

52735

Distr.  
LIMITED

POP/INF/128  
3 May 1973

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third Meeting of Non-United Nations  
Organizations interested in  
Population Work in Africa  
Addis Ababa, 7-9 May 1973

REPORT ON IPPF ACTIVITIES ON POPULATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

M73-967

## REPORT ON IPPF ACTIVITIES ON POPULATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

The International Planned Parenthood Federation is an international non-governmental organisation engaged in the provision of support to national family planning associations throughout the world. In 1972 the IPPF provided financial or material aid or both to family planning agencies in more than a hundred different countries, including nineteen countries in Africa. The organisation also provided a direct grant to the Government of Botswana to assist its national family planning programme. In Burundi and the Seychelles, the IPPF continued to support the work of two individual doctors engaged in family planning.

A major aspect of IPPF work has been its efforts to awaken public and Governmental interest in the population problem and family planning. This has been done through the pioneer work of voluntary associations concerned with such problems as maternal and child health and the effects of illegal abortions.

The IPPF assists such associations to open family planning and MCH clinics, and to educate public opinion. The success of this work in helping families to raise their standard of living and improve their health, tends to lead to public recognition of the value of family planning and eventual government support of the association. In some cases, as in Mauritius, it has eventually led to the integration of family planning in the national health programme. In other cases it has led to varying degrees of cooperation in family planning work between governmental and voluntary family planning agencies.

In Africa, most family planning activities, whether by voluntary organisations, or by governmental agencies, have needed some international support. In the main, this support has come from the IPPF whose principal aims are to 'stimulate and assist the formation and integration of family planning associations in all countries' and to 'encourage the practical implementation of family planning services'. The activities of the IPPF also extend to the promotion of family planning by organising and supporting pilot projects (such as the Kenya Mobile Unit Scheme) and providing training facilities (such as the Family Welfare Centre, Nairobi).

### IPPF POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA IN 1972

#### Research and Evaluation

In late 1972 a Research Officer was appointed at the IPPF Regional Office Nairobi. His tasks include the compilation of an inventory of population research (related to family planning) in sub-Saharan Africa. The initial inventory has been completed. It is expected that the Regional Office will complete and publish an annual inventory of recent and current population research in Africa. This, it is believed, will help to coordinate research activities in this field, show what are the gaps in needed research and stimulate population research related to family planning.

The Research Department of the Regional Office, which is being expanded, is also involved in the evaluation of various IPPF projects, such as the Kenya Mobile Unit Scheme and the Family Welfare Centre, Nairobi. Evaluation studies undertaken during 1972, included a study of the continuation rate among family planning acceptors at the Family Welfare Centre. The second stage of the study which is still going on will go farther into the factors affecting family planning acceptance and the continuation rate among acceptors. While the study deals specifically with the Family Welfare Centre, it is expected to provide information more widely applicable to family planning in Kenya.

The Research and Evaluation Department is collaborating with the IPPF Central Office, London, in the evaluation of the Kenya Mobile Unit Scheme and will take over the evaluation of the Scheme in 1973/1974. During 1973 and 1974 the Department also plans to carry out evaluative studies of various other IPPF and Family Planning Association projects. The studies will be aimed at both determining and improving the efficacy of the projects concerned and finding generalisations applicable to family planning work in various African countries.

In order to improve evaluation in the Africa Region, the Department plans to hold a workshop for family planning association Executive Secretaries in 1974 to promote understanding of the techniques and uses of evaluation. It also plans to hold a training workshop for the promotion of the appropriate skills among those people in the family planning association who are concerned with Evaluation.

Outside the field of Evaluation, the Research and Evaluation Department will compile and publish an annual inventory of recent and current population research relevant to family planning in Africa. It is expected that the inventory will be published in 1973.

#### INFORMATION SERVICES AND CLEARING HOUSE ACTIVITIES

During 1972 the Information and Education Department of the IPPF Africa Regional Office organised an international workshop for family planning fieldworkers. The first part of the workshop was held in Mombasa, Kenya in October-November 1973. The Mombasa section of the workshop was attended by persons involved in family planning fieldwork in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, areas as far separated as Lesotho, Botswana and Mauritius on the one hand and Ethiopia on the other. There were also resource personnel from family planning associations in Ghana and Nigeria.

In November 1972, the Information and Education Department held a seminar for Information and Education Officers in N . . . The seminar was attended by I&E Officers from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Mauritius and other African countries. The African Medical Research Foundation and the PBFL/FAO provided speakers for the seminar. As part of the fieldworker workshop, the Information and Education Department also set

up a travelling fieldworker training team, composed of outstanding fieldworkers from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Botswana. Earlier this year, the team made experimental visits to Lesotho and Zambia.

During the course of 1972, the Information and Education Department also provided a variety of material to the various family planning associations in the region. These included posters on family planning and health education and a variety of booklets on population.

The Department also published a bi-monthly newsletter, Africa-Link for the Regional Office.

During this period, the Regional Information and Education Officer, established close links with communications personnel in other organisations concerned with family planning in the Africa Region such as the FAO's Programme for Better Family Living (PBFL), and such links are being strengthened. The Regional Office has also held discussions with the Ford Foundation on proposals for a joint communications training project and with others on the question of a joint UNESCO-IPPF Clearing House for Population information.

Throughout 1972, the Department was involved in providing a wide variety of I&E services to the various family planning associations in the Africa Region. These include technical assistance and a wide variety of materials, such as posters, booklets and film strips. The Department also provides a liaison service which makes available to the associations, the Information and Education resources of the IPPF Central Office in London which provides its own clearing house services.

The Information and Education Department will greatly expand its services over 1973 and 1974. The successful programme of training workshops and seminars will be continued and expanded. The Regional Office's acquisition of its own offset printing facilities will enable it to provide a still larger variety of information services to the agencies engaged in family planning in Africa. The Information and Education Department also plans to make training films which, it is expected, will help greatly in improving the quality of and extent of fieldwork in the Region over the next two years. The Department's plans include the provision of films made available by the Central Office in London, which can be adapted for local use with the use of magnetic sound stripes which can be dubbed in the local languages.

In general, the Regional Office's plans for 1973 and 1974, include a great expansion in I&E activities and technical assistance to the various family planning associations.

## TRAINING

Training is on two levels: that carried out by the various member associations and that carried out in the context of the regional activities of the IPPF. On both levels, training is being increasingly professionalized and systematised. The number of associations offering some form of training is increasing, though there is a considerable variety in the size and level of institutionalisation of training programmes. This, however, reflects differences in local needs and resources. In Ghana, where the association has been deeply concerned with training, the association is mainly concerned with the training of fieldworkers, while doctors and nurses are trained under Government programmes.

Much of the IPPF Africa Region's training effort has been centered around the Family Welfare Centre in Nairobi. The Family Welfare Centre is a combination service-training institution entirely supported by the IPPF. The Centre is the main training institution for family welfare workers in Kenya and also trains personnel from other countries in the Africa Region. The FWC serves for the training of personnel from the Family Planning Association of Kenya as well as for trainees sponsored by the Kenya Ministry of Health. The Centre provides short training courses for field educators, paramedical personnel and doctors. The courses cover motivational work, contraception and the setting up of family planning clinics.

In 1972, the Family Welfare Centre held a number of training courses for family planning personnel from several African countries, including Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, the Seychelles and Swaziland. The courses of varying duration, included a three-week course in Family Planning and the Media and a two-week course for family planning nurses, in June. In August, these were followed by a course for the Family Planning Association of Kenya's Field Educators. In late October, there was a course for doctors from the Kenya Ministry of Health, and in December, a family planning course for Public Health nurses. In the course of the year, some 136 people on various levels received family planning training at the Family Welfare Centre. Among them were 50 medical students, 59 nurses and midwives, 4 doctors, 13 social workers and 10 field educators.

The Fieldworker training activities of the IPPF Africa Region at its Mombasa Workshop and the Travelling Training Team, have already been mentioned.

The IPPF Africa Region's plans for 1973-1974, include an expansion of its training activities. In addition to the Fieldworker training workshop to be held in Ibadan, Nigeria from 7-17th May, several training courses have been, or will be held at the Family Welfare Centre, Nairobi, during 1973 and 1974. For 1973, these include a family planning course for doctors in late January; a course for nurses in March; a course for field educators in May; another course for nurses in July, a course for doctors in September and a course for French-speaking doctors in November.

The Africa Region of the IPPF has also approved plans for a major educational project for the Region. The project will involve a family planning education and training programme for leaders, teachers and trainers in the fields of mass media, community development and extension services. The trainees will be prepared to pass on their knowledge to their staff or trainees, on their return home, so that it can form part of their normal daily activities and ensure that family planning is fully integrated with other community development activities. The trainees will also be expected to organise training workshops in their own countries. To help them in doing this, the project will provide consultant and material support for those trained, and will undertake the production of manuals and other materials in selected languages for the trainees, service personnel and clients.

The project will involve the establishment of two regional training centres in Africa, following a feasibility study being carried out this year. The study is being made by three consultants in conjunction with the IPPF offices in London and Nairobi. The project is expected to become operational early in 1974.