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6 June-1 July 1988, Geneva
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Costa Rica

Support for a comprehensive population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance: $2.2 million

Estimated value of the Government's contribution: To be determined

Duration: Five years

Estimated starting date: January 1988

Executing agencies:
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO)
United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNDTCD)

Government co-ordinating agency:
Ministry of Planning and the National Council on Population Policy (CONAPOPO)
**Demographic facts**

**COSTA RICA**

**Population by sex**
- Total (in 1000) ....... 2,600
- Male (in 1000) ........ 1,312
- Female (in 1000) ....... 1,287
- Sex ratio (/100 females) 102.0

**Population in year 2000** ..... 3,596

**Population by age group**
- Age 0-14 (in 1000) .... 954
- Age 15-64 (in 1000) ... 1,546
- Age 65+ (in 1000) ..... 99
- Age 0-14 (percentage) ..... 36.7
- Age 15-64 (percentage) ..... 59.5
- Age 65+ (percentage) ..... 3.8

**Age indicators**
- Median age .............. 21.1
- Dependency: age 0-14 .... 61.7
- Dependency: age 65+ .... 6.4
- Dependency: total ....... 68.1
- Youth: 15-24 (in 1000) ... 561
- Women: 15-49 (in 1000) ... 665

**Urban-rural population**
- Urban population (in 1000) ..... 1,295
- Rural population (in 1000) ..... 1,305
- Per cent urban .......... 49.8
- Per cent rural .......... 50.2

**Agricultural population density**
- (/hectare of arable land) ... 1.12

**Population density (/sq. km.)** ..... 51

**Average annual change**
- Population increase (in 1000) .... 67
- Births (in 1000) .......... 79
- Deaths (in 1000) ........ 12
- Net migration (in 1000) ..... 0

**Rate of annual change**
- Population change total (%) ...... 2.44
- Urban (%) .............. 3.9
- Rural (%) .............. 0.9
- Crude birth rate (/1000) .... 28.5
- Crude death rate (/1000) ... 4.2
- Natural increase (/1000) .... 24.4
- Net migration (/1000) ..... 0.0

**Fertility and mortality**
- Total fertility rate .......... 3.26
- Completed family size ...... 6.7
- Gross reproduction rate .... 1.59
- Net reproduction rate ..... 1.54
- General fertility rate (/1000) 112
- Child-woman ratio .......... N/A
- Infant mortality rate (/1000) ..... 18
- Life expectancy: male ..... 71.1
- Life expectancy: female .... 76.4
- Life expectancy: total ..... 73.7

**GNP per capita**
- (U.S. dollars, 1985) .... 1300

I. SUMMARY

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposes to support a comprehensive population programme in the amount of $2.2 million over a five-year period, starting January 1988, to assist the Government of Costa Rica in achieving its population and development objectives.

2. The overall objective of the proposed programme is to assist the Government of Costa Rica in carrying out its integrated population policy, which encompasses explicit guidelines designating the family as the basic unit of society and guaranteeing Costa Ricans the right to decide freely the number and spacing of their children; the right and respect for life; the equal legal and social rights for all children irrespective of the circumstances of their filiation; and the equal rights and opportunities for women and their incorporation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country. Costa Rica's population policy also promotes the strengthening of maternal and child health (MCH) care and family planning (FP) services within the framework of an integrated health policy based on preventive measures and national coverage. The Government further advocates a policy of national distribution of the population on the national territory by promoting a process of demographic deconcentration, through the strengthening of regional planning aimed at effecting a better redistribution of the benefits of national development.

3. As a whole, UNFPA assistance would be expected to cover specific aspects of these areas of the national population programme of Costa Rica. In this context, the Government of Costa Rica has requested UNFPA assistance in order to improve maternal and child health care and family planning coverage in the poorest regions of the country, especially for young mothers; to design integrated programmes for the provision of services to organized groups of adolescents to improve their knowledge of sexuality and to promote responsible behaviour; to support the planning and decision-making process through the strengthening of the capacity for processing, analysing and evaluating statistical information; to develop programmes to enhance the status of rural women; to develop the population education component in the curriculum of the primary level of education; to improve the processing of information on international migration and to assist in the development of pilot projects to determine the needs of groups in the population that are over 60 years of age.

4. 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 (paragraph 14(d)); that respect for human life is basic to all human societies (paragraph 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 information, education and means to do so.

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II. BACKGROUND

5. Costa Rica has passed through various stages of demographic transition and is currently in an advanced stage of fertility decline. Between 1955 and 1960, Costa Rica's population grew at an annual rate of more than 4 per cent, giving it one of the highest rates of natural increase in the world. By 1970, however, the rate had fallen to slightly over 3 per cent, and during 1980-1985, it is estimated to have declined to a level of 2.6 per cent per year. At this moderate rate of growth, the present population of 2.6 million would nearly double by the year 2025.

6. At the start of its rapid fertility decline in the 1960s, Costa Rica was not unlike a number of other Latin American countries in that it was primarily a rural, agricultural country with relatively low per capita income, an increasing concentration of land tenure, and no significant advances in the status of women. Costa Rica was highly unusual, however, in that it had a very high literacy rate. The Constitution of 1871 provided for free public education, and a 1886 law not only stipulated that primary school education was obligatory for all children ages 7 to 14, but also affirmed a woman's right to receive an equal education. By 1950, illiteracy had been nearly eradicated in urban areas and had fallen below 30 per cent in rural areas. By 1973, two thirds of women in the reproductive ages had completed a primary school education, a development that seemed to have a significant impact on fertility levels.

7. In addition to widespread literacy, Costa Rica's overall level of basic services has been well above the level provided in most countries with a similar per capita gross national product (GNP), and this also helped to sustain the country's fertility decline. Moreover, although the later stages of fertility decline have been closely correlated with the growth of family planning, the Government has continued to allocate substantial funds for education, health and other basic services.

8. The Government has expressed concern over the present levels and trends of immigration resulting from the massive influx of refugees, displaced persons and undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries. After having earlier ceased to be a significant component of Costa Rica's population growth, immigration increased by 76.9 per cent between 1973 and 1984, representing a growth of 10 per cent in population size in recent years. The Government has urged co-ordinated action by the international community to help find lasting solutions to this problem.

9. The spatial distribution of the population has changed gradually. The urban population has increased from 33.5 per cent of the total population in the 1960s to 45 per cent in 1985. The Government considers the main problem to be the concentration of population in the Central Region, where 64 per cent of the total population occupies 20 per cent of the national territory. The increasing volume of migrants to the metropolitan area of San Jose and other cities of the Central Region began in the 1960s, coinciding with Costa Rica's industrial growth. Over the years, the Government has formulated various policies to modify patterns of population distribution, including decentralization of industry (through industrial zoning and the creation of industrial parks) and the promotion of rural industries. The Government has also implemented a number of integrated rural development and land colonization programmes which were partly designed to retain...
population in rural areas. The current population distribution policy involves the promotion of small rural population centres, decentralization of services and the encouragement of popular participation in local government as a means of reducing out-migration from rural areas.

10. There is no policy to modify fertility. The crude birth rate declined from 45.0 per 1,000 population in 1963, to 34.4 in 1969, 28.0 in 1973 and has stabilized at 30 per 1,000 for 1980-1985. The total fertility rate (TFR) fell from 7.2 children in 1963 to 3.5 between 1980-1985. In 1985, however, vital statistics showed 8,000 more births for that year and a fertility rate of 3.8. In addition to the early availability and wide geographical coverage of family planning services, the relative success of Costa Rica's programme has been attributed to a continually improving community-based distribution system and to the use of auxiliary personnel such as midwives to provide contraceptive services. The Government also places considerable emphasis on information, education and communication (IEC) programmes.

11. Higher fertility among women under 20 years of age is a development that concerns the Government at present. Available data show that in 18 per cent of the births in Costa Rica in 1984 the mothers were under 19 years of age; had these births not taken place, the rate of growth would have been reduced by some 21 per cent. But more than the demographic impact, the Government's diagnosis points to the medical, economic and social aspects of juvenile pregnancy such as the high risk of maternal and child mortality; the loss of educational and career opportunities leading to limited employment possibilities and rejection by the family.

12. With only 6.5 per cent of the population above the age of 60, Costa Rica's population is still young. Population projections, however, estimate that by the year 2025, approximately 15 per cent of the population will be in this age group, and Costa Rica will have an aging population structure. The Government considers that given the existing population trends, it should start preparing for the provision of services to this age group.

13. Costa Rica started facing serious economic problems in 1979 when oil prices doubled and world coffee prices slumped almost simultaneously. Because Costa Rica depends on oil imports for 80 per cent of its energy and on coffee exports for almost 65 per cent of its foreign-exchange earnings, its monetary reserves depleted rapidly. In the period 1980-1982, the economy declined dramatically. During 1983-1986, there was a recovery and a return to more stable conditions. However, the longer term conditions for a steadier economic recuperation have not yet stabilized, as key areas are still in flux.

14. Costa Rica has developed an institutional framework for the further integration of population factors within development plans. A National Commission on Population Policy was established in 1978. Headed by the Minister for External and Religious Affairs, the Commission is an interministerial body whose membership includes the ministers of Public Education, Health, Labour and Social Security, Culture, Youth and Sports, and Planning. A Population Department was also established within the Planning Office of the Ministry of Planning and was designated as the technical secretariat of the National Commission on Population Policy. In 1985, this Commission was succeeded by the present National Council for
Population Policy (CONAPOPO) which had a similar composition but with the addition of the Technical Committee on Population composed of high-level representatives of the ministries forming CONAPOPO. The Technical Population Secretariat continues to function under the Ministry of Planning.

III. REVIEW OF UNFPA AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO DATE

15. UNFPA assistance to Costa Rica started as early as 1972. In this early period, UNFPA's largest contribution was for a major four-year government project, "Consolidation of the National Family Planning and Sex Education Programme", for which $2.15 million was approved by the Governing Council in January 1974. Between 1981 and 1986, UNFPA approved a total of $1.1 million for various activities, including data collection, population education in schools and policy formulation.

Maternal child care and family planning (MCH/FP)

16. At the request of the Government, UNFPA provided assistance to support the National Family Planning and Sex Education Programme of Costa Rica. The project was to be directly executed by seven different Costa Rican organizations, each one having its own legal framework, and all to be co-ordinated by the National Population Committee (CONAPO), which was specially created for this project. The project, which constituted UNFPA's first exercise in directly assisting a recipient government agency, developed activities in the following areas: clinical services, information and education, field work, sex education, training, supervision, research, evaluation, technical assistance, and services and supplies. One of the major results of UNFPA assistance was the establishment of a national co-ordinating body of the population programme, in the form of CONAPO. From the point of view of family planning services, by supporting basic research, the project helped to define the community-based, community-oriented model for delivery of services, considered to be one of the contributing factors in the later stages of fertility decline in the country. Indeed, it was the research activities in the project that contributed to the creation of functional mechanisms for a constant dialogue between researchers and decision-makers on population matters. An understanding was reached that population policies were to be executed through other policies of health, education, location of new investments, and so forth.

17. The strongest component in the project was the IEC component that absorbed almost 46 per cent of the funds. Numerous IEC activities were carried out, directed at a variety of audiences: high-school students, teachers, social workers, physicians, nurses, extension workers, community leaders, pharmacists. In retrospect, the project for the Consolidation of the National Family Planning and Sex Education Programme created the basis for the development of a more comprehensive population programme for the country. The Government definitely came to accept that a population policy could be instrumental in achieving its political objectives and overall development goals.
Population information, education and communication

18. A project was initiated in 1985 to improve the ability of national personnel to carry out population education activities and to introduce population education components into the curriculum of the third cycle of basic general education and the fourth cycle of diversified education in the formal school system. After initial problems with the conformation of a technical team in the Ministry of Education, the project has developed different population education components such as human sexuality and family life, population and the environment, and socio-demography for their incorporation in related subject areas of the third cycle of basic education. Basic research has also been carried out to determine the contents and needs of students at the fourth cycle (9/10/11 grades). At this level, however, there was a lack of appropriate information for the development of materials. Teachers' guides have been prepared for all grades of the third and fourth cycles and field testing will be completed during 1987. The project has trained 18 professionals in population education, half of whom are members of the counterpart team. The other half serve as focal points and reference persons in other areas of the Ministry not working directly with the project. UNFPA provided $160,290 to support this UNESCO-executed project.

Basic data collection and analysis

19. Costa Rica has one of the most comprehensive sets of population data available in the Latin American region. Nine censuses have been conducted since 1864; the most recent census was conducted in 1984. Vital registration started in 1883 and migration statistics have been available since 1894. A National Fertility Survey was conducted in 1976 in co-operation with the World Fertility Survey, and a National Survey on Contraceptive Usage was undertaken in 1979. UNFPA provided assistance for the 1973 census ($148,008); for the 1976 fertility survey ($114,499); and for the 1983 census ($493,935). In both censuses the executing agency was UNDTCD.

Population policy formulation/population dynamics

20. Immediately after the creation of both the National Commission on Population Policy and the Department of Population in the Ministry of Planning as its secretariat in 1979, the Government requested UNFPA assistance for the "Diagnosis and prognosis of the Costa Rican population and its interrelationship with social and economic development" (COS/79/P01). The project started its activities in early 1980, and its main objective was to strengthen the Department of Population and consolidate the National Commission on Population Policy. The UNFPA project was designed to enhance the capacity of the Department of Population to provide the National Commission on Population Policy with the required multi-sectoral, inter-disciplinary analysis and projection of population variables so that these variables could systematically and specifically be related to the goals and objectives of the development plans. The project was developed in the context of the integrated nature of population and development, and it conducted activities in research, data collection, improvement of demographic statistics, and analysis and use of demographic information for the application in development plans and programmes. In this effort, there were two major areas of activities: population policies and demographic research.
21. In the area of population policies, the Department of Population, as the technical secretariat of the National Commission, formulated two important documents: the "Conceptual framework for the formulation of a population policy in Costa Rica" and the "Population declaration of Costa Rica". The first served as the major reference document for the incorporation of demographic considerations in the National Development Plan for the 1979-1982 period. The Declaration, published in 1982, was an effort by the National Commission to summarize the main policy and doctrinal guidelines for population concerns. In the area of demographic research, the project concentrated on three main areas: internal migration, based on analysis of census data reflecting a strong rural-to-urban migration that merited closer examination; international migrations; and migration and employment.

22. For the improvement of demographic statistics, the project helped in the preparation of population projections to the year 2000 in co-operation with the General Census and Statistics Office. It also provided assistance to the analysis of the 1984 Census Information. Another important group of studies was carried out in the area of employment and population. This was considered important because it introduced the use of demographic information in other institutions working in the different areas of development. The analyses of the economically active population and its regional distribution, of unemployment and underemployment, of the composition of the work force and of migrations involved the Department of Population with other sectoral offices within the Ministry of Planning itself and the Ministries of Agriculture, Labour, and the Interior.

23. Throughout the life of the project, concluded in late 1986, the results of these studies have been disseminated and discussed in different forums. They have in their turn generated other more general and more specific studies in population both in the public and private sectors. The project developed methodologies and procedures for the generation and analysis of socio-demographic information. The National Commission on Population Policy and its Secretariat gained prestige and established within the public sector their role as co-ordinating units for population concerns in Costa Rica. And although in the last two years of the project these units have seen their role diminished somewhat, because of changes in authorities and an institutional reorganization, their existence has been secured and consolidated sufficiently to guarantee a standing institutional framework for population in Costa Rica. UNFPA assistance amounted to $288,367.

Other external assistance

24. The most important source of assistance for family planning services in Costa Rica is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with a six-year project in the amount of $2.5 million. Within the United Nations system, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) executes a project on Child Survival funded by the Italian Government and the European Economic Community. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country programme for 1987-1990 amounts to $2.1 million. Costa Rica also receives small-scale assistance for family planning from a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception; Church World Service; Cornell University; Family Health International; Family Planning International Assistance; the Ford Foundation; International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF); Johns Hopkins University; and The Population Council.

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IV. PROPOSED PROGRAMME 1988-1992

25. The proposed country programme for Costa Rica is based on the 1987 Demographic Diagnosis prepared by the Population Secretariat and approved by the National Council for Population Policy; on the "Population Declaration", the official document by which the Government of Costa Rica sets forth the legal and ethical principles guiding population activities in the country; and on the document "Conceptual framework for population policies", adopted by the then National Commission on Population Policy, which defines the guidelines for the establishment of an integrated multi-sectorial population programme in Costa Rica.

26. The 1987 Demographic Diagnosis proposes eight main areas of priority concern for the national population programme: (i) family, procreation and the status of women, including maternal child care; (ii) population distribution and internal migration; (iii) international migration and refugees; (iv) adolescent population, especially sex education and fertility; (v) aging population; (vi) population education; (vii) basic data collection; and (viii) population policy formulation and population dynamics. These priority areas reflect the Government's decision to focus on population problems from a global, long-range, multi-sectoral perspective, with the participation of a wide array of public and private institutions to seek solutions and carry out actions. In addition, despite an uncertain economic situation, the 1986-1990 Development Plan proposes to continue support for the social sectors especially in relation to populations living in certain areas of the country that have had inadequate access to services and for which social indicators have shown unacceptable differentials. Another important target group for the Plan is women, who are to be incorporated into the productive mainstream of the country. In general, the Demographic Diagnosis and the Development Plan focus on population as an invaluable resource for development that must be carefully managed.

27. The four-year programme, to which UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $2.2 million, has components addressing MCH/FP; population IEC; population dynamics; women, population and development; adolescents and the elderly.

Maternal and child health and family planning

28. UNFPA proposes to provide an amount of $600,000 over a period of four years in order to strengthen the Maternal Child Care Programme and expand the coverage of family planning services to include groups under higher risk (adolescents, rural residents, low-income groups). The primary objectives of the project would be to decrease maternal mortality to 20 per 100,000 births and infant mortality to 14 per 1,000 live births and to ensure that the total fertility rate among these higher risk groups does not exceed 3.2. The project would be implemented by the Ministry of Health and executed by WHO/PAHO.

29. To implement the proposed programme, the Ministry of Health would concentrate UNFPA resources in selected urban marginal zones of the San José metropolitan area and in the 23 priority cantons (out of 81) that have the highest infant mortality and fertility rates and the worst socio-economic conditions. The infrastructure of the central Maternal Child Care Programme would be strengthened through training of personnel, provision of equipment and enhancement of the Programme's supervisory/monitoring capacity. Under the project, all health personnel in the
selected urban marginal zones and priority cantons would receive training in family planning, maternal child health and special needs of adolescents. A family planning information sub-system would be developed for national coverage to support the objectives of the programme; and a study would be conducted to determine the impact of abortion in the country. Implementation of the programme would be co-ordinated with the other national institutions working in national child care and family planning such as the Demographic Association of Costa Rica (ADC) and the Social Security Administration (CCSS). Activities would also be co-ordinated with other ongoing efforts supported by international agencies, in particular the Child Survival project being executed by UNICEF/WHO/PAHO and the European Economic Community, and the project being funded by the Kellogg Foundation with the objective of developing a maternal child care service delivery model in accordance with the circumstances and present conditions in the country.

Population information, education and communication

30. Based on the experience of the UNESCO-executed project for the introduction of population education components in the curricula of the third cycle of basic general education (secondary level) and the fourth cycle of diversified education, UNFPA proposes that a second phase be launched in the amount of $250,000 to incorporate population education contents into the primary level of education; to complete and disseminate the results obtained in the first phase, especially in the areas of teacher training, field-testing and reproduction of population education materials; to conduct basic research for the development of materials; to consolidate the technical team established within the Ministry of Education and to establish an evaluation, follow-up and revision mechanism to support the gradual extension of population education throughout the educational system. The population education technical team would be expected to work very closely with the Maternal Child Care and Family Planning Programmes of the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Administration, as well as with the integrated programmes for women and adolescents. UNESCO would continue to co-operate in the execution of the project.

Population dynamics

31. International migration. With the recent change in the dimensions and nature of refugee movements in Latin America, ranging from cases involving small numbers of political exiles to mass movements involving unskilled and uneducated refugees, Costa Rica has become concerned with the problem of how to satisfy the immediate needs in education, housing, health and employment of these thousands of immigrants. UNFPA proposes assistance in the amount of $100,000 to support the Government's efforts to regulate developments that affect the volume, structure, dynamics and distribution of Costa Rica's population through the strengthening of the National System for the Registration of International Migrants. The aim would be to improve not only the quality and coverage of the information on migrants (both foreign and national) who enter and leave the country for various reasons, but also the processing and usage of such data. This would enable Costa Rican officials to measure the volume of these migrations as well as the socio-economic characteristics of the migrants. It would also provide valuable information on the foreign population residing in the country. Furthermore, research on the socio-economic and demographic impact of international migration would be
updated and new lines of investigation developed. Comprehensive analyses of this information would help authorities determine new policies and programmes concerning migration as well as the socio-economic needs of immigrants. UNFPA assistance would cover advisory services, training and equipment. The executing agency would be UNDTCD.

Population policy formulation

32. UNFPA proposes to provide $350,000 in order to consolidate the National System of Socio-Demographic Indicators (SIS) which had been developed during the previous phase of UNFPA assistance. This would, among other things, facilitate the implementation of social policies, including population policies, promoted by the 1986-1990 Development Plan. UNFPA assistance would be used to train personnel working in the different public and private institutions that provide basic information to the SIS in order to improve the data collection systems and the processing and analysis of indicators; to conduct small-scale research to improve the quality of the indicators so that they better reflect the social reality of the country; to develop quality control and evaluation mechanisms for the information and indicators of the SIS; to improve the methodologies used to analyse data and socio-demographic indicators; to support periodic evaluations of the country's social situation at the global, sectoral and regional level; and to disseminate all research and studies developed using the SIS through seminars, workshops, and short-term courses. The Ministry of Planning would co-ordinate the programme with the various participating institutions.

Women, population and development

33. The National Development Plan 1986-1990 establishes that participation of women in productive activities is one of the main strategic areas for the promotion of development. The strategy aims at the formulation of productive programmes addressed to women and their families that would allow them access to income-generating activities. The Plan also promotes legislative measures to protect women against discriminatory practices and the need to increase public and private services for their benefit. In this context, UNFPA proposes assistance in an amount of $200,000 to cover advisory services, equipment and research to help create self-help innovations for women in the Brunca Region of Costa Rica (South Pacific). The project, which would be conducted by an inter-disciplinary team of community development researchers from the University of Costa Rica and from government institutions and co-ordinated by the Ministry of Planning, would have the following objectives: to conduct a systematic evaluation and identification of the needs of the Brunca Region and the city of Golfito in particular; to promote "self-help projects" that would address the needs identified; to promote the direct participation of the women of Golfito in all stages of the project (i.e., planning, implementation, and evaluation); to facilitate the participation of researchers from the social sciences in inter-disciplinary teams; and to demonstrate a model of community development that promotes adoption and diffusion of self-help initiatives.

Special programmes

34. Integrated services for adolescents. UNFPA proposes to support a four-year project to be executed by the Commission for Integrated Assistance to Adolescents,
in an amount of $500,000, to implement two components of the Commission’s programme: one in the area of institutionalization of first- and second-level health care services for adolescents; the other in the area of sexuality and reproduction. For the first component, the objective would be to develop integrated out-patient services for youth in the 157 clinics of the Costa Rican Social Security Administration and the 89 health centres of the Ministry of Health. This would be based on an initial survey to determine available personnel, equipment and infrastructure. Personnel would then be reassigned and resources redistributed in order to establish the specific out-patient services for adolescents. The model would be gradually extended to all six health regions, starting in the first year with those clinics and health centres covering the largest adolescent populations. Health personnel in these regions (doctors, nurses, auxiliaries, social workers) would receive adequate training on specific aspects of adolescence health as well as on biological/psychological/social characteristics of adolescents. For the second component, specialized services on sexuality and reproduction for both sexes and gynaecological services for adolescent females would be developed, following the same strategy as the first component and beginning with the diagnosis proposed in the first level for the gradual extension of coverage ultimately to include all 24 national, regional and peripheral hospitals. To support the health referral mechanism for adolescents, a multi-entry community-based service model would be designed and tested in six communities. The service would draw from the inter-sectoral resources available in each community (religious; community centres; sports clubs; legal). Volunteer personnel would be trained and co-ordinated with the local health centres to promote and follow up on the health status of adolescents in their respective areas. The objective would be to reach the out-of-school population (55.6 per cent of the population) through a dynamic participatory approach. The project would have a very strong IEC component and would develop educational materials to be distributed throughout the country. The Ministry of Education's population education technical team, established with UNESCO/UNFPA support, would provide support for the implementation of this component. UNFPA resources would be used for advisory services, training, research, and equipment.

35. The aging population. At present, Costa Rica's population over 60 years old is 6.56 per cent of the total; according to United Nations projections, that figure will be 14.1 per cent by the year 2000. The Government recognizes that important adjustments will have to be made in the short term on health and social welfare policy guidelines for the aged. UNFPA proposes to support an action-oriented research programme concerning Costa Rica's aging population. Assistance of $100,000 would be provided to help Costa Rican authorities design a programme to deal with the social, economic and health needs of this growing group of the population. The research project would be executed by the National Health Research Institute of the University of Costa Rica. UNFPA assistance would cover advisory services and equipment.

Programme reserve

36. UNFPA proposes to establish a programme reserve of $100,000 to cover as of yet undetermined needs in graduate training in demography and population, a programme to be developed by the University of Costa Rica (Social Sciences School/Demographic Department). Another component to be covered would be the development of the
evaluation and monitoring capacity of the Technical Population Secretariat (Ministry of Planning) to oversee the national population programme. It is expected that training and advisory services would be the main inputs.

Programme management

37. The UNDP office in Costa Rica has been providing administrative support for the UNFPA programme. There is no direct UNFPA programme support contribution. It is recommended that a UNFPA office for programme support be established in Costa Rica. This office would also serve UNFPA programmes in other Central American countries.

Programme co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation

38. The programme and its components would be co-ordinated within the institutional framework provided by the National Council on Population Policy, its technical secretariat within the Ministry of Planning and the Technical Commission on Population. CONAPOPO's technical secretariat is, by law, responsible for the evaluation and monitoring of the national population programme, including international technical co-operation supporting its implementation. In this aspect, it is also assisted by the Ministry of Planning's Department for International Technical Co-operation and Finance. All the institutions, public and private, participating in the programme are members of CONAPOPO, and they are represented in the Technical Commission at the same time. UNFPA participation in evaluation and monitoring would have to be strengthened with the creation of the proposed UNFPA office in Costa Rica.

Financial summary

39. As indicated in paragraph 1, a programme of $2.2 million is proposed covering the corresponding areas of the UNFPA mandate.

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<th>UNFPA regular resources</th>
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V. RECOMMENDATION

40. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) **Approve** the programme for Costa Rica in the amount of $2.2 million for the period of 1988-1991;

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