countries have started to increase their contributions to the Institute. Also, IFORD receives support from the Government of France and has requested assistance from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

B. Interregional demographic training and research centres

16. Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC). Under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Government of Egypt, the CDC was established as an independent, interregional institution. It has its own Governing Council which meets once every year to approve its training and research programme. The Council consists of six members: three are appointed by the Government, of whom one is designated as the Chairman; and three are appointed by the United Nations, of whom one represents the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the other is the Director of the Centre. An Advisory Committee acts as a technical, programming and evaluating organ for the Centre. During the present four-year cycle, 1984-1987, the training programme will consist of a general diploma course in demographic analysis; a special diploma course in

population and development; a Master's degree programme; and a Ph.D. programme in collaboration with Cairo University. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme. While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$616,900 for 1984 and \$655,000 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$670,000 for 1986 and \$700,000 for 1987 are to be made after a UNFPA review of the programme in 1985.

17. The CDC Advisory Committee and Governing Council meetings were held in December 1983. The training programmes of the Centre were examined by the Advisory Committee and upon its recommendations, the Governing Council approved the new programme of the Centre with certain modifications and changes. The special diploma course's title was changed to "Special Diploma in Population and Development", and various substantive additions and reemphases in the curriculum were made to focus the teaching programme on the interrelationships between population and development.

18. The Council noted that the Centre has recently made considerable efforts in diversifying its sources of support. The Egyptian Government has more than doubled its contribution to the CDC over the past two years - from approximately \$98,000 in 1981 to nearly \$210,000 in 1983. The Centre has obtained grants in the amount of \$200,000 for 1983 and 1984 from the United States Agency for International Development and \$70,000 for 1984 from the Canadian International Development Research Centre. These efforts will continue and funding approaches to Arab countries and various Arab institutions will be made in the future.

19. Centre Démographique ONU-Roumanie (CEDOR). CEDOR was established as an independent, interregional institution in Bucharest, Romania, under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Government of Romania. It has its own Governing Council composed of eight members: three members appointed by the United Nations; three members appointed by the Government of Romania, one of whom is designated as the Chairman; the Director and a senior staff member of the Centre. An Advisory Committee is responsible for reviewing the training and research programme of the Centre and for making recommendations to the Governing Council. The programme for 1984-1987 consists of a nine-month specialized training in interrelationship between population and development. The course is designed to train middle-level, French-speaking, government officials from developing countries. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme (1984-1987). While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$433,100 for 1984 and \$409,500 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$436,000 for 1986 and \$483,500 for 1987 will be made in 1985.

20. Though the major theme of the training programme of CEDOR for 1984-1987 will remain the same, some of the courses will be slightly modified by consolidation and elimination of a few topics which are not directly related to population and development. The programme will be submitted to the next session of CEDOR's Governing Council to be held in June 1984. Regarding the

future institutional structure of the Centre, it does not seem feasible to integrate the Centre within the University of Bucharest because in the University, the language of instruction is Romanian and the teaching and research needs of the Romanian students are different from those of the government officials from developing countries for whom the Centre provides specialized training programmes.

21. Demographic Training Programme - Moscow State University. The Demographic Training Programme in population and development planning has been jointly sponsored by the United Nations and the Government of the USSR. The training programme is organized by the Moscow State University and United Nations and USSR lecturers participate in conducting the course. The Programme consists of a three-month specialized course in population and development relationship in the English language for participants from developing countries, and is designed to train middle- and high-level government officials in methods of incorporating demographic factors into development planning. UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme. While funds have been allocated in the amounts of \$84,763 for 1984, and \$106,205 for 1985, allocations in the amounts of \$101,836 for 1986 and \$111,610 for 1987 will be made in 1985.

22. Because of the increased demands of the developing countries, it has been agreed to organize the course twice annually - in the spring and in fall. Regarding the financial support to the programme, negotiations are being carried out with the hope that eventually the host Government will take over the full responsibilities of its support, either in the form of a USSR/UNDP Trust Fund or some other arrangement.

III. CONCLUSION

23. The Fund recognizes that it would require the consent of the various governing bodies and advisory committees of the different demographic training and research centres for their adoption of the general principles for future programme direction outlined in the document DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8. It should be noted that, however, concrete measures have been taken by the various centres to comply with the principles endorsed by the Council. In addition, the Economic Commission for Africa is planning to call a meeting of the Directors of RIPS, IFORD, and the Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC) to discuss common problems - training programme strategies and other related administrative and financial matters - in order to explore the possibilities of standardizing among themselves some of the policies and practices in regard to payment of national and international fellowships, faculty and staff recruitment, examination and grading systems, etc.

24. Following the recommendations of the thirtieth session of the Governing Council held in June 1983, authorizing the Executive Director to make allocations up to a maximum of \$3.5 million per year during the 1984-1987 period to the various centres, UNFPA has approved assistance for the four-year programme, 1984-1987 for most of these centres. The table below shows the UNFPA assistance planned for these centres up to \$14 million for the period 1984-1987.

Distribution of UNFPA assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres for 1984-1987

<u>Training centres</u>	<u>1984</u> \$	<u>1985</u> \$	<u>1986</u> \$	<u>1987</u> \$	<u>1984-1987</u> \$
IIPS	180,300	185,300	195,300	205,300	766,200
CELADE	450,879	450,879	a/	a/	901,758
RIPS	799,150	748,140	722,380	766,180	3,035,850
IFORD	700,000	735,000	770,000	840,000	3,045,000
CDC	616,900	655,000	670,000	700,000	2,641,900
CEDOR	433,100	409,500	436,000	483,500	1,762,100
Moscow State University	84,763	106,205	101,836	111,610	404,414
Total	3,265,092	3,290,024	2,895,516	3,106,590	12,557,222

a/ The level of assistance for 1986 and 1987 will be determined after the UNFPA review of the programme in 1985. It is expected, however, that the level of assistance will remain, more or less, the same as in 1984 and 1985.

25. By the end of 1985, it is expected that the Fund will have more information on the extent to which these centres have incorporated the principles for future training programme direction. It is the intention of the Executive Director to provide a further progress report on this subject to the Governing Council at its thirty-third session in June 1986.

- - - - -

