Thirty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 1988, Geneva
Item 6 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Recommendation by the Executive Director
Assistance to the Government of Viet Nam
Support for a national population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance: $25 million, of which $22 million would be committed from UNFPA's regular resources. If UNFPA's funding situation permits, the balance of up to $3 million may be provided by UNFPA. If and to the extent this is not the case, UNFPA would seek to cover the shortfall from other sources, including multilateral sources.

Estimated value of Government's contribution: 6,840 million dong ($US 15.5 million)
Duration: Four years
Estimated starting date: January 1988
Executing agencies:
- Government of Viet Nam
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Development Training and Communication Planning (DTCP-UNDP/OPS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Australian National University (ANU)
- International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP)
- Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Government co-ordinating agencies:
- State Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries
- State Planning Committee
- National Committee for Population and Family Planning (NCPFP)
## Demographic facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population by sex</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total (in 1000)</td>
<td>59,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male (in 1000)</td>
<td>29,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female (in 1000)</td>
<td>30,680</td>
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<td>Sex ratio (/100 females)</td>
<td>94.6</td>
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| Population in year 2000 | 79,870 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population by age group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Age 0-14 (in 1000)</td>
<td>23,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 15-64 (in 1000)</td>
<td>33,832</td>
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<td>Age 65+ (in 1000)</td>
<td>2,393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age 0-14 (percentage)</td>
<td>39.3</td>
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<td>Age 15-64 (percentage)</td>
<td>56.7</td>
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<td>Age 65+ (percentage)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<th>Age indicators</th>
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<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>19.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependency: age 0-14</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency: age 65+</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependency: total</td>
<td>76.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth: 15-24 (in 1000)</td>
<td>13,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women: 15-49 (in 1000)</td>
<td>14,897</td>
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<th>Urban-rural population</th>
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<td>Urban population (in 1000)</td>
<td>12,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural population (in 1000)</td>
<td>47,595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per cent urban.</td>
<td>20.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per cent rural.</td>
<td>79.7</td>
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| Agricultural population density (/ hectare of arable land) | 5.63 |

### Average density

- Population density (/sq. km.): 180

### Average annual change

- Population increase (in 1000): 1,288
- Births (in 1000): 1,866
- Deaths (in 1000): 578
- Net migration (in 1000): 0

### Rate of annual change

- Population change total (%): 2.05
  - Urban (%): 3.6
  - Rural (%): 1.6
  - Crude birth rate (/1000): 29.6
  - Crude death rate (/1000): 9.2
  - Natural increase (/1000): 20.5
  - Net migration (/1000): 0.0

### Fertility and mortality

- Total fertility rate: 3.69
- Completed family size: N/A
- Gross reproduction rate: 1.80
- Net reproduction rate: 1.57
- General fertility rate (/1000): 117
- Child-woman ratio: N/A
- Infant mortality rate (/1000): 67
- Life expectancy: male: 58.7
- Life expectancy: female: 63.1
- Life expectancy: total: 60.8

### GNP per capita

- (U.S. dollars, 1985): N/A

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1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposes to continue its assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in the amount of up to $25 million, of which $22 million would come from its regular resources, for a period of four years, beginning in January 1988, in support of the Government's population activities. If UNFPA's funding situation permits, the balance of up to $3 million may be provided by UNFPA. If and to the extent this is not possible, UNFPA would seek to cover the shortfall from other sources, including multilateral sources.

2. The proposed programme, the third in a series that started in 1978, is based on the goals and strategies adopted in the national population policy and on the findings and recommendations of the third UNFPA needs assessment mission carried out in March and April 1987. The programme would seek to reduce fertility by expanding the local production of condoms, procuring and installing advanced technology to be used for the production of intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and supplying other contraceptives in order to meet the country's needs. Assistance aimed at improving maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) services would be concentrated in eight predominantly rural provinces. These services would be supported by education and motivation activities conducted by mass organizations - Women's Union and Youth Union - and by the Ministry of Education. The programme would also focus on enhancing the country's computer capacity in support of population activities, developing institutional capability to conduct demographic and social research, and providing assistance to conduct, process and analyse the 1989 Census on Population and Housing. In all areas of the proposed programme, priority would be given to improve management, monitoring and evaluation.

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, that 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)); that respect for human life is basic to all human societies (para. 14 (e)); and that 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

4. Although Viet Nam has had family planning policies since 1963, it was not until 1978 that the Council of Ministers adopted a national population policy, the main objectives of which were, and remain, to reduce population growth and to effect a more balanced distribution of the population throughout the country. The aim of the first objective has been to avoid critical pressure on the supply of food, essential goods and services; the aim of the second, to alleviate unemployment and underemployment in the cities and in the most densely populated rural areas and to make optimal use of the country's natural resources. Through the development of new settlement areas, the Government has substantially slowed...
down the process of urbanization, which, after having reached a peak of 21.5 per cent urban in 1975, actually decreased to 19.2 per cent in 1979, stabilizing at that level since then. Voluntary resettlement remains an integral component of the Government's policy. For example, the current development plan for 1987-1991 sets a target of 2 million people for resettlement (of whom 700,000-800,000 would be workers), mostly from the Red River Delta to the Central Highlands.

5. As far as population growth is concerned, the Sixth Party Congress (December 1986) set a new target of 1.7 per cent by 1990, a significant decrease from the 1985 rate of 2.15 per cent. The main policy instruments to be used to achieve this objective are the delivery of family planning services down to the commune level; development of information, education and communication (IEC) activities in support of family planning through mass media, formal and non-formal education systems and mass organizations; and, to some extent, the use of incentives and disincentives.

6. Even though accurate information is largely unavailable, some indicators suggest that a significant increase in family planning prevalence is taking place and that fertility is declining. In fact, the number of IUD insertions, the most popular method of contraception in Viet Nam, has steadily increased in recent years, almost trebling from 314,000 per year in 1981 to 935,000 in 1985. As regards fertility, the total fertility rate (TFR) for the country has dropped gradually from 4.9 in 1979 to 3.8 in 1985. Nevertheless, the fertility decline seems to be slower than needed to reach the 1.7 per cent population growth target set by the Government.

7. In order to strengthen the Government's capacity to implement the country's population policy effectively, the Council of Ministers created in April 1984 the National Committee for Population and Family Planning (NCPFP), which is chaired by one of the Council's vice-presidents. The ministers of Health and of Labour serve as the Committee's vice-chairmen, being in charge of family planning and population redistribution, respectively, and one of the vice-ministers of Health is the Committee's Secretary-General. A network of NCPFP sub-committees has also been established at the provincial level in the People's Committees, the provincial administrative authority.

III. REVIEW OF UNFPA AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO DATE

8. UNFPA assistance to Viet Nam dates back to June 1977 when the Fund fielded a needs assessment mission to the country. Based on its findings and recommendations, the first UNFPA-supported country programme was set up, through which assistance of approximately $15 million was channelled to Viet Nam between 1978 and 1983. A needs assessment update mission, carried out in 1981, provided the guidelines for the second country programme in Viet Nam, totalling $14 million and covering the period 1984-1987. Major features of the UNFPA-assisted programme in the period 1984-1987 are summarized below.
Maternal and child health and family planning

9. Eighty-four per cent of UNFPA assistance to Viet Nam in the period 1984-1987 was given in support of the country's MCH/FP programme to provide medical equipment, essential drugs and contraceptives as well as training of health personnel. Through the main project, 40 per cent of the health centres in 10 selected provinces were duly equipped, and senior staff at central and provincial levels trained in MCH/FP management and planning methodology. Moreover, health personnel working at provincial and district levels were trained in MCH/FP. Under the project, some 100,000 gross of condoms, 3 million cycles of pills and 2.1 million IUDs have been supplied and 70 health centres equipped to perform sterilizations.

10. A complementary project on MCH/FP, addressed to new settlements, was conducted in 63 selected districts where new economic zones - established under the Government's population distribution programme - had been opened. Through this project, five secondary medical schools were provided with teaching materials and their staffs trained; 45 new polyclinics and 43 commune health centres built by the communities were fully equipped; and 5,400 family planning motivators were trained to work at the grass-roots level. Moreover, in order to reduce costs and increase self-reliance in supplying contraceptives, a condom factory capable of producing 70 million pieces a year was constructed in Ho Chi Minh City. The factory is scheduled to be fully operational in early 1988.

Population information, education and communication

11. Information, education and communication activities in support of family planning have been gradually developed, absorbing 11 per cent of UNFPA's assistance during 1984-1987. A curriculum for population education was designed by the Ministry of Education and successfully introduced in five pilot provinces. The Audio-Visual Centre (AVC) in Hanoi, after being equipped and its staff trained with UNFPA support, produced a family planning motivation kit as well as abundant IEC materials and helped to train hundreds of family planning motivators. Finally, the Women's Union, a large and powerful mass organization with more than 10 million members, received assistance to train its cadres and to develop an education programme on family life and family planning.

Basic data collection and analysis

12. In 1979, UNFPA also provided support to Viet Nam in order to conduct the first national population census after reunification in 1975. This was to include a mini-computer to be used for processing census results. Unfortunately, the computer could not be installed until the end of 1984, well after the results had been processed. During the last two years, significant progress has been made in improving the country's civil registration system and in setting up the Population Documentation Information Centre. Nevertheless, the country's capacity for monitoring the national population policy and evaluating its demographic impact and effectiveness is still weak.
Other activities supported by UNFPA

13. During the last two years of the programme cycle, new activities have been undertaken to address problems identified in project implementation of the previous programme and to serve as a bridge to the activities in the next programme. For example, a pilot education project aimed at parents has been initiated jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and a project to improve family health in the rural areas has been designed in co-operation with UNICEF, with JOICFP providing the technical backstopping. Assistance has also been provided to strengthen the Centre for Population Studies in the Ministry of Labour; and a project in support of the NCPFP, which includes carrying out a national family planning prevalence survey, has been started. Furthermore, a project aimed at setting up a pool of micro-computers to be used in support of population activities other than those conducted by the General Statistical Office (GSO) was formulated and has begun to operate.

Other external assistance

14. UNFPA has been the main source of external assistance for population activities in Viet Nam. In fact, until recently, only two other agencies had made substantial contributions: the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). Total assistance provided by IPPF since 1977, mainly in the form of contraceptives, is $2.9 million. In the case of SIDA, most of its support to MCH/FP activities was given immediately after reunification of the country in 1975: 11 million SEK between 1976 and 1979. A second grant of 1 million SEK was given during 1981-1982. More recently, the Government of Australia has supported population activities, providing a special grant of 100,000 Australian dollars in 1986 for a project on parent education, jointly sponsored by UNICEF and UNFPA. Moreover, in 1987, $175,136 was channelled through the UNFPA multibilateral system for purchasing contraceptives.

IV. FINDINGS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION

15. The third UNFPA needs assessment mission to Viet Nam was fielded in March 1987. As regards population policy formulation in Viet Nam, the mission noted a pressing need for relevant information on population, health and family planning which is disseminated through regular, standardized channels and which is well understood by policy-makers. Therefore, the mission recommended that the central staff be trained in demography and population statistics; that basic supplies and equipment be provided and that the micro-computer capacity in a wide range of institutions be enhanced. The mission also noted the importance of providing basic training to local officials in population dynamics and population planning. The mission further recommended that assistance to the General Statistical Office be concentrated on the development of the regional centres in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City. Resources should be built up to make each centre a leader in training, computer services and research, as well as to establish a branch of the Population Documentation and Information Centre in each.
16. Data on contraceptive use and acceptance are very limited. Therefore, strong support should be given to improve the system of contraceptive service statistics and related research into continuation rates, contraceptive prevalence and socio-cultural factors influencing acceptance of different methods of family planning. Moreover, specialized population research centres in various government ministries, commissions and committees should be strengthened to improve the quality and quantity of research relevant to population policies and programmes.

17. As regards MCH/FP delivery systems, the mission recommended that UNFPA concentrate its assistance in selected geographic areas and channel it through the Ministry of Health. This would require consolidating the numerous and varied types of activities currently being supervised by various departments or institutions. The mission recommended the creation of a single administrative entity - a Division of Family Health - within the Ministry of Health to ensure that all components of a comprehensive MCH programme are effectively integrated. The mission further recommended that three pilot areas be selected for an experimental integrated programme comprising sanitation, nutrition and health components including pre-natal care, family planning, immunization, and anti-diarrhoeal and anti-parasitic activities.

18. With respect to training, the mission noted that assistance should be given to the Department of Training in the Ministry of Health to improve teaching methodology and modernize the teaching of health system management. Moreover, secondary medical schools in the provinces where UNFPA assistance to MCH/FP services is concentrated should be upgraded. Since MCH services in Viet Nam are generally weak, UNFPA should continue to provide refresher training for primary health care personnel especially at district and lower levels. In conjunction with UNICEF support to primary health care, UNFPA should continue to equip the health centres at provincial, district and commune levels.

19. Although the family planning programme is based on free choice of methods, that choice seems to be restricted by the shortage of supplies and equipment. Therefore, the mission recommended that the range of family planning methods available at all service points should be broadened. On the local manufacture of contraceptives, the mission recommended that after the condom factory in Ho Chi Minh City is completed, UNFPA support should be limited to quality control and procurement of essential imported chemicals.

20. In order to maximize the utilization of limited resources and to foster better co-ordination among government sectors, the mission endorsed the Government's attempt to develop a National Population Communication Plan and Strategy. The NCPFP should be responsible for providing clear policy guidelines, and all concerned ministries and mass organizations should take part in the development of the Plan. The Audio-Visual Centre should be the key unit for the training of trainers, production of communication media and provision of communication research and evaluation assistance. In order to achieve this, the AVC should be reoriented away from mass media and be strengthened in research and evaluation, interpersonal communication techniques and management of IEC programmes.
21. The mission recommended expanding in-school and out-of-school population education programmes to more provinces. The mission endorsed the Government's plan to introduce, on an experimental basis, family life and sex education contents into the programme. The mission also suggested implementing a pilot project incorporating family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, population education, and income-generating activities.

V. PROPOSED PROGRAMME 1988-1991

22. The proposed programme would focus on reducing fertility. This would be accomplished primarily by reducing the incidence of early marriage and by increasing the number of couples practising family planning. The priority target groups would be the rural population - particularly that in the most densely populated areas of the country, such as the Red River and Mekong River deltas - and youth.

23. The new programme would seek to heighten the involvement of local authorities in the co-ordination and supervision of activities by strengthening the NCPF and its nation-wide network. The programme would also seek to develop a national strategy of IEC in support of family planning activities. Mass organizations such as the Women's Union and the Youth Union would be involved in implementing certain aspects of the programme, and the status of women would be strengthened through income-generating activities. The range of family planning methods offered would be broadened, and efforts would be continued to develop the local capacity for producing contraceptives.

24. Special attention would be given to improving the logistics system of distributing contraceptives. Curricula for introducing components of family life and sex education in the formal and non-formal education system would be developed and tested. With the exception of contraceptives, which would be supplied on a nation-wide basis, assistance to MCH/FP would be concentrated in selected geographic areas. Finally, co-operation and co-ordination with other international agencies, particularly with UNICEF, would be further enhanced.

Maternal and child health and family planning

25. UNFPA proposes to provide assistance to MCH/FP in the amount of $15,250,000, of which $14,210,000 has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding the coverage of programmed activities. The following seven projects are envisaged, all of which would be implemented or co-ordinated by the Ministry of Health. The first three projects are aimed at meeting the needs for contraceptives throughout the country. The other four focus on the provision of adequate services in the field of MCH and family planning.

26. Support to the condom factory operation. In order to facilitate the smooth start-up and subsequent operation of the factory and to keep it working at a satisfactory level, both in terms of productivity and quality of product, assistance would be provided for importing essential raw materials (including
chemicals and aluminium foil) during 1988 and 1989. Support would be given during the whole programme period for improving quality control, upgrading factory management and conducting follow-up studies on the users of the condoms produced by the factory. An amount of $850,000 is proposed for this activity, which would be executed by UNFPA with technical backstopping from the Program for the Introduction and Adaptation of Contraceptive Technology (PIACT).

27. **Assistance for the local production of IUDs.** Assistance would be provided for the introduction of advanced technology for the local production of a third-generation copper IUD. This would be installed in the present IUD factory in Ho Chi Minh City in order to take advantage of the existing premises, equipment, personnel and management capacity. Specific training in the use of the new technology would be conducted. Production of the new device is expected to start in the second half of 1989. An amount of $1 million is proposed for this project. Additional funds would be sought through other sources including multilateral channels. Selection on the transfer of technology would be arranged through submission of bids by several manufacturers.

28. **Supply of contraceptives and essential drugs.** This project would provide assistance to import IUDs to meet the country's needs until such devices can be produced in large quantities locally. Pills and other contraceptives would also be supplied in order to offer acceptors a wide range of contraceptive methods, particularly in urban areas. The project would further provide essential drugs to those selected provinces in which UNFPA-assisted MCH/FP activities were being conducted (see below). Special attention would be given to improving the logistics system for the distribution of contraceptives. The amount of $4,250,000 is proposed in support of this activity, which would be executed by UNFPA.

29. **Delivery of MCH/FP services.** This project would concentrate its activities in eight selected provinces, in which approximately one fourth of the population of Viet Nam lives. Five are in the South of the country and three in the North; all are characterized by a low level of urbanization and high agricultural population density. Two of these provinces have been selected from among those receiving assistance from UNICEF in order to develop and test inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation. The project intends, over the four-year period of the programmes, to meet all of the basic MCH/FP needs of these eight provinces in terms of equipment and training and to set up in each province an efficient system of management and monitoring. Special attention would be given to the development of an active record-keeping system at the commune level, which would enable the health stations to identify and follow-up on women and children at risk as well as users and potential users of family planning services. This project would receive inputs and support from several other UNFPA-assisted projects, in particular the training project for health personnel and the project to supply contraceptives and essential drugs. An amount of $5,426,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by WHO.

30. **Training programme on MCH/FP for health personnel.** This special training project would be developed in the eight selected provinces in order to provide systematic training for new personnel as well as regular refresher training for experienced staff. Secondary medical schools, which are responsible for training
assistant medical doctors, nurses and midwives, would be equipped and their staffs trained. Under this project, assistance would also be provided to develop a Master's Degree programme in Public Health in order to help strengthen the teaching of MCH/FP in the faculties of medicine. An amount of $2,084,000 is proposed for this project, for which the Government, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and UNFPA would serve as the executing agencies.

31. **Integrated project on family health.** An experimental project, jointly sponsored by UNICEF and UNFPA, would be conducted on a pilot basis in rural areas of three provinces (separate from the eight selected provinces mentioned above) which receive assistance from UNICEF. The project would seek to co-ordinate services and mobilize community participation at the grass-roots level, by including MCH/FP as one component in a comprehensive strategy to improve family health, which would also include environmental sanitation and parasite control. After a preparatory phase that would include the evaluation and development of IEC materials, an experimental phase would be conducted in six selected communes for two years. JOICFP would provide technical backstopping for this project and may execute some components. The project would later be gradually expanded to other provinces. An amount of $400,000 has been proposed for this project. A similar amount is expected to be contributed by UNICEF.

32. **Human reproduction research in support of MCH/FP.** The National Institute of Gynaecology and Obstetrics would lead and co-ordinate a programme of bio-medical research on MCH/FP in which other institutions of the country would be expected to participate. An amount of $200,000 is proposed for this activity for which WHO would be the executing agency.

**Population information, education and communication**

33. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $3.3 million, of which $3.2 million has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding coverage of programmed activities.

34. **Population education programme in formal and non-formal education.** Support would be given to the Ministry of Education to extend to 17 selected provinces the POPED programme which had been developed and tested in five pilot provinces during the previous country programme. An amount of $700,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by the Government, UNESCO and UNFPA.

35. **Family life and sex education.** Curriculum on family life and sex education in the formal education system, addressed mainly to adolescents and youth, would be developed and tested. Developing methodology for training teachers in these sensitive subjects would be one of the central goals of this project. After an experimental phase is carried out, the curriculum would be integrated into the ongoing population education programme. An amount of $300,000 is proposed for conducting this activity. The project would be executed by the Government and UNESCO.

36. **Parents education programme.** The parents education project, which was started in 1986 with assistance from the Australian Government and channelled through...
UNICEF and UNFPA, would be expected to complete its experimental pilot phase and be gradually expanded with the joint support of both United Nations entities. The project, implemented by the Ministry of Education, would use teachers and monitors in kindergartens and crèches as agents to teach the parents of their pupils how to care for and educate their children and at the same time how to plan the size of their families. An amount of $200,000 is proposed for this project. A similar amount would be contributed by UNICEF.

37. Support to the Women's Union in population education and family planning motivation. Assistance would be given to the Women's Union for continuation and expansion of its family planning motivation activities. The present programme would be expanded to the eight selected provinces in which UNFPA assistance would be concentrated in order to ensure a co-ordinated effort with the project of delivery of MCH/FP services in the identification, follow-up and motivation of current or potential family planning users. An amount of $350,000 is proposed mainly for training trainers and motivators as well as for setting up a monitoring system. The project would be executed by the Government and DTCP (UNDP/OPS).

38. Education of youth for family life and family planning. Assistance would be given to the Youth Union, a mass organization with a membership of around 16 million people between 14 and 30 years of age, to strengthen its present education motivation network and to integrate family life and family planning components into its activities. This project would focus on the rural areas of the eight provinces of concentration of UNFPA assistance. Target groups would be betrothed youth and young couples at the beginning of their reproductive cycle. An amount of $600,000 is proposed mainly for establishing regional training centres; training master and second-level trainers; developing, printing and distributing education/orientation materials; and setting up a system for monitoring the activities covered by the project. The Government and DTCP (UNDP/OPS) would be the executing agencies.

39. Communication support for population activities. Under the leadership of the NCPFP, the Audio-Visual Centre would be expected to play a central role in formulating a national IEC strategy and in providing support to the other projects, mainly those of the Women's Union and Youth Union, for the implementation of the strategy. In order to carry out this task, assistance would be provided to the AVC to strengthen its present capacity to develop interpersonal communication techniques and group communication techniques at the village level and to manage IEC activities. An amount of $850,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by the Government and DTCP (UNDP/OPS).

40. Support to the Population Documentation Information Centre (PDIC). The PDIC, set up in Hanoi during the previous cycle, would play an important role in the proposed programme in support of the various new research activities supported by UNFPA in Viet Nam. For this reason, it is proposed that the amount of $200,000 be provided to PDIC to maintain and update its library, to set up and develop two regional sub-centres in Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang, to continue publishing Population News and Population Bibliographies and to train its staff. The project would be executed by the Government with the technical backstopping of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
Basic data collection and analysis

41. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $2,750,000, of which $2,350,000 has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding coverage of programmed activities.

42. Support to the 1989 Census on Population and Housing. The Government of Viet Nam has decided to conduct a census starting in April 1989. In addition to the basic questionnaire applied to the whole population, a second questionnaire would be applied to a sample of 5 per cent, which would contain, among other things, questions designed to provide the necessary information to estimate fertility and mortality rates. An amount of $1 million is proposed to assist the General Statistical Office in preparing, conducting and analysing the 1989 census as well as for publishing the census data. Assistance would be mainly for training the personnel involved at all levels in conducting the census. This project, which would be executed by the Government, would receive systematic technical backstopping from ESCAP.

43. Strengthening the General Statistical Office and its three regional centres. The most concrete planning and implementation of the country's population policy would take place at the provincial level. The present capacity of the GSO to provide training and assistance to the provincial statistics departments is very limited. Furthermore, these statistics departments lack the most essential data processing equipment and personnel duly trained in demography and population statistics. For these reasons, assistance would be given to strengthen the GSO in data processing and demographic analysis and to develop the regional centres in Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City in order to make each centre a leader in training, data processing and demographic analysis. The amount of $1 million is proposed mainly for equipping the three regional centres with mini- and micro-computers, but also for training their staffs to perform as trainers and advisers in the provinces under the responsibility of each centre. The computer capacity provided would be sufficient to process the 1989 census. After census data entry and editing are completed at the regional centres, most of the micro-computers used for that task would be distributed to the provinces. The project would be executed by the Government, the United Nations and UNFPA.

44. Assistance to the GSO for improving the vital registration system and vital statistics. In 1986-1987, the GSO developed and tested an improved vital registration system in two predominantly rural provinces. During the period 1988-1991, the GSO intends to apply and test the improved system in two main urban areas, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. A multiround survey on vital statistics would also be developed and tested in the two pilot provinces and cities. An amount of $350,000 is proposed for this project, most of it for training and technical backstopping. This project, which would be executed by the Government and the United Nations, would receive technical backstopping from ESCAP. Improving health service statistics has not been included as a component in this project because UNICEF would support a project for this purpose. Co-operation from UNFPA would be requested if needed.
Population dynamics

45. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $1 million, of which $850,000 has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding coverage of programmed activities.

46. Strengthening the Centre for Population Studies (CPS). The assistance to the CPS in the Ministry of Labour, which started in 1987, would continue, focusing on training of the Centre staff during 1988 and on research between 1989 and 1991. Priority would be given to research in connection with the implementation of the resettlement policy. The amount of $300,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by the Government and the United Nations.

47. Demographic analysis of the 1989 census. Assistance would be provided to those institutions that would be responsible for the demographic analysis of the 1989 Census on Population and Housing in order to train a core group of demographers and receive technical advice for the census analysis. An amount of $250,000 is proposed for this project, which would be co-ordinated by the GSO. The Government and the United Nations would be the executing agencies and ESCAP would provide technical backstopping.

48. Programme of social science research on population. Under this project, the State Committee for Social Sciences would lead various other research institutions in the preparation and implementation of a programme of social research which would focus on relevant issues for the design and evaluation of the population policy. The programme would receive technical backstopping from the Australian National University (ANU), which would also be the executing agency. An amount of $300,000, which would be used mainly for training, is proposed for this project.

Population policy formulation

49. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $1 million of which $800,000 has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding coverage of programmed activities.

50. Support to the National Committee for Population and Family Planning (NCPFPP). Under this project, the Committee, as well as its network of sub-committees at the provincial level throughout the country, would be strengthened. Training in management and development of an efficient monitoring system would be the two essential components of this project. Within this framework, a national family planning prevalence survey would be conducted every two years, and the reporting system on the performance of the population policy from the grass-roots to the central level improved. Resources for support to the provincial sub-committees would be channelled through the NCPFPP. An amount of $600,000 is proposed for this project. The Government and ICOMP would execute the project. Technical backstopping would be provided by ICOMP and ESCAP.

51. Strengthening the population research and policy formulation capabilities of the Institute of Urban and Rural Planning. For the first time, UNFPA would support the Government in developing its institutional capacity for a systematic
consideration of population variables in urban and rural planning. Although assistance would focus on training of staff, some support would be given to equip the Institute and to conduct research. It is expected that the project would contribute to the design of a global proposal for a policy of population redistribution and urbanization for the coming five-year plan. An amount of $200,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by the Government and ANU. The latter would also provide technical backstopping.

**Women, population and development**

52. **Improving the status of women through income-generating activities and family planning.** With UNFPA assistance, the Women's Union would receive support to develop such a project on an experimental basis in a pilot area. Should the experimental phase succeed, the project would be expanded in two provinces. The project would take advantage of the experiences gained in similar projects undertaken in Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh. An amount of $250,000 is proposed for this project, which would be executed by FAO. An additional amount of $250,000 would be set aside either for use in future related projects or for expanding coverage of the project.

53. **Special programmes.** UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $340,000, of which $200,000 has been earmarked for specific projects. The remainder would be used either for future projects or for expanding coverage of programmed activities.

54. **Pool of micro-computers in support of population activities.** Assistance would be extended through the NCPFP to provide micro-computers to those institutions other than the GSO which participate in the implementation of the population programme, according to their specific needs. A computer service centre would be installed in the Institute of Information and Cybernetics, which would be subcontracted for providing both systematic and in-service training to users as well as maintenance for the micro-computers. An amount of $200,000 is proposed for this project. The project would be executed by the Government; ESCAP would provide technical backstopping.

**Programme reserve**

55. It is recommended that $500,000 be kept in reserve for new proposals that could be developed within the framework of the proposed programme strategy. One project being considered would involve integrated activities in family health for minorities and would comprise sanitation, nutrition and health components, including ante-natal care, family planning, immunization, and anti-diarrhoeal and anti-parasitic activities. Other proposals could be developed during the initial years of the programme implementation.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

56. The programme would be subject to monitoring and evaluation in accordance with UNFPA guidelines. All projects would include a plan for monitoring and evaluation with, in most cases, specific indicators of progress. All projects would also prepare progress reports and conduct, when convenient, internal evaluations as...
inputs for the tripartite review meetings. The concentration of most of the action projects in eight selected provinces would facilitate monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore, the sub-committee for population and family planning in each provincial People's Committee in the selected provinces would be expected to co-ordinate and supervise the implementation of the population programme, particularly those projects under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Women's Union and the Youth Union. Once a year, a country programme review would be conducted by the Government and UNFPA, with participation of representatives from the eight selected provinces.

Programme management

57. A UNFPA Deputy Representative and Senior Adviser on Population (DRSAP) was appointed to Viet Nam in 1979. At present, the DRSAP is assisted by an International Programme Officer in charge of the projects dealing with MCH/FP and by an expatriate secretary locally recruited. Three national programme assistants serve as liaison officers between UNFPA and 24 national counterparts, of which 19 are implementing agencies and 5 are co-ordinating central bodies. The local staff is provided by the Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, therefore, does not have a contractual arrangement with UNDP.

Financial summary

58. As noted in paragraph 1, UNFPA proposes to support a programme of $25 million, of which $22 million would be committed from UNFPA's regular resources. If UNFPA's funding situation permits, the balance of up to $3 million may be provided by UNFPA. If and to the extent this is not the case, UNFPA would seek to cover the shortfall from other sources, including multilateral sources. This UNFPA commitment to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the four-year period 1988-1991, by project area, subject to the availability of funds, is as follows:
VI. RECOMMENDATION

59. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

   (a) **Approve** the assistance to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the amount of $25 million for the four-year period 1988-1991;

   (b) **Authorize** the Executive Director to commit the amount of $22 million from UNFPA regular funds;

   (c) **Further authorize** the Executive Director to provide the balance of up to $3 million from UNFPA's regular resources if such resources are available. If and to the extent they are not, further authorize the Executive Director to seek to cover the shortfall from other sources, including multibilateral sources;

   (d) Authorize the Executive Director to allocate the funds and make appropriate arrangements with the Government of Viet Nam and with the executing agencies.