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**POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 1990-1991, EXAMINATION
OF THE APPROVED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1992-1993 AND
CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1994-1995**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, the secretariat implemented the 1990-1991 work programme and submitted to the legislative organs a proposed programme for 1991-1992, which was approved by the Forty sixth session of the General Assembly. It is worth recalling that the 1991-1992 draft work programme had been submitted to the last session of this Conference in January 1990.
2. The Medium Term Plan 1992-1997 was approved by the Forty fifth session of the General Assembly in 1990, after the latter had decided earlier in 1989 to extend the previous Plan 1985-1989 for another period of two years, i.e for 1990-1991, following the financial crisis of the United Nations.
3. It is in that framework that the XXVI Session of the Conference of Ministers adopted the proposed work programme and priorities for the 1992-1993 biennium, as first package within the Medium-Term Plan.
4. This report outlines the implementation of activities of the secretariat in the field of population during the 1990-1991 biennium. It presents the approved workprogramme for 1992-1993 and the 1993-1994 draft outline for review, in the framework of overall orientation given to it by the legislative organs, with reference, in particular, to the Kilimandjaro Programme of Action (KPA) and other needs and priorities, as they may be expressed in the debate.
5. A characteristic feature of the 1990-1991 period for the member States was the continuation of implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and the redefinition, by many of them, of the role of the State and the Public Sector. The preoccupations with the restructuring of the economies and the setting of new organisational rules regarding the decision making process left almost no room for considering long term issues. However, population questions gained more interest among policy makers, as a result, in particular, of growing awareness among them.
6. Following the debates at the Population Commission and ECOSOC, the decision was taken to convene, in 1994, an International population Conference, to be preceded by Regional consultations. Hence, preparations will be made for the Third African Population Conference to be convened in 1992.
7. These developments imply some shifts in both the perception of population problems among African governments and the services these may expect from institutions providing assistance.

II. Implementation of the 1990-1991 work programme

8. The 1990-1991 work programme continued to address population issues, in line with the needs of Member states, as expressed in the KPA, and UNPAEERD. Specifically, the areas covered by the programme of work include problems of population redistribution, population policies and planning, regional training. In addition, research on population

dynamics, the integration of population factors into national development planning and policies, population information and dissemination activities continued to form an important component of the work programme.

9. The implementation of the programme resulted in some interesting findings highlighted below.

Subprogramme 1:

10. Under this subprogramme, outputs have been implemented. Besides, the documents submitted to the last session of the joint Conference, the following outputs deserve particular mention :

i) Manual for the integration of population variables into development plans in African countries at the macro-level and in the agricultural sector:

11. The Manual attempts to operationalise the earlier 'ECA Guidelines for integrating population variables in the development plans (IPDP) of ECA member States'. It addresses two issues, the meaning of IPDP, at the macro and agricultural sector levels, and the activities to foster the operationalisation of the IPDP process (ie. the conceptual framework, institution building, training and information dissemination), which are explained with illustrations, again, at the macro and agricultural sector levels. In particular, the scenario building process of FAO's computerised system for agricultural and population planning assistance and training (CAPP) as a tool in agricultural sector analysis (ASA) is described in the ANNEX with an illustration using CAPP's Ghanain data base.

ii) Statistical compendium on contraceptive prevalence and practice in African countries, [document ECA/POP/90/1/1.2 (ia)]:

13. The objective of the compendium was to establish a data base with available statistical data on knowledge and practice of family planning covering as many countries as possible. The first edition covers the following countries: Burundi, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria (Ondo State), Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, and Zimbabwe. Apart from the statistical data presented, a general overview of the data and specific commentaries on each country are included in the publication. The compendium which will be updated periodically, was well received and found to be useful by many end users.

iii) Guidelines on improving delivery and evaluation of population and family planning programmes in African countries, [document ECA/POP/TP/91/2/1.2 (ii)]:

14. The guidelines review various factors affecting delivery and evaluation of population and family planning programmes and make suggestions on how to improve the programmes. They stress the need to treat population and family planning programmes as integral parts of socio-economic development planning and focus on formulation of programmes and policies; involvement of men, women, youth and communities in various

aspects of programmes; reform of laws affecting programmes; access to family planning and quality services; management and financial support to the programmes; human resources requirements; infrastructure, material supplies and logistics arrangements; information, education and communication (IEC); approaches to delivery of family planning programmes; and evaluation.

15. The guidelines are of interest to those involved in various aspects of population and family planning programmes e.g. governments, non-governmental organizations, planners, policy makers, administrators, managers, programme officers, and researchers.

(iv) Evaluation of experiences of ECA member states in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kilimandjaro Programme of Action (KPA) on population.

16. This output was presented to the 6th session of the Joint Conference in January 1990. The evaluation was based on the outcome of missions to 5 member states namely Cameroun, Ghana, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia.

17. The review of the National Population Programmes (NPPs) in all 5 countries highlighted the aspects of the KPA that had mostly received attention as well as those that had been neglected thus far. The review (i) noted that the MCH/FP was a major instrument in the NPPs of the 5 countries to the neglect or rather marginalization of the non-family planning components (eg. community involvement and children/youth). The assessment then emphasized the need to focuss on the latter as an integral part of the NPP; (ii) stressed that much as the countries (in the region) were at varying stages of population policy development, it was pertinent to continuously examine some of the lessons learnt from an evaluation of the population policy development process (particularly regarding the conceptual framework, institution building, training and information dissemination) in order to evolve some 'modus operandi' for the member states at much earlier stages of the integration continuum.

Subprogramme 2: Demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development

The following outputs were delivered:

a) Life-table analysis of birth intervals with illustrative applications in selected African countries [(ECA/POP/TP/90/2.1 (a)]

18. The purpose of this study was to illustrate the application of life table techniques to the analysis of birth intervals, using data from national fertility surveys conducted in Cameroon, Kenya and Senegal, as part of the World Fertility Survey Programme. The approach adopted was based on the partition of the family building process into a series of stages, including marriage and births of successive orders. The transition from each parity to the next was studied, with marriage defined as the starting point. The analysis of the results has demonstrated the greater sensitivity of birth interval analysis compared with conventional methods for the study of age, cohort and period effects on the process of family

building (parity progression ratio and distribution of birth intervals). The study was found of great use by most of the end-users.

b) Fertility estimates in selected African countries : source of data, methods of estimates, fertility levels, patterns and trends: [ECA/POP/TP/91/3/2.1 (b)]

19. The paper attempted a review of data sources and methods of estimating fertility indexes in Africa. It was found that, with the exceptions of countries where direct techniques of fertility parameters are applicable, indirect techniques of estimation are still widely used in the majority of African countries due to lack of completeness of vital statistics and the poor quality of data from censuses and surveys.

20. The World Fertility Survey (WFS) and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) provided, in some African countries, a clearer picture of the fertility situation in Africa, although the basic problem of data quality remains unresolved.

21. From the available estimates derived from various sources, Africa stands as the continent with the highest fertility levels due to early and universal marriage, low use of efficient contraceptive methods and, hence, long exposure to risk of pregnancy. Childbearing is intense through all reproductive ages, the modal fertility rates levels being observed at age groups 20-29. The fertility levels remained quite stable during the two last decades for most African countries, with, however, evident declines being observed only in Northern Africa and Mauritius, and, more recently, in the following countries included in the study: Senegal, Togo, Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe.

c) Mortality patterns, trends, differentials and life tables in African countries.

22. This output covered five countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, namely Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The results of this study indicated that morbidity levels were comparatively still higher than for developed Western Countries, but have since been falling. Infant and child mortality declined faster than adult mortality in all the five countries. This could be attributed to health programmes which were instituted to combat some childhood diseases like measles, diarrhoea and other infectious and parasitic diseases. Although mortality levels were higher in Malawi than Zimbabwe or Botswana, mortality was higher for males than females in all the countries. The study stressed the importance of knowledge about mortality levels, because it is a pre-requisite for designing and implementing programmes aimed at accelerating socio-economic development with better health planning in order to reduce high levels of morbidity and mortality among the people.

d) Guidelines on Evaluating the Interrelationships among Infant and Child Mortality, Socio-economic factors and Fertility in Africa.

23. This study included the following ten countries from all sub-regions: Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Nigeria including Ondo State, Senegal and the Sudan. Data collected as part of the World Fertility Survey (WFS) and the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) were used in the study. This particular study presented and utilized recent demographic methods and techniques of analysis, partly to encourage

demographers and other researchers on the application and procedures to follow in analysing interrelationships, particularly the linkages of mortality and fertility.

24. It was observed that available demographic data from the two internationally comparable surveys' data were robust and results of analysis suggested that strong links exist between mortality and fertility. Three major determinants of the mortality-fertility link were maternal age, length of birth interval and education of the mother. It was recommended that childbearing, if confined to central ages of women giving birth, would influence societies to achieve lower levels of fertility and child mortality. In addition, relatively longer birth intervals of one to two years would also contribute to efforts to reduce high levels of fertility and mortality. Above all, it was observed that provision of education to women would result in lower levels of fertility and mortality. However, the study concluded that more effort should continue to develop better methodologies of data collection and analysis.

e) Guidelines on the methods of evaluating the socio-economic and demographic consequences of refugees in African countries,

25. Against the background of the presence of refugee populations in African countries for sometime now, and the elusiveness of voluntary repatriation for a significant percent, the paper presents guidelines on methods of evaluating the impacts of the movements. To this end, it adapted evaluation techniques from the methodological literature of evaluation and migration, with particular reference to data collection and analysis.

Subprogramme 3: Regional training, research and information

26. The division continued to give support to the regional training and research institutes CERPOD, IFORD and RIPS. Separate reports on these institutions are presented under separate agenda item.

a) Population Information Network

27. The Popin Africa Project continued through the Biennium to produce the African Population Newsletter, the directory of African Demographers and other pertinent publications. Detailed activities of this project are reviewed under separate agenda item (40).

b) Regional Demographic Advisory Services:

The team of three advisors continued to give advisory services to member States in the field of demographic, socio-economic and environmental data evaluation, analysis and utilisation; assistance in the dissemination of findings and implications of census and survey data analysis; integration of population and related variables in the planning process; training of nationals and human resources development and institution building through national, regional, sub-regional workshops and assistance to regional demographic training centres and publication of workbooks and other aids on data evaluation and analysis and training in the use of micro computers in data manipulation including preparation of relevant, softwares for use by member States.

With many countries having taken or planning to take their 1990 round of censuses and intercensal surveys, the demand on advisory services has escalated calling for additional resources in order to meet the needs.

The ECA/RIPS Workbook on demographic data evaluation and analysis which was an outcome of the workshop has been circulated to member States and has been found to be useful. A French version is being prepared.

Arising out of a workshop by ECA on the use of micro computers in data evaluation and analysis, a set of programmes have been prepared for data analysis and particularly mortality estimation and has been tested on data from some countries. This set of programmes is being fine tuned and will be made available to member States in the coming year. A similar workshop for French speaking countries was held in November 1991.

i) Conference of Ministers

28. The Twenty fifth and Twenty sixth sessions of the Conference of Ministers, both, considered population as an agenda item and discussed, successively, the following two papers :

- Populations issues for ECA member States during the 1990's; paper presented to the 16th Session of the ECA Conference of Ministers, Tripoli, May 1990, E/ECA/CM.16/10.

29. The paper highlighted the priority areas in population for the 1990s. The ministers recommended a wide distribution of the paper to all member states.

- Implications of the apparent impact of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) on population; paper presented at the 26th session of the ECA conference of Ministers, May 1991, E/ECA/CM.17/10

30. It was found that SAPs have had negative impacts on african economies that adopted them and that caution should be exercised regarding generalisation of these experiences, since only few countries have experienced some positive results.

ii) Participation in other meetings

31. Besides attending the sessions of the Conference of Ministers, the Division attended also the Twenty sixth session of the Population Commission, which served also as a Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Population Conference

III. Approved Programme of work 1992-1993

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32. A change was introduced in the structure of the Programmes of the whole United Nations Secretariat with the objective to reduce significantly the number of Programmes.

Whereas Population was one programme in the ECA secretariat, now the whole set of activities of ECA is considered as one Programme and Population has become a subprogramme.

33. The work programme will continue to address population issues, in line with the needs of member States, as expressed in the Kilimandjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-Reliant Development and the fourth United Nations Strategy for Development. In particular, it will be dealing with issues aiming at facilitating the integration of population factors into socio-economic development planning in the region; assisting in formulating and implementing relevant population programmes and policies, in evaluating family planning programmes, in establishing or strengthening national population information systems, and in analysing and utilizing demographic data, as well as in training of related personnel. Moreover, studies, research and/or training workshops will be undertaken on the evaluation of family planning and birth spacing programmes, fertility, mortality, population distribution and urbanization.

Activities:

1. Parliamentary services

34. Parliamentary documentation: eight reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on population;* the interrelationship between infant and child mortality and fertility levels and their policy implications, in selected ECA member States; an assessment of the socio-economic impact of refugee movements in selected African countries; an evaluation of urban migration policies in selected African countries; updating of knowledge on African population size and dynamics: highlights from the 1980 and 1990 rounds of population censuses conducted in ECA member States; ECA regional demographic training and research institutes; population activities in 1990-1991, examination of the approved programme of work for 1992-1993 and consideration of the draft work programme for 1994-1995; identification of obstacles, problems and suggested solutions for self-reliant development and sustainability of national population information facilities in ECA member States.

2. Published materials

(a) Four recurrent publications:

Demographic Handbook for Africa (2 issues); African Population Newsletter (4 issues); African Population Studies Series;** list of ECA publications on population;

(b) Nine non-recurrent publications:

Assessment of formulation and implementation of national population programmes in the 1990;** manual for the integration of population factors in human resource development with particular reference to educational sector planning; assessment of the methodology and data from the World Fertility and Demographic Health Surveys: implications for future

Demographic Enquiries in Africa; assessment of mortality levels, trends and differentials in relation to the goal of "Health for all" by 2000 in ECA member States;* correlation of changing infant and child mortality and fertility in relation to development programmes in selected ECA member States; relationship between environmental and population factors with particular reference to mortality in selected ECA member States;* alternatives to traditional approaches in the formulation and implementation of family planning programmes in African countries; strategies to improve contraceptive use to influence demographic trends in African countries; consistency of United Nations population projections with those produced by selected ECA member States;

(c) **Technical material:**

Development and maintenance of database for population policy, mortality and morbidity, fertility, population distribution/urbanization and family planning.

3. Operational activities:

Two workshops on integration of population variables in development planning in Africa (XB); and on the role of women in the development process in ECA member States: strategies and policy implications (XB).

4. Coordination, harmonization and liaison:

Participation at ACC inter-agency working group meeting reviewing demographic estimates and projections; attendance at meetings of the UNDP Governing Council, UNFPA inter-agency consultative meetings and Population Commission on issues of population and demography.

IV. Work programme 1994-1995 - Tentative Outline

The Committee may wish to review this outline and suggest to retain, among the proposals, the most useful and feasible ones:

1. An evaluation of existing infrastructural arrangements for integrating population variables in development plans of ECA member states.
2. A Manual for Integration of population factors in development planning in the health sector for ECA member states.
3. Patterns, causes and consequences (for development planning) of female migration in African countries.
4. A review of patterns, causes and consequences (for development planning) of international migration in selected African countries.

5. Assessment of achievements in mortality reduction targets of the 'health for all by the Year 2000' in selected African countries.
6. The interrelationship between population and environment and their influence on socio-economic development planning in selected African countries.
7. Socio-economic and demographic consequences of AIDS in African countries.
8. Relationships between infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in the least developed countries in Africa.
9. A statistical compendium of the contribution of traditional birth attendants in the health delivery system of African countries.
10. Second edition of the Statistical Compendium and contraceptive prevalence and practice in african countries.
11. Compoarative Study on Family planning and birth spacing programmes in african countries.
12. Family planning programme targets in relation to fertility reduction in selected African coutries.
13. Recent (i.e. using WFS and DHS data) fertility levels, differentials and trends in ECA member states: analysis and prospects.
12. Indirect estimates of levels and trends of fertility for small geographic areas in selected African countries.