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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone

Support of a population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance:	\$2 804 715
Estimated value of the Government's contribution:	\$3 300 000
Duration:	Four years
Estimated starting date:	January 1985
Executing agencies:	Government of Sierra Leone 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 Economic Development

SIERRA LEONE

Demographic Facts

Population by sex	
Total (in 1000)	3,602
Male (in 1000)	1,765
Female (in 1000)	1,837
Sex ratio (/ 100 females)	96.1
Population in year 2000 (in 1000)	4,868
Population by age group	
Age 0-14 (in 1000)	1,490
Age 15-64 (in 1000)	2,004
Age 65+ (in 1000)	108
Age 0-14 (percentage)	41.4
Age 15-64 (percentage)	55.6
Age 65+ (percentage)	3.0
Age indicators	
Median age	19.4
Dependency: age 0-14	74.3
Dependency: age 65+	5.4
Dependency: total	79.7
Youth: 15-24 (in 1000)	668
Women: 15-49 (in 1000)	867
Urban-rural population	
Urban population (in 1000)	1,018
Rural population (in 1000)	2,584
Per cent urban (%)	28.26
Per cent rural (%)	71.74
Population density (/hectare of arable land	1.38

Population density (/sq. km.)	50
Average annual change	
Population increase (in 1000)	61
Births (in 1000)	164
Deaths (in 1000)	102
Net migration (in 1000)	0
Rate of annual change	
Population change total (%)	1.77
Urban (%)	4.6
Rural (%)	0.8
Crude birth rate (/ 1000)	47.4
Crude death rate (/ 1000)	29.7
Natural increase (/ 1000)	17.7
Net migration (/ 1000)	0.0
Fertility and mortality	
Total fertility rate	6.13
Completed family size	N/A
Gross reproduction rate	3.02
Net reproduction rate	1.63
General fertility rate (/ 1000)	196
Child-woman ratio	689
Infant mortality rate (/ 1000)	200
Life expectancy: male	32.5
Life expectancy: female	35.5
Life expectancy: total	34.0
GNP per capita	
(U.S. dollars, 1981)	390

Sources: Area and population density on arable land: derived from Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO Production Yearbook 1980; Gross national product per capita: World Bank, World Development Report 1984; Completed family size: Noreen Goldman and John Hobcraft, "Birth Histories", in Comparative Studies, No. 17 (International Statistical Institute: Voorburg), 1982; all other data: Population Division, United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Demographic Indicators by Countries as Assessed in 1982 (computer printout, 1 November 1983) - "population by sex" through "population density (/sq. km.)" as of 1985, and "average annual change" through "life expectancy: total" as of 1980-1985.

I. SUMMARY

1. UNFPA proposes to support a programme in the amount of \$2,804,715 over a four-year period, 1985 to 1988, to assist the Government of Sierra Leone, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, in achieving its population and development objectives. The proposed programme, which would be the first long-term comprehensive assistance provided by UNFPA to the Government of Sierra Leone, has been developed taking into account the findings and recommendations of a Needs Assessment Mission that visited Sierra Leone in November 1981. The programme would include projects in the areas of maternal and child health and family planning; population education both in the informal and formal sectors; basic data collection and analysis; and population policy and development planning. UNFPA support would include technical assistance; fellowships and funds for local training activities; expendable and non-expendable equipment including contraceptive supplies; and consultancies.

2. All projects under the proposed programme, as in all UNFPA-assisted programmes, will be undertaken in accordance with the principles and objectives of the World Population Plan of Action, that is, population policies should be consistent with internationally and nationally recognized human rights of individual freedom, justice and the survival of national, regional and minority groups (paragraph 14(d)), respect for human life is basic to all human societies (paragraph 14(e)), and all couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so (paragraph 14(f)).

II. BACKGROUND

3. Sierra Leone, which attained independence in 1961, has a total land area of 73,326 square kilometres. The United Nations estimates the 1985 population at 3.6 million, with a population density of 50 persons per square kilometre.

4. A priority country for UNFPA assistance, Sierra Leone is in the process of formulating its population policy. In a statement outlining Sierra Leone's views on population, for the benefit of those attending the International Conference on Population, President Siaka Stevens said, "The main objectives of Government policy are: (i) to achieve a rate of population growth that contributes to the effectiveness of efforts to reach higher levels of human development consonant with free decisions regarding family size and takes into account parents' duties to their children and to society, as well as their duties to each other; (ii) to achieve a significant reduction in morbidity and mortality especially among mothers and children; (iii) to achieve an improved spatial distribution of the population; and (iv) to provide increased employment opportunities to all, particularly women. The National Development Plan 1974/75-1978/79 envisaged the establishment of a National Population Commission which was established in 1982 as an advisory body to the Government responsible for: (i) formulating population policy recommendations; (ii) promoting and fostering an integrated approach to family planning; (iii) promoting and encouraging integration of various aspects of family planning development; and (iv) co-ordinating, promoting and integrating population activities into planning

in Sierra Leone. In pursuance of its objectives the Commission has established a number of task forces charged with the responsibility of examining various aspects of the interrelationships between population and development with a view to making appropriate policy recommendations and programmes. The formation of the National Population Commission which is broad based and multi-disciplinary in composition therefore underscores the importance Government attaches to population issues and further demonstrates Government's commitment to the formulation of a National Population Policy for Sierra Leone which would be in consonance with the country's socio-economic planning efforts as well as compatible with its diverse cultural and religious background".

5. In its first five-year development plan, 1974-1979, as well as in a subsequent response to the Fifth United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments, the Government referred to population-related problems such as unemployment, increasing school-age population, migration and pressures on available health and housing. Lack of reliable demographic and vital statistics data is another major concern of the Government, as is the need to strengthen and improve the population education and communication sector, especially family life education.

6. UNFPA assistance to Sierra Leone dates back to 1971, and as of the end of 1984 UNFPA had funded 22 projects for a total of over \$4 million. UNFPA funds were used for the purchase of vehicles for family planning programmes; population education; teaching of demography and some research on demographic characteristics of urban female populations; support to the 1974 population census and subsequent analysis through the provision of expertise, training and equipment to enable the Government to consolidate its planning process by incorporating population factors; and support for the experimental national registration and vital statistics system. The vital statistics project begun in 1979 will terminate in 1987 after establishing a model registration area. Cumulative expenditure will be \$575,104. Currently UNFPA is assisting the population and housing census scheduled to be undertaken in December 1985, in the amount of \$689,117. The MCH/FP project has been allocated \$398,699 for the period 1984 to 1986.

7. Other multilateral assistance to Sierra Leone's population activities has included technical and financial support from UNDP, WHO, WFP and UNICEF for integrated rural development activities, women's activities and health development planning. The World Bank is in the process of preparing an aide-mémoire for assistance to the health sector. Major bilateral donors have been the United Kingdom, through its Overseas Development Administration, for the supply of technical experts and equipment; and the United States Agency for International Development in co-operation with agencies such as Family Planning International Assistance, the Association for Voluntary Sterilization and The Pathfinder Fund. The Government of China is assisting Sierra Leone's health programmes through the provision of experts, training, equipment and infrastructure support. Among the non-governmental organizations providing assistance to Sierra Leone are the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Programme for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology and the Canadian International Development Research Centre, which are concentrating their efforts primarily on action-oriented family planning and research programmes.

III. THE PROGRAMME

Needs Assessment Mission, 1981

8. The Needs Assessment Mission which visited Sierra Leone in November 1981 recommended that assistance be provided in support of various population activities. Specific activities recommended include the following:

(a) Strengthening of health and child-spacing activities and the creation of a co-ordination office within the Ministry of Health and the National Population Commission; the provision of integrated maternal and child health services and family planning courses; and the integration of contraceptive services into the MCH/FP programme;

(b) Creation of a national communication committee under the National Population Commission and introduction of, and support to, population and family life education activities and in-school population education programmes;

(c) Assistance to enable the Government to conduct the 1985 population census and to process, analyse and disseminate data collected; and assistance to training programmes in population data collection and analysis;

(d) Assistance to enable the Government to consolidate the newly established Population Unit within the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development to fulfil its functions as a technical arm of the National Population Commission, create awareness among policy-makers and assist national institutions to carry out the relevant demographic training;

(e) Assistance and encouragement to women's groups; expansion of accessibility and availability of services, education, training and job opportunities for women; and wider participation of women in decision-making.

9. Sierra Leone is among the poorest of the least developed countries on the African continent. The country has a priority status for UNFPA assistance and the present submission represents UNFPA's first comprehensive programme. The population programme that UNFPA is proposing for the period 1985 to 1988 has been developed on the basis of the findings and recommendations of the Needs Assessment Mission. As of December 1984, preparations for the 1985 population census were already under way and the cartographic work had begun. There are two pending projects in the area of population and development. Project development activities were intensified in the early part of 1985. The recommended comprehensive programme would encompass the following areas:

Maternal and child health and family planning

10. Sierra Leone is in the process of formulating a comprehensive population policy. Previous Government pronouncements have identified the major concerns of the Government as the high mortality and morbidity rates, especially among infants and children. An MCH/FP programme is currently under way and is being supervised

and implemented by the Ministry of Health. It is considered an integral part of the social and economic development process. UNFPA proposes to allocate a total of \$1,047,970 for activities in this category. The Government and WHO would be the executing agencies.

11. Assistance to the MCH/FP programme. In order to have an effective national maternal and child health and family planning programme, the Government intends to seek assistance to strengthen and improve the managerial and administrative capability of the Ministry of Health so that it can undertake a co-ordinated family planning programme commensurate with national socio-economic development goals (\$200,000). The programme, already under way, also includes the training of middle-level technicians of the Ministry of Health in family planning methodology and delivery (\$90,000); the integration of family planning services into the Ministry of Health activities, especially maternal and child health services and related information, education and communication activities (\$247,970); training of family planning managers at the top level (\$150,000); and management of logistics, especially transportation and supplies (\$60,000). The proposed assistance, to lessen competing demands for the meagre foreign exchange, would initially supply all contraceptive supplies (\$300,000), then gradually transfer responsibility to the Government by the end of the country programme. The storage and retrieval of related information is an integral part of this programme. Thus, activities intended to enhance this area have already begun to improve the availability and utilization of service statistics. The Government and WHO would be the executing agencies.

Population and family life education, information and communication

12. It is clear from the findings of the Needs Assessment Mission and those of the 1983 Evaluation Mission that despite the achievements in the formal population education sector, attention must be focused on the informal sector as well. Funds earmarked for activities in this area would go to two projects, namely, population education curriculum development in the formal sector and population information and communication in the informal sector. UNFPA would provide \$775,400 for these activities. The ILO and UNESCO would be the executing agencies.

13. Formal population education and curriculum development. The Government intends to extend activities carried out under a previous social sciences project in order to cover the science curriculum. UNFPA assistance amounting to \$500,000 would support consultants (\$150,000) and audio-visual equipment and training (\$350,000), to be undertaken with national institutions under the general guidance of the Ministry of Education to develop a relevant curriculum in population education. UNESCO would be the executing agency.

14. Population information and communication activities. UNFPA, in collaboration with the ILO, has assisted activities in this area under a project which expires at the end of 1985 for the introduction of population and family welfare activities into the co-operative sector. These activities, which have included the introduction of family planning information in the educational programmes of co-operatives, would be extended further to include people who are not members of co-operative societies, through the initiation of family life education in women's

groups and among other community leaders. UNFPA assistance totalling \$275,400 would support training (\$100,000), audio-visual equipment (\$25,400) and advisory services (\$150,000). The ILO would be the executing agency.

Basic data collection and analysis

15. UNFPA proposes to allocate a total of \$721,345 to two projects in this area:

16. 1985 population and housing census. UNFPA is already assisting in this programme area through a project initiated in 1983. Enumeration is scheduled to take place in December 1985. The Government is already receiving UNFPA assistance (\$521,345 as of January 1985) for this project covering the cost of experts in general census methodology and data processing, cartography and demography. The United Nations would be the executing agency.

17. Assistance to the pilot national civil registration and vital statistics system. UNFPA has been supporting an experimental project in civil registration and vital statistics which is due to terminate at the end of 1986. In view of substantial investments made by both the Government and donor agencies, and in view of the project's success, the Mission recommended continuing the project so that the achievements could be consolidated to allow the Government to take over its entire financial support and management. UNFPA carried out an in-depth evaluation of the project at the end of 1984, the results of which were not yet available at the time of submission of this document. UNFPA would contribute \$200,000 for consultancies (\$80,000), training (\$50,000) and equipment and supplies for an effective logistic support system (\$70,000), to keep the project in operation. The United Nations would be the executing agency.

Population policies and population and development planning

18. UNFPA proposes to allocate \$260,000 to one project in this area:

19. Population policy and development planning and a national seminar on population and development. One of the most notable achievements in this area in Africa, and in Sierra Leone in particular, has been the establishment of a population unit in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the establishment of a National Population Commission charged with the formulation of a national population policy. The assistance earmarked for activities in this sector is intended to consolidate past achievements and to assist the newly created unit with the actual formulation of a viable population policy. After formulation of the policy, a national seminar is planned for the end of 1987 to create awareness and disseminate policy information and initiate activities throughout the Government. UNFPA assistance in the amount of \$260,000 would cover advisory services (\$60,000), training, information, education and communication (\$130,000), audio-visual equipment (\$25,000) and support for a national seminar (\$45,000). This project would be executed by the ILO.

Evaluation and monitoring

20. The programme will be monitored according to the revised "UNFPA Instructions

on an Integrated System for Monitoring the Implementation of Country Programmes and Country Projects" (UNFPA/RR/78/23, dated 15 September 1978). Although the instructions emphasize distinct components of the monitoring system (progress reports, tripartite reviews, annual country reviews and a final report), they also include reporting by the UNFPA representatives to headquarters in order to identify problems at an early stage.

Financial summary

21. The proposed UNFPA assistance for the four-year period, subject to the availability of funds, would be as follows:

<u>Programme area</u>	\$
Maternal and child health and family planning	1 047 970
Population and family life education, information and communication	775 400
Basic data collection and analysis	721 345
Population policies and population and development planning	<u>260 000</u>
TOTAL	2 804 715 =====

22. The status of programme development, as of June 1985, is expected to be as follows:

	\$
Ongoing projects	1 385 705
Foreseen	<u>1 419 010</u>
TOTAL	2 804 715 =====

IV. RECOMMENDATION

23. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the assistance to Sierra Leone in the amount of \$2,804,715 for a four-year period, 1985 to 1988; and,

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to allocate funds and to make the appropriate arrangements with the Government of Sierra Leone and with the executing agencies.