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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

PROPOSED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Support to the national population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance:	\$2,200,000
Estimated value of the Government's contribution	2,700,000 won
Duration:	Four years (1986-1989)
Estimated starting date:	January 1986, subject to Governing Council approval
Executing agencies:	Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office for Projects Execution (OPE) United Nations Fund for Population Activities
Government co-ordinating agency	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government co-operating agencies	Ministry of Public Health Central Bureau of Statistics

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Demographic Facts

Population by sex		Population density (/sq. km.)	167
Total (in 1000)	20,082	Average annual change	
Male (in 1000)	9,957	Population increase (in 1000)	438
Female (in 1000)	10,125	Births (in 1000)	578
Sex ratio (/ 100 females)	98.3	Deaths (in 1000)	140
Population in year 2000 (in 1000)	27,256	Net migration (in 1000)	0
Population by age group		Rate of annual change	
Age 0-14 (in 1000)	7,646	Population change total (%)	2.31
Age 15-64 (in 1000)	11,668	Urban (%)	3.6
Age 65+ (in 1000)	768	Rural (%)	0.1
Age 0-14 (percentage)	38.1	Crude birth rate (/ 1000)	30.5
Age 15-64 (percentage)	58.1	Crude death rate (/ 1000)	7.4
Age 65+ (percentage)	3.8	Natural increase (/ 1000)	23.1
Age indicators		Net migration (/ 1000)	0.0
Median age	20.6	Fertility and mortality	
Dependency: age 0-14	65.5	Total fertility rate	4.00
Dependency: age 65+	6.6	Completed family size	N/A
Dependency: total	72.1	Gross reproduction rate	1.95
Youth: 15-24 (in 1000)	4,085	Net reproduction rate	1.76
Women: 15-49 (in 1000)	5,045	General fertility rate (/ 1000)	123
Urban-rural population		Child-woman ratio	581
Urban population (in 1000)	12,816	Infant mortality rate (/ 1000)	32
Rural population (in 1000)	7,266	Life expectancy: male	62.7
Per cent urban (%)	63.82	Life expectancy: female	66.6
Per cent rural (%)	36.18	Life expectancy: total	64.6
Agricultural population density		GNP per capita	
(/ hectare of arable land)	3.82	(U.S. dollars, 1983)	N/A

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 1985; 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, World population Prospects, Estimates and Projections as Assessed in 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIII.5) - "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 assist the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the amount of \$2,200,000 over the four-year period 1986-1989. Based upon the findings of the needs assessment mission that visited the country in April 1985, this first UNFPA country programme of assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would support maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) service delivery activities, educational and motivational support for MCH/FP, local production of intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and the strengthening of the Government's Population Centre.

2. The proposed UNFPA support aims to strengthen the Government's population programme through the provision of technical assistance previously unavailable to the Government. UNFPA assistance would provide a limited number of international experts; training, both in-country and abroad, and study tours; and expendable and non-expendable equipment and supplies. All costs for local personnel payments and for construction would be met by the Government.

3. 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 (para. 14 (d)), respect for human life is basic to all human societies (para. 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 (para. 14 (f)).

II. BACKGROUND

Demographic and social indicators

4. According to the most recent United Nations estimates and projections, the mid-year 1985 population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was just over 20 million. The population growth rate, the crude birth rate and the total fertility rate are all estimated to have declined steadily since the mid-1960s, while the crude death rate and infant mortality rate are estimated to have fallen significantly in each quinquennium since 1950-1955, after the conflict that had engulfed the Korean peninsula ceased. It should be borne in mind, however, that the population data available for the country are not considered highly reliable. The most recent population census was conducted in 1944. Demographic figures presented in the chart on page 2 above are based upon official government estimates of 1963, adjusted by assumed rates of demographic change since that time. In short, there is a large element of conjecture inherent in the information presented.

Government policies and plans (1986-1992)

5. In a statement outlining the views on population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the benefit of those attending the International Conference

on Population held at Mexico City, from 6 to 14 August 1984, Premier Kang Song San said that the population policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is "closely related with the overall development of the country and requirements of national economy. Under the population policy, we prevent overcrowding in urban areas in conformity with the size of the country and overall development of productivity. ... Since the 1970s, we have controlled pregnancies to some extent on the voluntary principle ... with a view to preventing rapid increase in population."

6. The statement above is the closest to an officially stated population policy yet enunciated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Government respects the desire of citizens to practice family planning, which is portrayed as a voluntary programme widely accessible to all couples on request at every health facility. Family planning is provided through all gynaecology and obstetrics out-patient facilities, where information and education is imparted and contraceptives are made available free of charge, as is the case for any other medical service. There are, however, limitations in the choice of method and in their quality.

7. The Ministry of Health includes fertility regulation in its planning processes as well as in its reporting system and considers as targets for family planning all those couples having more than two children. The officials in charge of population matters in the Ministry of Health speak of population stabilization by the year 2050 as a goal to be achieved by means of an increasingly effective family planning programme as well as social and economic development. To achieve this goal, the present objectives of the Government's fertility regulation programme includes, for general planning purposes, the reduction of the number of children per couple to 2.5.

8. In 1986, the Government will start to implement its third seven-year national development plan, during which time it will carry out its population policy in conformity with the goal of the overall development of the national economy, and in order to better protect people's health.

III. PROPOSED COUNTRY PROGRAMME 1986-1989

9. Discussions between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and UNFPA leading to the present proposed programme were initiated in 1984 with the visit of the Assistant Executive Director of UNFPA to the country in April and that of the Executive Director in December. Following these visits, two study tours were arranged by UNFPA to allow government officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to visit selected countries as well as UNFPA headquarters. These tours enabled the officials to observe the different types of population activities supported by UNFPA in various countries and to obtain further detailed information at UNFPA headquarters on areas of assistance.

10. On the basis of these and further discussions, it was agreed that the Government and UNFPA would pursue co-operation in the areas of MCH/FP, contraceptive production, population education and communication and basic data

collection and analysis. From 12 to 30 April 1985, a UNFPA mission visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to assess national needs in these four areas and to co-operate with officials of the concerned ministries in the formulation of projects.

11. The findings and recommendations of the needs assessment mission have been reviewed and analyzed by UNFPA and the Government. The mission made the following principal recommendations: (a) improve the availability, diversity and quality of contraceptive methods; (b) expand the collection and analysis of population data and strengthen data processing facilities and training opportunities; (c) improve the MCH/FP education and communication programme by developing comprehensive MCH/FP printed materials, providing audio-visual facilities, etc.; and (d) establish local contraceptive production and improve the acceptability of the existing contraceptive methods.

12. On the basis of the recommendations of the needs assessment mission, the proposed programme was prepared by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and UNFPA in the amount of \$2,200,000 over four years.

13. The proposed UNFPA programme of assistance, in the areas of MCH/FP, population information, education and communication, and population data collection and analysis, is outlined below.

Maternal and child health and family planning

14. Support for MCH/FP activities. This project aims to contribute significantly to the improvement of MCH/FP services in the country. These services are routinely provided in the hospitals of various categories located in Pyongyang, the capital, provinces, cities, districts, industrial settlements and villages. Based on the assessment of needs, three areas have been singled out for UNFPA support to increase the effectiveness and quality of the present activities: (a) improve the availability and quality of fertility regulation techniques, UNFPA would provide the Ministry of Health, on an ad hoc basis, with copper-T (CuT) IUDs during the period it would take to achieve full local production of IUDs. In addition, the project would make mini-laparotomy equipment available to the Ministry of Health to gradually replace currently utilized techniques; (b) improve the processing and analysis of statistical information, UNFPA would provide modern multi-function hand-held calculators and one minicomputer for use in the processing and analysis of MCH/FP service statistics. Operational research would be undertaken based upon the information obtained; and (c) develop the human resources involved in the MCH/FP programme, short-term fellowships abroad would be arranged to train personnel for the activities to be undertaken as described in (a) and (b) above. Personnel thus trained would develop and organize courses, seminars and on-the-job training activities locally. Total UNFPA assistance for the three components would be \$430,000, and would be executed by WHO, UNFPA and the Government.

15. Establishment of industrial facilities for the production of IUDs. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea wishes to introduce more

modern and effective IUDs to increase the acceptability and use of this method of contraception.

16. Several stainless steel and plastic devices have been used during the last 10 years with questionable effectiveness. In 1980, a locally designed and manufactured plastic CuT IUD was introduced and has been in use since that time. Although of a poor quality and with several undesirable effects, this device is the most widely accepted contraceptive method. Production was experimental and has recently ceased. The discontinuation of production resulted in a sudden lack of plastic copper devices. To fill this gap, the Government plans to introduce new technology and equipment to produce new IUDs. The Government is committed to achieving domestic manufacture of the new device.

17. The objectives of the proposed UNFPA project are (a) to achieve upon the completion of this project an annual production of 1 million complete sets of individually packed, pre-sterilized plastic copper IUDs; and (b) ensure a production capacity sufficient to allow for an increase in the annual number of units by 100 per cent within two years following project completion.

18. Under this project, production machines and quality control instruments would be provided through UNFPA funding. Technicians would be trained abroad in such areas as plastic moulding engineering and mould and equipment maintenance; physical, chemical, mechanical and microbiological quality control; and clean-room operation and gas sterilization techniques.

19. This project would require the concluding of licensing arrangements with the manufacturers of copper IUDs, obtaining the technical expertise for preparing equipment specifications and for arranging for installation of equipment and training of staff in operation and maintenance. Therefore, extensive preparations would be required. Ordinary commercial arrangements which have been made for local production of copper IUDs in other countries may not be available for a project in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. UNFPA would assist the Government in identifying an executing agency capable of implementing the project.

20. UNFPA proposes support in the amount of \$800,000 for this project. This estimate is based upon a preliminary feasibility study by the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT).

Population information, education and communication

21. Educational and motivational support for MCH/FP. This project is designed to provide assistance to the Ministry of Public Health to make effective education and motivation materials on MCH/FP available for distribution through all hospitals and clinics. Major activities under the project include orientation of the officials of the Department of Health Education and Motivation on communication support for MCH/FP through seminars and study tours to Thailand and the Philippines; provision of printing and audio-visual facilities; and training of staff in the effective utilization of audio-visual equipment.

22. The proposed UNFPA contribution is \$180,000. The project would be executed by the UNDP Office for Projects Execution, utilizing the Bangkok-based UNDP Asia and Pacific Programme for Development Training and Communication Planning.

Population dynamics

23. Establishment of a Population Centre. There are a sufficient number of officials and technical personnel at all levels in the Central Bureau of Statistics as well as in the Ministries for collecting, processing and analyzing demographic data. However, a limited quantity of population data is collected and analyzed for development planning, for reasons as follows: (a) civil registration, rather than censuses and surveys, are relied upon for collecting demographic and socio-economic data; (b) data processing equipment is outdated and capacity is limited; and (c) advanced demographic techniques are not applied for analysis.

24. In order to improve basic population data collection and analysis, a Population Centre was officially established in July 1985. The Government gives high priority to the project and expects that the Centre will analyze demographic and socio-economic information in more detailed fashion and work in close collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministries of Health, Labour, Education, Agriculture, State Planning, etc., in order to facilitate the integration of population factors in the country's development planning.

25. The project proposed for UNFPA funding is designed to: (a) strengthen the technical capabilities of the Population Centre for improving the collection, processing and analysis of population data; (b) develop a more efficient network to facilitate effective co-ordination among the Central Bureau of Statistics and the various ministries involved in population activities; (c) improve demographic training and population research activities; and (d) disseminate population information to enable a wider and deeper understanding and knowledge in the country of the interrelationships between population and development.

26. Under the project, UNFPA would provide a modern computer for the Population Centre and personal computers for the Central Bureau of Statistics and other ministries dealing with population data. A long-term international expert in demography and data analysis would be assigned to the Centre.

27. The proposed UNFPA contribution is \$790,000. The project would be executed by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Government.

Evaluation and monitoring

28. The entire programme would 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 representative to headquarters in order to identify problems at an early stage.

Financial summary

29. The proposed total UNFPA contribution over the period 1986-1989, by programme area, subject to the availability of funds, is as follows:

Maternal and child health and family planning

Support for MCH/FP activities	\$ 430 000
Establishment of industrial facilities for production of IUDs	<u>800 000</u>
Subtotal	<u>1 230 000</u>

Population information, education and communication

Educational and motivational support for MCH/FP	<u>180 000</u>
Subtotal	<u>180 000</u>

Population Dynamics

Establishment of a Population Centre	<u>790 000</u>
Subtotal	<u>790 000</u>
TOTAL	<u>2 200 000</u>

V. RECOMMENDATION

30. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the programme for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the four-year period 1986-1989 in the amount of \$2,200,000;

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