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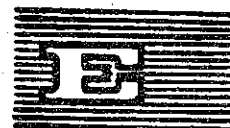
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Working Group on Fertility Studies and
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DRAFT PLANS OF
PILOT STUDIES ON FERTILITY, INFANT MORTALITY
AND EVALUATION OF POPULATION PROGRAMMES

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POPULATION PROGRAMMES

Objective

1. Pilot studies on fertility, infant mortality, and evaluation of population programmes are proposed with the objective of providing guidelines for such studies in the African countries which plan to embark, or have already embarked, on such projects. In addition, the studies would provide live material for laboratory work and research for the staff and trainees of the regional demographic centres.
2. The plans will be finalized on the basis of comments and suggestions received from the Working Group on Fertility Studies and Evaluation of Population Programmes.

Tentative project outline

3. Present limited budget provisions, with an anticipated increase as required, may be used for pilot-seeding operations, in several countries.
4. One study is proposed to be made in Ethiopia under the direct supervision of the ECA Population Programme Centre, and one each by the two new demographic centres - English- and French-speaking respectively - to be established south of Sahara. The project may further be co-ordinated with the proposed 1970 Fertility Survey Project of the Demographic Centre in Cairo. These will constitute the United Nations component of the study. The Population Programming Officers of the United Nations will be invited to assist in the programme in their respective areas of operation. The permission of the countries in conducting field-studies will, of course, be sought.
5. Participation in this programme may also be expected from a number of other countries in Africa. ECA might provide assistance in planning, pooling of country results and in the consolidated processing and analysis of country data. More specifically, such assistance may include: (a) advice on design (sample, schedule, survey); (b) Spot advice on inspection of field work; (c) financing of participation by the country representative in technical meetings to develop, harmonize and improve methodology applicable to African conditions; and (d) similar financing of participation in the study-tour on evaluation of population policies.
6. First emphasis would be on methodology of research. The studies in the countries should have a standard core in regard to concepts, definitions, schedule framing, sample design, tabulation, and analysis: a two- or three-variant approach might be adopted to suit the varying conditions obtaining in the different countries.
7. The countries may also like to expand the methodological study to enquire about various aspects of population and its relation to economic

and social development, by increasing the sample, adding supplementary questions, extending the scope of the analysis, etc., to meet their own needs.

8. The project would be in the nature of demographic studies for local areas, of fertility and infant mortality and also cover knowledge, attitude, practice of family planning, extending into evaluation studies of national population programmes in countries where these are appropriate.

9. A great deal of high-level professional work, including technical coordination, is involved in the project. The project formulation has to be kept flexible and somewhat open, till negotiations with prospective participating countries are completed through exploratory letters, followed by contacts through the Regional Demographic Training and Research Centres and the ECA Population Programme Centre. Various alternative combinations, say for only 3 or 4 countries participating, with a larger sample and more intensive assistance (extended to field-work for example, may also be visualized.

Financing

10. At present the provisional budget estimates are the following: 1969 - \$15,000; 1970 - \$20,000; 1971 - \$25,000. The project under the Cairo Demographic Centre is at present considered to be financed independently.

11. The participating countries are expected to find the counterpart funds for field-work (some may perhaps also secure direct bi-lateral governmental or foundation assistance for this) - costs of schedules, investigators, supervisors, travelling within the country, general establishment, scrutiny and editing of completed schedules, and punching of cards.

12. It appears that the budget provisions will prove inadequate and specific requests will be made to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities when the project is formulated in details.

Timing

13. Field-work may be started simultaneously, or preferably in sequence in order to benefit from the cumulated experiences, in all the participating countries as from July 1970 following the Working Group on Fertility Studies and Evaluation of Population Programmes. On the basis of the preliminary analysis of data and experiences, an expert Group is proposed to be convened early in 1971 to assess the progress of the studies made and advise on future plans.

14. A consolidated report will be prepared by the ECA Secretariat and the Regional Demographic Centres to be presented to the African Population Conference late in 1971; reports from the individual countries would also be presented to the Conference.