SUMMARY

This document provides the Governing Council with a comprehensive overview of UNFPA assistance at the interregional level in recent years and the proposed interregional programme for the period 1988-1991, as requested by the Council at its thirty-fourth session in decision 87/30 I, paragraph 18. The report recounts the impact of past interregional activities, outlines the objectives of the 1988-1991 programme and details the activities that will be undertaken in the principal work-plan categories during 1988-1991 interregional programme.
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I. AN OVERVIEW OF THE UNFPA-FUNDED INTERREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Over the years, the nature of UNFPA-supported interregional activities has changed, reflecting the increased scope and pace of regional activities as well as population initiatives by countries themselves. Whereas in the early years of UNFPA support, awareness creation and training absorbed the bulk of interregional resources, at present, technical backstopping and research account for the preponderant share of such resources. UNFPA has found that its support of interregional activities not only supplements and complements regional and country activities, but also offers a cost-effective means of responding to needs that regions and countries have in common.

2. Advisers at the interregional level, located at the headquarters of various United Nations organizations, provide technical backstopping to the advisory teams in all geographic regions and, on occasion, become directly involved in country activities when the capacity at the regional level is not sufficient to meet the demands for essential services. In recent years, the need for regional and interregional advisory services has grown considerably primarily as a result of the trend towards direct execution of projects by Governments and away from the use of resident project managers. The role of interregional advisers is not limited simply to backstopping. They often carry out, albeit informally, training and information dissemination functions. They also communicate the latest substantive thinking to their counterparts in the regions and countries and identify how this new thinking can be incorporated into projects. Since they visit all of the regions, the interregional teams facilitate a broad sharing of operational experience.

3. As more countries have adopted population policies and programmes, there has been an increased demand for a knowledge base on which to formulate such interventions. Hence, it has been advisable to fund various types of research at the interregional level, particularly on those issues dealing with universal concerns, e.g., methodological issues pertaining to population and development and contraceptive research. As countries become more involved in population activities, the need for trained personnel in a wide variety of fields—health personnel, demographers, specialists in population education and communication—has grown considerably. To the extent possible, the Fund seeks to finance training at the local level. In certain cases, however, for reasons of cost-effectiveness and efficiency, it is necessary to centralize training programmes at the regional and interregional level. For example, the type of training needed for addressing the integration of population and development was largely unavailable and thus UNFPA established a global training programme in this area.

4. During the four-year period 1984-1987, UNFPA allocated $66.8 million for interregional activities. Table 1, which shows the distribution of financial resources for interregional activities by functional category for the past four years, indicates that technical backstopping claimed the largest share of interregional monies—44 per cent—while research accounted for the second highest share, 36 per cent. At the interregional level, the Fund supports activities in all work-plan categories. As can be seen from table 2, expenditures...
for family planning amounted to 35 per cent of interregional activities and information, education communication (IEC) claimed approximately 22 per cent and population research and policy development, 21 per cent. The small proportion of money spent for basic data collection at the interregional level - approximately $4 million, or 5.8 per cent - indicates that expenditures in this work-plan category are usually made under country programmes. Also, the period 1984-1987 did not correspond to a peak time for census activity and thus the demand for technical backstopping by interregional teams was not as high as in census years. Table 3 presents the distribution of interregional funds by executing agency. During the period 1984-1987, allocations to United Nations agencies and organizations accounted for approximately 76 per cent of total interregional expenditures; disbursements to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) claimed the other 24 per cent. WHO received the largest share of interregional resources, almost 26 per cent, as would be expected given the priority UNFPA accords to family planning.

Table 1. Interregional activities by functional category, 1984-1987

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional category</th>
<th>Amount ($US millions)</th>
<th>Per cent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical backstopping</td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>44.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information exchange and dissemination</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNFPA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work-plan category</th>
<th>Amount ($US millions)</th>
<th>Per cent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family planning</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information, education and communication</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>21.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic data collection</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population research and policy development</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special programmes and multisector activities</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source:* UNFPA.
Table 3. Interregional activities by executing agency, 1984-1987

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executing Agency</th>
<th>Amount ($US millions)</th>
<th>Per cent %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Office of Financial Services (UNOFS) a/</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNDTCD)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Health Organization (WHO)</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>23.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>75.6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NGOs</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>24.4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNFPA.

a/ Disbursements to the Population Division and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs are made to UNOFS.

5. Significant UNFPA-supported interregional activities during recent years include undertakings in the following areas.

6. **Family planning and maternal and child health (FP/MCH).** UNFPA has supported, inter alia, the following principal initiatives: (a) contraceptive research and development; (b) the World Health Organization (WHO) interregional backstopping team; (c) research on maternal health and unmet needs in family planning and research on adolescent reproductive health; and (d) operational research related to FP/MCH programmes.
7. Convinced that new and improved methods of contraception are key determinants of the success of family planning programmes, UNFPA has supported contraceptive research and the introduction of new contraceptive methods under the auspices of the WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP) and through such NGOs as the International Committee for Contraception Research (ICCR), the International Organization of Chemists in Development (IOCD), the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT) and The Population Council. Between 1984 and 1987, UNFPA allocated approximately $14 million to these activities.

8. The objective of this research is to develop new contraceptive methods as well as to improve methods already available. While these are global programmes, particular efforts have been made to utilize scientists from developing countries and, to the extent possible, utilize laboratories in developing countries. Some of the activities funded by UNFPA include, inter alia, research on: sub-dermal implants (e.g., NORPLANT); levonorgestral-releasing intra-uterine devices (IUDs); vaginal rings; contraceptive methods for males; and natural family planning methods. UNFPA interregional funding is also used to underwrite studies in developing countries on the safety and efficacy of contraceptive methods and on the feasibility of producing contraceptives locally. The Fund also supports training and action programmes dealing with the introduction of new contraceptive methods in developing countries. It should be noted that there has been a high degree of co-operation among the organizations receiving UNFPA funding for contraceptive research.

9. From an operational perspective, one of the essential activities that UNFPA supports is the WHO interregional backstopping team based in Geneva. Its function is to provide ongoing technical and managerial back-up support to the regional FP/MCH teams and, as needed, to programmes at the country level.

10. In 1987, UNFPA evaluated the work of the interregional team and made several recommendations as to how to improve its effectiveness. The evaluation concluded that the work programme of the team should be delineated more precisely. The evaluation also recommended that the team in Geneva be responsible, in collaboration with WHO regional offices, for the development of a unified overall intercountry programme reflecting the priorities of the countries and in keeping with UNFPA guidelines. The evaluation noted that there should be closer and more systematic collaboration with UNFPA in order to resolve questions regarding mandates, priorities and activities that arise during the implementation cycle. In response to these recommendations, it was agreed to have an annual programme review meeting attended by representatives from all WHO regional offices as well as from the interregional team and UNFPA. The first of these meetings took place in February 1988 at which time a detailed schedule of country programming and monitoring missions was drawn up for the coming year. At the review meeting, representatives from the WHO regional offices indicated that there was indeed a need for operationally-related research in the areas of maternal mortality, adolescent reproductive health and programme management. Such research is now being carried out by the interregional team with UNFPA support.
11. During the 1984-1987 period, two of the most successful UNFPA-supported interregional activities executed by WHO were a project which addressed the issue of maternal mortality from the perspective of the unmet need for family planning and a project dealing with reproductive health in adolescence. Although basically research projects, these undertakings also included awareness creation and training components. Under the maternal mortality project, the following activities have taken place: (a) 25 countries have conducted in-depth studies on the extent, pattern and means of preventing maternal mortality; (b) 8 countries have held national workshops aimed at bringing the findings of these studies to the attention of decision-makers; (c) a variety of documentation has been produced including a monograph on maternal mortality, a methodology for conducting the studies and a press kit for public information. A global data base and bibliography on maternal mortality and maternal care has also been established. The activities conducted under this project were an important input to the International Conference on Safe Motherhood and the Conference on Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning, both held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1987.

12. Although adolescent reproductive health is an issue of growing concern in many countries, it remains a sensitive topic. Through the interregional project, WHO has been able to raise awareness in developing countries of the magnitude and implications of adolescent fertility and to provide training to individuals dealing with young people on matters related to adolescent reproductive health. This project has co-operated with NGOs, particularly those groups involved with International Youth Year activities, and with other United Nations organizations dealing with youth. To complement the work done by WHO, UNFPA also funded a project executed by the United Nations Population Division for the analysis of data on adolescent fertility patterns. The resolution of the 1985 World Health Assembly on maturity before childbearing as one aspect of responsible parenthood and the decision of the WHO Executive Board in 1987 to consider adolescence as a separate programme attest to the positive impact of the awareness-creation activities undertaken in the context of the UNFPA/WHO interregional project.

13. Information, education and communication. Activities in this sector have included awareness creation pertaining to selected aspects of population and development (e.g., urbanization patterns; population and development planning); technical backstopping provided by UNESCO, ILO and FAO; and the production of training materials and manuals as part of the ILO and UNESCO projects. Under the interregional programme, UNFPA worked with agencies and NGOs to assure the dissemination of a wide variety of informational material ranging from technical journals to publications directed to the informed layman. An encouraging development has been the willingness of several United Nations agencies to include population information components in their regular activities. The enthusiasm with which the United Nations system responded to the Fund's "World of Five Billion" initiative gave further indication of the broad interest in population matters. Several organizations issued special information materials dealing with the "five billion" in the context of their own mandates.

14. Over the past four years, interregional activities in the area of population communication focused on identifying target audiences in order that appropriate messages could be devised. Attention was paid to identifying ways of bringing messages about population to those who cannot read. The increase in the number of
country-level population education projects has underscored the critical shortage of motivational and educational materials for field workers. Consequently, ILO, FAO and UNESCO interregional teams have conducted several workshops for regional and country staff addressing conceptual issues and the production of materials. One of the principal accomplishments of the ILO interregional population education project was to enlist the support of personnel management associations in various countries in support of population activities.

15. Basic data collection. In this work-plan category, UNFPA support at the interregional level has been primarily for technical advisory services and training. The increase in the number of countries undertaking work in data collection and analysis, as well as the rapidly evolving technology for processing large data sets have put heavy demands on the United Nations Statistical Office. Under the project - technical advisory services in demographic statistics - staff of the Statistical Office undertook approximately 85 country missions during the past four years. Under the UNFPA-funded project - computer software and support for population activities - the Statistical Office has been particularly responsive to country-level needs. It has furnished computer software for a variety of population activities in all work-plan categories and has worked with Governments in identifying appropriate software packages and providing the requisite training. The need for backstopping and training will be intensified during the new interregional cycle as countries prepare for the next round of censuses.

16. Population research and policy development. During the last four years, UNFPA supported a number of activities designed to strengthen the capacity of government agencies to integrate population concepts into their national development planning. In contrast to earlier efforts, which were largely concerned with creating awareness of population and development linkages, activities during the past four years emphasized action programmes and skills development. In addition to carrying out technical backstopping of regional and country activities, UNDCTD, ILO and FAO have also placed considerable emphasis on training. In-country training has focused on enhancing the knowledge, skills and analytical capacity of participants. In order to meet the need for trained personnel, UNFPA initiated the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development, which was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session (87/29 I, para. 2). Methodological work intended to help planners integrate population into development planning has increased in view of the high level of demand for such work by countries. A number of countries - Brazil, Jamaica and Malaysia - requested assistance in adapting the BACHUE demographic/economic planning model (developed by ILO) to meet their national requirements. The CAPPA model, a system of integrating demographic variables into agricultural planning that had been developed by FAO under an earlier interregional project, is now being used in a number of country projects (e.g., the Dominican Republic, Nepal and Tunisia). Important studies have been made under UNFPA-assisted interregional projects in the design and distribution of micro-computer-based software packages for data analysis. The United Nations Population Division has developed MORTPAK, a programme for the analysis of mortality data, and ILO has developed TMI, a micro-computer-based module dealing with population trends, demand for social services and labour force trends. Software packages such as these have been distributed to a large number of countries thereby greatly facilitating country-level socio-economic planning.
exercises. This software can also be used for training purposes and is featured in the curriculum of the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development.

17. Research has been undertaken by the United Nations Population Division, ILO, and the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED) which attempts to sort out the interaction between population and development factors, notably the demographic impact of socio-economic development programmes. Such research, carried out through country case studies (Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines and Thailand), seeks to identify linkages in order that appropriate policies may be formulated to assure a desirable demographic result of such interactions and to offset possible negative consequences.

18. Special programmes and multisector activities. This category encompasses activities in the field of aging, youth and women, population and development. The Fund has supported research on aging conducted by the United Nations Population Division. The Fund has also supported awareness-creation activities addressing the status of the elderly. The Fund has addressed the needs of youth in the context of research and training in the area of adolescent reproduction. This has been carried out by the WHO interregional team and by FAO through assistance for special programmes in population designed for rural youth.

19. Women, population and development. Realizing the critical relationship between the role and status of women and the achievement of population objectives, UNFPA has intensified its support in this area. Women's concerns have been addressed in projects in all work-plan categories as well as under the rubric of special programmes. UNFPA (and several multi-bilateral donors) supported the efforts of the United Nations Statistical Office to establish a micro-computer data base on indicators of women's employment and health status. This micro-computer data base can be easily adapted by countries for use in policy formulation. The various population and development research activities funded at ILO and FAO have also focused on women's concerns. Such concerns also form an integral part of the FP/MCH research supported by UNFPA at the interregional level.

20. As part of its efforts to enhance the participation of women in various aspects of population and development activities, the Fund sponsored the participation of a number of women from developing countries in the 1984 International Conference on Population and the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. In 1986, the Fund held the first meeting in New York of its Advisory Panel on Women, Population and Development. The panel is composed of 12 women from different geographical regions selected on the basis of their knowledge and expertise. The Fund has organized and supported several regional and interregional seminars for women leaders to provide an opportunity to discuss the integration of women's concerns into national population programmes and policies and other development-related activities; to identify regional strategies and priorities for action to improve the status of women; and to identify ways to enhance at the national level the participation of women and women's organizations in all aspects of related policies and programmes.
II. PROPOSED UNFPA STRATEGY FOR 1988-1991

21. The interregional programme assisted by UNFPA both supplements and complements activities undertaken at the regional and country levels. Indeed, funds expended at the interregional level often have a multiplier effect and increase the efficiency of the investment made at the country level by the country itself as well as by external donors.

22. Specific objectives of the interregional programme during the 1988-1991 period include the following:

(a) Broadening the range and availability of contraceptives by continued support for contraceptive research and development and for introduction of contraceptives at the country level. The Fund considers this a high priority in view of the sizeable unmet need for family planning that continues to exist in developing countries;

(b) Strengthening the capacity of countries to integrate population into development planning by supporting methodological research on this topic; training (in particular, the Global Programme of Training in Population and Development); and the interregional backstopping of regional initiatives and country action programmes, e.g., the establishment and strengthening of population planning units;

(c) Increasing the utilization of census and survey data by supporting research on, and training in, new techniques of data analysis, particularly those applications involving the use of micro-computers;

(d) Devising appropriate strategies for incorporating women's concerns into population and development planning through funding socio-cultural research and training programmes;

(e) Increasing the diffusion of information on population, through all channels, particularly the interrelationship between population and development. Special emphasis will be placed on the wide circulation of research results to specific target audiences - policy makers, programme managers and the general public;

(f) Promoting co-ordination and collaboration among the executing agencies involved in the interregional programme so that there is complementarity between the interregional, regional and country programmes.
III. PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR 1988-1991

23. The Executive Director proposes to allocate $90.1 million for interregional programmes during the period 1988-1991. As can be seen from table 4, $32.5 million, or about 37 per cent of the 1988-1991 total programmed resources (excluding programme reserve), will be channelled to technical backstopping; $29.5 million, or approximately 34 per cent, will go to research. Approximately $13 million, about 15 per cent, will be channelled to training, and about $12 million, about 14 per cent, to information dissemination. Table 5, which shows the 1988-1991 programme in terms of work-plan categories, indicates that the preponderant share of programmed resources, $35.3 million (40 per cent), will go to family planning, while population research and policy development will receive the next largest share, approximately $21 million (24 per cent). The considerable resources going to family planning reflect the UNFPA commitment to contraceptive research as well as to the interregional backstopping of regional and country FP/MCH activities. It should be noted that approximately 3 per cent of interregional funds have not as yet been programmed and thus have been designated as a "programme reserve". The existence of such a reserve will enable UNFPA to respond at the interregional level to new needs that are likely to arise over the course of the next four years. The proposed interregional programme by sector is outlined below.

Table 4. Interregional activities by functional category, 1988-1991

($US millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical backstopping</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information exchange and dissemination</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme reserve</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>90.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNFPA.
Table 5. UNFPA interregional/NGO programme by work-plan category, 1988-1991

($US millions)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FP/MCH</td>
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<td>9.1</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>35.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
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<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic data collection</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population research and policy development</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special programmes and multisector</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNFPA.

24. FP/MCH programmes. In this work-plan category, UNFPA proposes to continue its support of contraceptive research and development and the introduction of new contraceptives at the country level. It will fund research on "second generation" contraceptive implants which will focus on the use of new steroids that could be incorporated into a single implant, thereby affording effective protection for up to four years. Considerable progress has been made on refining the vaginal ring, a steroid-bearing doughnut-shaped object which inhibits ovulation through the slow diffusion of steroids. This method is especially attractive for use in developing countries because the ring can be placed and removed by the woman herself so that only minimal attention by medical personnel is required. Future work will address improving the design of the ring and testing new combinations of steroids. UNFPA will support further research on levonorgestrel-releasing IUDs as well as work on the possible use of the hormone LHRH as the basis of a male contraceptive method. In view of the spread of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), UNFPA will support efforts to improve the effectiveness of barrier methods of contraception, e.g., condoms. In the area of contraceptive research, UNFPA will work closely with the WHO/HRP and the International Committee for Contraception Research. UNFPA will support the work of PIACT and The Population Council to introduce new contraceptives into country programmes and to advise and backstop country efforts to undertake the local manufacture of contraceptives. Whereas the initial phases of this undertaking will be funded through interregional resources, subsequent projects will be supported as part of country programmes.
25. With respect to technical backstopping, training, operational research and awareness creation, the Fund will continue to work with WHO and selected NGOs, e.g., the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP); International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); the International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH). In order to strengthen aspects of programme management, UNFPA will support projects with the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and the International Committee on the Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP). UNFPA will work closely with WHO and other relevant organizations in the formulation and distribution of guidelines pertaining to AIDS and family planning and maternal and child health care.

26. For the coming programme cycle, it has been agreed by UNFPA and WHO that WHO will seek: (a) to provide continuous technical back-up support to national FP/MCH programmes and particularly to UNFPA-supported projects within those programmes, whether executed by WHO or not; and (b) to foster and support the five main themes which are of essential importance to country-level FP/MCH programmes: strengthening programme management capacity; building up monitoring and evaluation systems and the capacity to carry out operational research; improving staff training in the technology, operations and management of FP/MCH; expanding collaboration among groups involved in the promotion of safe motherhood and adolescent reproductive health; and increasing the emphasis on women's involvement in health development, within the family, community and the nation. To accomplish these objectives, UNFPA will continue to support the interregional team. The new project for the interregional team incorporates the recommendations of the UNFPA evaluation with reference to the apportionment of staff time and the need for the Geneva-based team to assume a stronger co-ordinating role vis-à-vis regional activities.

27. In view of the importance of the issues of maternal health and adolescent reproductive health and the notable accomplishments of the initial projects UNFPA will continue its support for these activities. WHO has agreed that during the second phase of these projects, it will exercise greater quality control over the design, implementation and analysis of country studies and will encourage wider dissemination of research results. In the implementation of the maternal health project, WHO and UNFPA will co-operate closely with other organizations working in this field - the World Bank, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNCTDP). The new phase of the project on adolescent reproductive health will, in accord with the findings of the evaluation, give greater emphasis to the production and distribution of substantive materials on this subject, particularly materials and information that can be used by country-level personnel in counselling and providing appropriate services to adolescents. During the 1988-1991 period, efforts will be made to ensure that activities in the area of adolescent reproductive health can be transferred to the country level.

28. UNFPA will continue to support operationally-relevant research under the 1988-1991 interregional programme. The recent evaluation of the programme-related research executed by WHO and discussions between UNFPA and WHO identified a number of topics that are of critical importance to operational activities at the country level - cost-effectiveness of service delivery systems; logistics; development of a...
contraceptive surveillance system; quality of family planning services, including the availability of counselling and follow-up services; socio-cultural and behavioural determinants of contraceptive use; and training and motivation of family planning providers. In funding WHO to undertake research on these issues, UNFPA has emphasized the need to devise simple methodologies that could be readily adapted to, and adopted by, managers of country programmes. UNFPA will also support programme-related research carried out by the United Nations Population Division. The Division will undertake a project dealing with key issues in child survival. It will also initiate a study on the demographic impact of AIDS.

29. Information, education and communication. During the 1988-1991 period, UNFPA proposes to provide assistance to a broad-based information and communication initiative involving various United Nations organizations and NGOs as well as a comprehensive population education programme through both in-school and informal channels. In view of its mandate "to promote awareness both in developed and developing countries" of all aspects of population problems, as well as the constant need to provide information to various target audiences, UNFPA has formulated an information strategy on which to base its upcoming interregional programme. The strategy is aimed at (a) promoting a continuing dialogue and exchange of information on population and related development issues, (b) promoting greater awareness and understanding of UNFPA's activities, (c) providing information support to national population and development programmes and (d) assisting in resource development. In implementing the information strategy, the Fund proposes to pay special attention to new and emerging issues in the field of population - for example, the special needs by the countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the following areas: exchange of information; development of suitable IEC components for national programmes; opportunities for in-depth discussion and clarification of issues.

30. UNFPA plans to utilize a variety of modalities to implement its information strategy. These include continuing co-operation with the United Nations Information Centres (UNICS), parliamentary organizations, NGOs and media groups in the sponsorship of conferences, workshops and meetings as well as in the production of publications in appropriate languages. In particular, UNFPA intends to continue its support to such inter-agency activities as the publication of Development Forum, the training of journalists and media representatives and the strengthening of collaboration with the United Nations Population Division in order to expand POPIN, a global information network whose purpose is to promote the exchange of information about national, regional and international population activities. The Fund will support the UNESCO initiative to hold an international conference on population education and communication in 1991. The Fund will also extend assistance to NGOs such as the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and ICOMP for conferences and meetings designed to promote broad dissemination of population research and to the Non-Governmental Liaison Service which, inter alia, co-ordinates information exchange of NGOs in the field of population and development in industrialized countries.

31. Support for publications constitutes another means of implementing the information strategy. UNFPA will continue to fund inter-agency publications such as Development Forum and Africa Recovery and will provide assistance to specialized
publications such as *Studies in Family Planning* and *Population and Development Review*, both issued by The Population Council, and *International Family Planning Perspectives*, issued by the Alan Guttmacher Institute; to monographs such as *Population and Rural Development* issued by FAO; to reference volumes such as the Annual Review of Population Law produced by Harvard University and to ad hoc topical publications such as "Access to Birth Control: A World Assessment", issued by the Population Crisis Committee. The Fund will continue to publish materials in various languages aimed at promoting a global dialogue and exchange of information. These include: *Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World* (annual); *Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance* (triennial); *The State of World Population Report* (annual); *Populi* (quarterly); *Population Newsletter* (monthly); special publications on broad policy and programme issues; brochures and posters, television and radio spots for special occasions; and *Population Watch News Service*. In order to focus attention on population issues, UNFPA will continue to support special thematic activities (e.g., *A World of Five Billion*). The Fund proposes that the annual *State of World Population Report* continue to serve as the vehicle for highlighting a particular aspect of population and as the catalyst for generating related activities at the national, regional and interregional levels carried out as appropriate in co-operation with Governments, United Nations agencies and organizations and NGOs. In 1988 the theme will be population and the environment; in 1989, women, population and development; in 1990, sub-Saharan Africa; and in 1991, population in the 1990s. Special information activities highlighting the roles and opportunities for women will be supported.

32. During the 1988-1991 cycle, the Fund will continue to support a variety of IEC initiatives with United Nations agencies. As noted in section I of this document, these interregional activities have been effective in backstopping regional and country projects. It is believed that the increasing number of regional and country projects in the IEC work-plan category warrants the continuation of interregional technical backstopping projects. Moreover, the UNFPA-funded IEC activities executed by such agencies as ILO, FAO and UNESCO offer the unique advantage of channelling messages of population to a variety of constituencies - workers and employers, rural agricultural populations and educators. UNFPA will continue to support ILO's programme of providing family planning information and motivation in the work setting. This project involves, *inter alia*, the production of materials to be used in country projects as well as training courses for directors of country projects and the production of manuals and resource guides that can be utilized at both the regional and country level. Recognizing the need to bring IEC activities to rural populations, UNFPA will assist FAO in the following activities: technical advisory services in IEC in the rural agricultural sector; the integration of population education into agricultural extension services; and the introduction of population education into programmes for rural youth. During the past four years, the number of regional and country-level population education projects has increased considerably, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In view of this, UNFPA will continue to support the interregional backstopping team at UNESCO. Because of the increasing demands being placed upon the interregional team, UNESCO has requested an additional adviser post. In responding to this request, UNFPA is examining all possible alternatives. Aware of the critical shortage of materials dealing with population
education, UNFPA will support the UNESCO effort to compile a reference book which will include case studies of population education from all regions. Such a volume will not only be a useful teaching resource but will also promote the exchange of information among the regions. UNFPA will fund efforts by UNESCO to undertake suitable socio-cultural research in order that these findings may serve as the basis on which to design appropriate population education initiatives and social communications interventions.

33. **Basic data collection.** During the 1988-1991 period, UNFPA interregional assistance for basic data collection will be channelled mainly through the United Nations Statistical Office, and through selected NGOs that specialize in a particular aspect of data collection and analysis. The next four years include a period when most countries will be preparing and undertaking population and housing censuses as well as complementary population surveys. During the 1978-1981 period, 97 developing countries conducted their censuses; it is likely that this number will be greater during the 1988-1991 period. The increase in the number of countries taking censuses and the advances in census technology underscore the need for training and methodological research at the country level. Thus, UNFPA proposes to assist the United Nations Statistical Office in providing an extensive array of technical advisory services in demographic statistics and data processing, and to support the development and distribution of software packages. This assistance is closely linked to the upcoming census preparations and has as a major objective the strengthening of country-level capacity to undertake data collection activities through the effective use of micro-computer technologies. All of these activities include substantial training components. During the 1988-1991 cycle, UNFPA will continue its assistance for a technical adviser in the National Household Survey Capability Project (NHSCP), an endeavour which is also funded by UNDP and UNICEF. In light of the priority UNFPA has assigned to activities concerning women, the Fund will continue its support to the United Nations Statistical Office in the establishment of a micro-computer data base on women, population and development and will attempt to secure additional multi-bilateral assistance for this activity.

34. As part of the 1988-1991 programme, UNFPA will assist the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in maintaining and distributing data from the World Fertility Survey as well as other survey data in its archives and to undertake in-country training on the use of these data bases. Because of the positive response from countries, UNFPA will continue to support the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIIRS) in the production of technical documents and training materials pertaining to vital registration.

35. In view of the increasingly complex task of monitoring the implementation of population policies, programmes and projects, it has become clear that UNFPA must have a management information system (MIS). Furthermore, it is clear that such a system should be accessible to Governments and as such also contain the main relevant substantive population data which are the basis of all programming activity of a Government. Related to the first part of this task, the Executive Director, as part of the recent reorganization, moved staff in order to create the rudiments of an MIS unit in UNFPA. Related to the second part of this task, the Executive Director proposes to initiate an interregional project for a period of...
two years. For the purpose of proper planning and execution and for reasons of cost-effectiveness, both parts of this task need to be conducted jointly. At the same time, budgetary clarity requires that resources from the administrative budget be used for the first part of the task and resources from the programme budget for the second part. Thus, the Executive Director proposes to use (a) during the biennium 1988/1989 $1.6 million from the approved administrative budget and $2 million from programme resources; (b) during 1990, $0.5 million from programme resources and an amount still unspecified from the administrative budget for the biennium 1990/1991, to be presented to the Governing Council in June 1989. Since the project is of an experimental nature, its development and funding needs beyond the middle of 1990 cannot yet be determined.

36. **Population research and policy development.** In addressing the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session, the Executive Director indicated that UNFPA would undertake a review and assessment of three critical aspects of population activities: FP/MCH; IEC; and population data, policy and research. This exercise will consist of a sector review and country case studies and will be carried out by UNFPA utilizing outside experts as necessary. This study may be considered state-of-the-art research (a type of research that is appropriately funded at the intercountry level), and thus it is proposed that approximately $400,000 of the 1988-1991 interregional programme be allocated for this endeavour. Despite the considerable amount of work that has been done to promote the integration of population into national development policies and planning, the situation is still far from satisfactory. The understanding of the interrelationship between population and development is at best tentative, and frameworks for incorporating population factors into overall development planning exercises are far from adequate. In view of this, UNFPA proposes to continue to address these issues in the context of its 1988-1991 interregional programme. Principal emphasis will be placed on the design and testing of methodologies for integrating population and development and on training in these techniques. The Fund will support research designed to clarify population and development interactions as well as research on demographic/development trends such as urbanization, migration and changes in population age structure. This research will be carried out by United Nations agencies and also by NGOs such as IUSSP and CICRED. There is widespread interest among countries in all regions in pursuing a better integration of population variables into national development planning, either through the establishment of population planning units or through other means. In order to respond to this operational interest, UNFPA will support the technical backstopping activities of the United Nations, ILO and FAO. Aware of the critical need for better frameworks for integrated planning, the Fund will extend assistance for research on methodological issues to the United Nations Population Division, ILO and FAO.

37. The lack of trained personnel has also limited efforts to make population variables integral components in the development planning process. Recognizing this need, UNFPA established a global programme of training in population and development. This programme, which was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session (decision 87/30 III, para. 2), seeks to enhance the capacity of mid-career professionals to understand and to operationalize the linkages between population and development. Recently, it has been proposed to incorporate the course at Moscow State University as part of the Global Programme. It would be
jointly financed under a trust fund arrangement with the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics and from the UNFPA interregional programme. The Fund will also support,
at the interregional level, the programme on population and development at Al-Azhar
University as well as several short-term training initiatives and training
workshops carried out by agencies and NGOs such as IUSSP and ISI.

38. **Special programmes and multisector activities.** Activities pertaining to
women, youth and the aging are usually classified under this work-plan category.
With respect to the area of women, population and development, UNFPA activities
will be pursued in the context of the strategy paper (document DP/1987/38) on
strengthening the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women that
was endorsed by the Council at its thirty-fourth session (decision 87/30 I,
para. 16). During the 1988-1991 period, in addition to the activities included in
the four-year work plan (1987-1990) outlined in document DP/1987/38, most of the
interregional programme support in the women, population and development sector
will focus on two main areas: (a) identification of elements in different
socio-cultural contexts that hinder or facilitate the full incorporation of women's
concerns and interests into all aspects of population policies and programmes; and
(b) identification of appropriate methodologies and provision of technical skills
and training required to operationalize strategies and policy guidelines that have
been developed to ensure that all population developmental efforts have a positive
impact on the situation of women and the well-being of their families, and provide
for the full participation of women.

39. UNFPA will support a United Nations interregional seminar on terminology and
statistical indicators on the situation of families, as well as a UNESCO research
project on anthropological and social aspects of the awareness among women of their
status and rights with reference to their decision-making possibilities within the
community and the family, including decisions related to the number and spacing of
their children. Support will also be provided to a UNESCO project to organize a
high-level interregional seminar on changing family structure and the role of women
vis-à-vis modernization, technological progress and social change. UNFPA will fund
UNESCO efforts to develop IEC strategies and materials to ensure the involvement
and participation of illiterate and rural women and community-based women's
organizations in population and development programmes.

40. UNFPA will support a WHO programme consisting of interregional workshops on
leadership training for women at all levels in order to enhance their active and
effective participation in all aspects of FP/MCH programmes. UNFPA will also
provide assistance to WHO for conducting training and awareness-creation workshops,
the main purpose of which will be twofold: to increase the awareness of the
participants of the practice of family planning as a contributing factor in
improving the health of women and their social status and lowering the maternal and
infant mortality rates; and to enhance the effective participation of the
organizations involved in various aspects of provision of family planning
information and services. UNFPA will support ILO efforts to identify and carry out
research on gender issues in population and development with respect to that
agency's area of expertise. UNFPA will assist in the strengthening of the
technical capabilities of selected regional and interregional research and training
institutions to enable them to take into account gender issues in the context of
population and development. It will also support interregional consultations among Muslim experts in the population field for the purpose of discussing gender issues and formulating and refining population education programmes which respond to the needs of Muslim women in the Asia, Africa and the Middle East regions.

41. It should be noted that the proposed Interregional Programme for 1988-1991 takes into account women's concerns both explicitly and implicitly. For example, women, population and development is the focus of an ILO research proposal. Moreover, FAO will continue its study of women and agricultural development while at the same time incorporating women's concerns into other ongoing projects. The United Nations Population Division will undertake a study of women's status and demographic processes in which particular attention will be paid to migrant women and the impact of migration policies on their interests. In addition to assuring that all data collection exercises include statistics on women, DTCD has also formulated a specific data collection project to establish a micro-computer database on women. WHO's regular programme of MCH/FP is, by its very nature, directed towards women's concerns. Both CEDPA and ICOMP place strong emphasis on the training of women. CEDPA, the work of which is directed almost exclusively to women, seeks to strengthen women's ability to manage a variety of population and development activities at the community level, and ICOMP places special emphasis on preparing women for management roles. Indeed, ICOMP's women-in-development training course was singled out by a recent evaluation as one of the organization's most successful activities.

42. In the past 10 years, Governments of developing countries have become increasingly concerned with the question of aging. The numbers surviving to old age in developing countries have prompted Governments to study this phenomenon and to seek advice regarding appropriate policies for dealing with this population group. Thus, during the 1988-1991 interregional cycle, UNFPA will extend support to ILO, the United Nations Population Division, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) and the International Institute of Aging in Malta for research pertaining to aging.

Monitoring and co-ordination

43. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the proposed interregional programme, provision has been made for annual programme reviews to be conducted with the principal executing agencies. As appropriate, periodic reviews will be undertaken to address specific topics, at which time the various United Nations organizations and NGOs executing projects in that sector at the interregional, regional and country level will be brought together. It is felt that such topical reviews will promote better co-ordination between UNFPA and the executing agencies and assure greater coherence and complementarity between activities funded under the intercountry programme - interregional and regional - as well as country programmes. As appropriate, other multilateral and bilateral donors will be invited to participate in topical reviews and in various ad hoc review meetings, particularly those dealing with dissemination and utilization of research results.