UNited Nations population fund
proposed projects and programmes

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of the Central African Republic

Support for a comprehensive population programme

Proposed UNFPA assistance: $4.4 million

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

Duration: Five years

Estimated starting date: January 1989

Executing agencies:
- Government of the Central African Republic
- United Nations
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Government co-ordinating agency: Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Demographic facts

Population Total (000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total (000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>1,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>1,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio (/100 females)</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1,483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per cent urban</td>
<td>42.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in year 2000 (000)</td>
<td>3,765</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Functional age groups (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young child: 0-4</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child: 5-14</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth: 15-24</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly: 60+</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women: 15-49</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependency ratios: total</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(/100) Aged 0-14</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65+</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agricultural population density (/hectare of arable land) | 0.97

Population density (/sq. km.) | 4

Average annual change (000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total (000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population increase</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Annual population total</td>
<td>2.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth rate (%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>4.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>0.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crude birth rate (/1000)</td>
<td>44.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude death rate (/1000)</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net migration rate (/1000)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate (/woman)</td>
<td>5.89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross reproduction rate (/woman)</td>
<td>2.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net reproduction rate (/woman)</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (/1000)</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>43.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td>45.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNP per capita (U.S. dollars, 1986)</td>
<td>290</td>
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I. SUMMARY

1. At the request of the Government of the Central African Republic, a priority country for UNFPA assistance, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposes to support a comprehensive population programme in the amount of $4.4 million over a five-year period, beginning in January 1989, in order to assist the country in achieving its population and development objectives. The proposed programme would be the second UNFPA country programme and is a follow-up to the first, which was approved by the Governing Council in 1984 and which ended in 1988.

2. This second country programme takes into account the findings and recommendations of a programming mission that visited the Central African Republic in October 1987; the priority areas identified in the strategy for UNFPA assistance in sub-Saharan Africa (document DP/1987/37); and the Fund’s strategy to deal with issues concerning women, population, and development (document DP/1987/38).

3. The objectives of the programme are: (a) to strengthen maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) activities in order to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity; (b) to strengthen the technical capabilities of various sectoral ministries in the implementation of a comprehensive population information, education and communication (IEC) programme; (c) to strengthen the technical capability of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning in collecting, processing, analyzing and updating socio-demographic data; (d) to contribute towards the Government’s self-reliance in population and development activities through the establishment of a Population Planning Unit and the training of middle- and high-level demographers; and (e) to formulate a strategy for the implementation of the Government’s policy on women and development and assist in its implementation.

4. All projects under the proposed programme, as in all UNFPA-assisted programmes, would 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 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

5. The Central African Republic is a landlocked country of approximately 623,000 square kilometres with an estimated population of about 2.7 million. Forty per cent of the population is under 15 years of age. Based on information provided in a study of population distribution from the 1959-1960 demographic survey and on demographic data from the 1975...
census, it is estimated that 15 per cent of the country's population lives in Bangui, the country's capital. While the population growth rate is 2.5 per cent for the country as a whole, Bangui grows at a much faster rate as a result of considerable rural-urban migration.

6. The economy of the Central African Republic is dominated by agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, and mining, which in 1985 accounted for 46 per cent of the gross national product (GNP) and which employed 95 per cent of the economically active population. The economy is dependent on exports of a few primary products (cotton, coffee, wood, and diamonds), the value of which is subject to constant fluctuations in world market prices. The country's economy lacks dynamism because of the low productivity of the agricultural sector and the low investment capacity of the private sector. Since 1980, the Government has tried to improve the economic situation by adapting three consecutive economic programmes to redress financial and structural imbalances. In spite of these efforts, which culminated in the introduction of a structural adjustment programme, the GNP is stagnating in real terms. With a per capita GNP estimated at US$290 (1986), the Central African Republic remains a least developed country.

7. Nation-wide, it is estimated that 57 per cent of boys and 28 per cent of girls are enrolled in schools. Enrollment ratios in the rural areas are half those in Bangui. The educational system is ineffective and poorly adapted to the country's need for skilled manpower in agriculture and technical fields. The drop-out rate is high because of poor preparation of teachers, a very high pupil/teacher ratio (an average of 70 pupils per teacher), and outdated teaching materials. The high teen-age pregnancy rate, related in part to the absence of sex education, contributes to the high drop-out rate at the secondary-school level. It has been estimated that about 99 per cent (1985) of rural women aged 25 and over have not completed primary education. Some progress has been made in urban areas, but the rate is still very low.

8. Sanitation is generally poor, particularly with respect to the provision of adequate health care and the supply of clean drinking water in rural areas. The infant mortality rate, estimated at 143 per 1000 live births, is high due to low birth weight, a high incidence of premature births and chronic malnutrition. The generally poor sanitary conditions encourage the spread of various infectious and parasitic diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea. There is a high rate of sterility in the Central African Republic, which seems to be related to, among other things, the high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). There are no precise statistics on the incidence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) available; however, according to the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator's 1988 annual report, it is estimated that 8 per cent of the population of Bangui between 15 and 45 years of age is affected by the disease.

9. Most of the country's hospitals and health centres are located in the Bangui region, which is also serviced by 48 per cent of the total health
personnel. In 1987 the country had 126 doctors, 18 pharmacists, 243 nurses (27 per cent located in Bangui), and 204 midwives (57 per cent in Bangui). Family planning services are available in 5 out of 17 health centres in Bangui and in only 5 of the country's 16 prefectures.

10. Women play a predominant role in agricultural production and livestock raising. The heavy work-load borne by women contributes to their poor state of health. Poor nutrition among pregnant women frequently results in miscarriages, still births, and infants with low birth weight. Pregnancies among groups at highest risk contribute to a maternal mortality rate estimated at 600 per 100,000 live births.

11. In 1976 the Government explicitly stated its policy to be pro-natalist. Since then, it has consistently indicated that the level and trends of population growth and fertility are too low. The Government considers the levels of maternal and child mortality and morbidity to be unacceptable. The principal objective of its fertility policy is therefore to improve the health of mothers and children through, among other things, family planning. The spatial distribution of the population is perceived as being inappropriate, and public policy aims to reverse the flow of migrants from rural to urban areas.

12. In early 1982, the Government took a major policy step related to population. It created a Division of MCH/FP in the Department of Public Health within the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The objective was to make the administration of the health sector more efficient and innovative and to provide better services at the decentralized levels of the system. In June 1986, the Government created a Commission on Population Education in Schools under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and composed of the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Scientific Research, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the United States Peace Corps, the Association of Fertility Control Education, and the Central African Women's Union. The Commission has developed a plan of action that includes, among other things, defining the content of a sex education programme in schools; setting up a permanent inter-ministerial committee to manage the sex education programme; and undertaking surveys on the influence of pregnancy on school drop-out rates and on knowledge, attitudes, and practices in relation to STDs. In 1987 the Government established a National Consultative Committee on Women and Development chaired by the Division for Women's Promotion in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The Committee is responsible for defining a national policy for integrating women into the development process.

13. In 1987 the Government, through bilateral and multilateral assistance, formulated a national MCH/FP programme for 1988-1991. It is composed of five sub-programmes aimed at improving the follow-up health care of pregnant women, enhancing the conditions for child delivery and post-natal monitoring, increasing family planning activities, improving the surveillance of infants and children 0-5 years old, and implementing strategies for combating the primary causes of infant mortality. The main objective of the family planning sub-programme is to reinforce the
presence of family planning in the national MCH/FP programme and to improve the acceptance of family planning methods among the population. Also in 1987, the Government officially recognized the Association Centrafricaine pour le Bien-être Familial (ACABEF), the national affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

III. REVIEW OF UNFPA AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO DATE

14. UNFPA assistance to the Central African Republic dates back to 1972 with preparations for the 1975 census, followed by support for MCH/FP activities beginning in 1978. The first UNFPA population programme for the Central African Republic was approved by the Governing Council in June 1984 in the amount of $2.6 million over a five-year period (1984-1988). The programme included activities in the fields of MCH/FP, population IEC, basic data collection, population policy formulation, and promotion of women’s concerns. As of the end of 1988, $2,104,000 had been expended. The remaining $500,000 was to be used for activities in the fields of population education in schools and population policy formulation which unfortunately were not implemented because of a lack of an adequate institutional framework and trained national staff.

Maternal and child health and family planning

15. UNFPA initiated support for MCH/FP activities in 1978. Since 1984, project activities have been financed jointly with UNDP. The long-term objectives of the project, which was executed by WHO, were to reduce infant and maternal mortality and to improve the health of women and children. The short-term objectives were to expand maternal and child health services in rural areas through the development of five regional centres (one for each health region), to introduce and integrate family planning into MCH services, to introduce a system for collecting statistical data on MCH/FP, and to strengthen the institutional capability of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs to implement MCH/FP activities. Total UNFPA assistance through 1988 amounted to $1.34 million, including $235,150 for 1988.

16. Achievements included the introduction of a rudimentary system for MCH/FP data collection; provision of family planning services in seven MCH centres in three provinces and in Bangui; establishment of a Division of MCH/FP, and within it, a Family Planning Unit, in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; and publication of a manual entitled "Human Reproduction" for training MCH/FP personnel in family planning.

17. An evaluation of the project in May 1985 revealed a number of constraints that had hampered the achievement of project objectives: the absence of a national MCH/FP programme with a well-defined strategy and work plan; lack of sufficient personnel and the concentration of available staff in the capital, which impeded the decentralization of activities to the rural areas; the overburdening of the relatively new Division of MCH/FP with too many tasks; the Government’s difficulty in fulfilling its counterpart financial obligations; the country’s dispersed population and
poor infrastructure, which made supervision and follow-up difficult; and
certain cultural factors which, especially in the rural areas, made the
introduction of a family planning programme difficult. There were two
serious constraints in terms of technical assistance: a lack of
co-ordination among the different donors providing assistance; and the
absence of a Chief Technical Adviser from 1984 to 1987. This almost
halted project activities for three years.

Population information, education and communication

18. In the area of population IEC, during the period 1984-1988, UNFPA
provided assistance for strengthening the technical capability of the
Audio-Visual Centre for Community Development of the Ministry of Health
and Social Affairs. The Centre supported an MCH/FP information campaign
with posters and pamphlets. UNFPA provided equipment and training of
local personnel. Total UNFPA assistance amounted to $25,000. The project
was executed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Basic data collection and analysis

19. In 1984, UNFPA and UNICEF jointly financed an infant and child
mortality survey in Bangui. The immediate objectives of the survey were
to provide information on socio-economic differentials in infant and child
mortality; to make this data available for the use of concerned government
institutions; and to set up a permanent central data collection system on
infant and child mortality. The survey was implemented in two stages.
During the first stage (July 1984-June 1985), mothers who lived in Bangui
and had recently given birth were registered. The second stage was to
consist of follow-up sessions with the mothers in their homes. However,
for political and administrative reasons, the second stage was stopped in
mid-course and was re-oriented towards a "Global Analysis of the Situation
of Central African Mothers and Children". A document on this theme was
published in May 1987. At the end of 1987, 47 statistical tables
resulting from project activities were available and preliminary analysis
had been done. The Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques
(IFORD) evaluated the 47 tables and recommended that the data in the
tables be used by a new permanent unit to be established in the Ministry
of Economy, Finance and Planning to continue this analysis. UNICEF
contributed a total of $138,798 during 1984-1987 and UNFPA a total of
$41,540. The project was executed by UNICEF, with the Ministry of Health
and Social Affairs as implementing agency.

20. A population census project, financed jointly by UNFPA and UNDP,
started at the beginning of 1987. Following preparatory work, the census
enumeration took place in December 1988. The project is proceeding well
and the Government gives high priority to the census. It has thus made
available the necessary counterpart staff, provided eight vehicles, and
partially funded the necessary gasoline. UNFPA has contributed $851,784
through 1988 and the budget through 1990 is for an additional $172,510.
UNDP's budget for 1986-1990 is $673,279. The project is being executed by
the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development
Women, population and development

21. In 1985, UNFPA approved a project to support the Women's Organization of the Central African Republic. Activities started in January 1987, with the Division for Women's Promotion in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs serving as implementing agency.

22. Among the achievements of this project are: (a) the creation of a consultative committee to formulate a national policy for the promotion of women, composed of concerned Government entities, the Union of Central African Women, and multilateral, bilateral and private organizations; (b) the completion of two studies on the socio-economic situation of Central African women; (c) the establishment of a documentation centre; (d) the compiling of 11 project profiles for donor funding; and (e) the holding of a seminar in February 1988 to define and make recommendations for a policy to improve the status of women.

23. The Women, population and development project has encountered a number of constraints, including a two-year delay in the arrival of a Chief Technical Adviser, the weakness of the national counterpart structure due to the lack of human resources and internal co-ordination, the large size of the consultative committee (comprising 34 members) and the lack of clear direction for its work; and the lack of clear terms of reference for researchers in their study on the socio-economic status of women. However, corrective action on these shortcomings has begun following a project review by an independent consultant in 1987. Total UNFPA assistance from 1986 to 1988 amounted to $196,384. The project was executed by UNICEF.

Other external assistance

24. The Donors' Roundtable in Geneva in June 1987 identified four sectors as priorities for development assistance to the Central African Republic. These were rural development, education, medium and small enterprises, and transportation. According to the UNDP Resident Co-ordinator's 1987 report, the Central African Republic received a total of approximately $131.5 million in external development assistance in 1987. The United Nations system provided 38.4 per cent of this assistance. Under its fourth country programme (1987-1991) UNDP is providing support to strengthen the national planning system and national institutions, to develop the agricultural sector and rural areas, and to improve the educational system. An important instrument to assist the Government in implementing this programme, as well as the structural adjustment programme, is the establishment of a unit within the UNDP field office staffed by two economists.

25. Among bilateral donors France is by far the most important, having provided 89 per cent of bilateral technical assistance funds to the
country in 1987. Nearly half of the assistance went to the areas of general development policy and planning, and a third went to education. The second most important bilateral donor is the Federal Republic of Germany which, since the beginning of 1988, has been supporting rural radio in eight prefectures airing programmes in "Sango" (the national language). The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assists in the national vaccination programme and helps in the fight against contagious children's diseases. It is also training personnel working in the field of human reproduction and family planning.

26. Some of the main NGOs implementing population-related activities are Family Planning International Assistance (FPIA), which provides contraceptives and other commodities; the International Federation for Family Life Promotion (IFFLP), which provides training, scholarships, services, and educational materials for a natural family planning programme; and IPPF, which, through its local member organization Association Centrafricaine pour le Bien-être Familial, is implementing awareness creation activities with a staff of 40 local organizers. ACABEF is collaborating with the Union of Central African Women to make family planning information and services available and accessible to the population.

IV. PROPOSED PROGRAMME 1989-1993

27. The second country programme for the Central African Republic covering the years 1989-1993 is the result of a dialogue between the concerned ministries, the UNFPA Representative in Bangui, UNFPA headquarters, and the 1987 country programming mission, which included experts from ILO, WHO, ECA as well as independent consultants. The main bilateral donors in the country and NGOs were also consulted.

28. The proposed objectives of UNFPA's second country programme are: (a) to strengthen the MCH/FP activities in order to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity; (b) to strengthen the technical capabilities of various sectoral ministries in the implementation of a comprehensive population IEC programme; (c) to strengthen the technical capability of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning to collect, process, analyze and update socio-demographic data; (d) to contribute towards the Government's self-reliance in population and development activities through the establishment of a Population Planning Unit and the training of middle- and high-level demographers; and (e) to formulate a strategy for the implementation of the Government's policy on women and development and assist in its implementation.

29. The establishment of a Population Planning Unit would constitute the strategic element of the country programme, providing it with a policy framework and direction. IEC activities, an important component of the proposed country programme, would be included in all sectors supported by UNFPA in order to heighten awareness of the importance of population issues among planners, policy-makers, and administrators, as well as among rural and urban inhabitants. The proposed country programme focuses its
activities on the most disadvantaged sections of the population: women, youth (especially school drop-outs), and the poor in rural and urban areas. It would also try to strengthen governmental institutions as part of the Government's effort to improve the efficiency of the public sector and to ensure gradual institutionalization of population and development activities.

30. The programme has been developed within the framework of the 1986-1990 National Development Plan which, in the field of population, aims at reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, fighting the problem of sterility, achieving a more favourable population distribution between rural and urban areas, and ensuring that women and youth benefit from the socio-economic development process.

Maternal and child health and family planning

31. In the field of MCH/FP, the Government gives priority to the close monitoring of pregnant women as a means of reducing the maternal mortality rate. While the Government considers family planning an essential element of MCH, it feels that, at this point, acceptance of such services cannot be expanded without the constant support of information and education activities. The Government also feels that because of the low level of training of MCH/FP personnel family planning objectives should not be overly ambitious.

32. As noted above, UNDP and UNFPA are jointly financing a project in support of a national MCH/FP programme established for 1988-1991. UNDP's assistance aims at maternal and child health and amounts to $1,139,000 during the programme period. The proposed support of UNFPA would be for family planning. The activities undertaken by the two agencies are complementary and would be implemented in an integrated manner. The overall programme approach is that of safe motherhood as elaborated in the Appel de Niamey ("Niamey Call to Action"), which was adopted during the regional Safe Motherhood Conference in Niamey, Niger, 30 January-3 February 1989.

33. The short-term objectives of the proposed UNFPA project are: (a) to restructure the country's MCH/FP infrastructure at the centre and periphery in order to enhance the provision of comprehensive integrated MCH/FP services; (b) to increase awareness of human reproduction and demographic issues among the urban and rural populations with special attention to the issues of STDs and AIDS and with a special effort to reach the male population; (c) to make family planning methods accessible nationally by integrating family planning services into existing health centres (eight of which are currently providing such services at the prefectural level) and into rural MCH subcentres (none of which are presently offering family planning services); and (d) to train MCH/FP personnel at all levels in family planning. Project activities would focus on reaching groups at highest risk: teen-age mothers, multiparous women, women over age 35, and sterile women. Research on the acceptability and availability of family planning services and supplies and their efficiency in reaching women, as well as socio-cultural
research on women’s reproductive behaviour, would be undertaken in the framework of this project. UNFPA proposes to provide $1.3 million for this project. WHO would be the executing agency.

Population information, education and communication

34. In the area of population IEC, UNFPA proposes to support two projects totalling $1.2 million.

35. **In-school population education.** UNFPA assistance in this sector would start with a pre-project activity to define the scope and content of the project and the respective roles of various implementing and funding organizations, including the Government, NGOs, the United Nations and other sources of assistance. This would be done in consultation with the Commission on Population Education in Schools and taking into account its plan of action. A total of $600,000 would be earmarked for the project to cover the cost of a population education expert, administrative support, seminars and other training activities, equipment and supplies, operation and maintenance of equipment, and printing costs. UNESCO would be the executing agency.

36. **Population education out of school.** In order to support its social development programme in urban and rural areas, the Government has requested the assistance of UNFPA to finance a project aimed at motivating the population to adopt a responsible attitude towards parenthood and to participate in the improvement of family and community life. The immediate objectives would be: (a) to provide all categories of trainers in family life education with the means of teaching their target groups about such population issues as MCH, fertility regulation methods, nutrition, protection of the environment and the role of women; (b) to train trainers and fieldworkers from the Department of Social Affairs in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and other interested organizations in family life education and responsible parenthood; and (c) to sensitize the urban and rural community development fieldworkers on important concepts of family life. The project would address men, women and youth, with special attention to the problems of school drop-outs. Apart from developing training materials, the project would use the radio, television and the print media as tools to implement its activities, which would be closely co-ordinated with those undertaken under the MCH/FP project. The project would be executed by ILO, with the Division of Community Development in the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs as the national counterpart and with the collaboration of a committee composed of representatives of relevant government institutions. Proposed UNFPA assistance is $600,000.

Basic data collection and analysis

37. The Central African Republic still acutely lacks basic demographic data. The 1975 census data, which were partially analyzed and published in 1982, are insufficient and too outdated for use in sectoral planning and research. Also, the survey on infant mortality, partially financed by
UNFPA was limited to Bangui and has not yet been fully analyzed. It is recommended that UNFPA support two projects in this field, totalling $450,000.

38. Population census. An enumeration of the population took place in December 1988. The proposed UNFPA assistance would be for a post-enumeration survey; the processing, analysis, and dissemination of census data; and a national seminar on the census results. The census will provide important data on the situation of women in the areas of marriage, fertility, education, occupation and habitat. The analysis of the census data and the national seminar on their utilization would seek to ensure that these data are transformed into a usable tool for socio-economic planning that would improve the condition of women in the country. The analyzed data would also help to identify impediments that hinder women from receiving full benefit from development activities, and would indicate the nature of future projects for UNFPA support in the field of women, population, and development. A total of $250,000 is requested to cover the cost of local staff, travel costs, equipment and supplies, operation and maintenance of equipment and printing. UNDTCD would execute the project.

39. Intercensal survey. Once the census is completed and the data have been analyzed, an intercensal survey would be conducted in 1993 to provide information on the evolution of demographic indicators in the Central African Republic. The survey would benefit from the administrative structure established by the census project and would, using the analyzed census data as a guide, provide up-to-date, analytical information on fertility, mortality, and migration, as well as trends in the evolution of those categories for use in socio-economic development planning. UNFPA assistance in the amount of $200,000 would finance the cost of international expertise, local personnel, office supplies, operation and maintenance of equipment, and printing.

Population policy formulation

40. It is clear from the 1986-1990 National Development Plan that information on the Central African Republic's population and demographic variables does not form an integral part of sectoral planning. The Government therefore sees a need for assistance in this area. It is proposed that UNFPA should support the establishment of a Population Planning Unit within the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning. During a pre-project phase, a National Population Commission would be established and the groundwork prepared for setting up the Unit.

41. Once established, the immediate objectives of the Population Planning Unit would be to assist the Government in formulating a national population policy and in proposing ways to promote the integration of women's concerns into the Government's general socio-economic development policies and plans. The activities to be implemented by the Population Planning Unit would consist of: (a) studies and research on such themes
as the main demographic and economic characteristics of the Central African Republic, its population laws, existing planning practices, migratory trends, and other relevant subjects; (b) training through national seminars on various population-related subjects, study tours, and short- and long-term courses in demography for government planners; (c) awareness creation through the mass media (radio, television, the print media); and (d) co-ordination, in close collaboration with the National Population Commission, of national population activities funded by UNFPA and other donors. The Population Planning Unit would act as a technical secretariat for this Commission. UNFPA would provide $650,000 to cover the cost of an international expert, a United Nations Volunteer or associate expert, administrative personnel, equipment, operation and maintenance of equipment, and printing. A national counterpart is presently being trained and would be available to act as a project co-ordinator. Two other national counterpart personnel would have to be designated. The executing agency would be determined at a later stage.

Women, population and development

42. The 1988 seminar to define a national policy for the promotion of Central African women made a number of recommendations that would guide national policy in this area and would constitute the general framework of UNFPA's support. UNFPA assistance would, on the one hand, consist of specific interventions such as training and awareness creation activities, and on the other hand, seek to create a situation where all government activities would take women's concerns into consideration. UNFPA proposes to support three projects for a total amount of $500,000. The projects are as follows.

43. Institutional support to the Division for Women's Promotion. UNFPA would support, in the amount of $250,000, the restructuring and strengthening of the Division through the provision of technical assistance and equipment; training in management, supervision and communication techniques; and funding of small statistical surveys and research. An executing agency would be identified at a later stage.

44. Support for establishing new marketing channels for foodstuffs. This project, which would cost $250,000 over three years, would be funded jointly by UNDP and UNFPA and executed with the technical assistance of local organizations involved in community development activities. UNFPA's assistance of $50,000 would be used to integrate a population IEC element into the project's training activities.

45. Programme to elaborate a Central African family law. Activities would include undertaking a national inventory of customary practices relating to the family (marriage, custody of children, distribution of possessions, etc.) and analyzing their evolution over time. This information would be used to help draft a Central African family law. The project would be funded jointly by UNDP ($110,000) and UNFPA ($200,000) over a two-year period. It would be implemented by the "Haut Commissariat à la Présidence chargé de la recherche scientifique et technique".
Programme reserve

46. An amount of $300,000 would be reserved for complementary activities to be developed within the framework of the programme. Discussions have already taken place for possible collaboration with UNICEF in certain activities at the village level. These include, among other things, the use of mass media for social mobilization and co-ordination with the unit established by UNICEF in the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning to analyze the situation of mothers and children. UNFPA would also consider providing additional resources to the Association Centrafricaine pour le Bien-être Familial to extend its network of local organizers.

Co-ordination, evaluation and monitoring

47. Procedures would be established to ensure effective internal co-ordination between all components of UNFPA's second country programme and to avoid overlapping with the population activities of other donors. These would include, among others, (a) the creation of a co-ordinating committee composed of representation from WHO, UNESCO, ILO, DTCD and other executing agencies of each UNFPA-funded project, as well as from the UNFPA field office and national counterpart organizations; and (b) the convening of this committee for one meeting per quarter to exchange information and co-ordinate activities. Moreover, the UNFPA Country Director would, once fielded, hold regular donor co-ordination meetings to discuss ongoing and planned activities in the field of population. The Country Director would report annually on both co-ordination mechanisms to UNFPA headquarters. Co-financed projects would be required to have joint evaluations and, to the extent possible, lessons learned from evaluations of projects financed through other multilateral donor agencies would be disseminated.

48. In order to ensure that the programme is being implemented according to the work plan, the programme would be reviewed at the half-way point in 1991. Furthermore, some programme components would be evaluated by independent consultants in addition to the usual monitoring mechanisms such as progress reports and tripartite review meetings.

49. The first UNFPA country programme was monitored by the UNDP Resident Representative, who also serves as the UNFPA Representative, and the UNFPA Deputy Representative and Senior Adviser on Population (now designated as the UNFPA Country Director) based at that time in Yaounde, Cameroon. Considering the importance of the second country programme, the posts of UNFPA Country Director, National Programme Officer and programme assistant have been established.

Financial summary

50. As indicated in paragraph 1, a programme of $4.4 million covering all areas of UNFPA's mandate is proposed.
### V. RECOMMENDATION

51. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) **Approve** the programme for the Central African Republic in the amount of $4.4 million for a five-year period 1989-1993;

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

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<th>UNFP A regular resources</th>
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<td>Maternal child health and family planning</td>
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