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IFORD

PROGRESS REPORT



## A. SUMMARY

This document briefly describes the situation and main activities of the Institut de formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD) during the 1991-1993 biennium and reviews the future prospects of the Institute in the light of the major developments that have taken place during the period under consideration and whose consequences will determine how the institute fares in the short and medium terms.

Among the major events of the period under review were the following:

- (a) The admission in October 1991, of the seventeenth intake comprising 33 students from 19 African States;
- (b) Continuation of five research projects whose execution started during the previous biennium, and the commencement of three new research projects;
- (c) Publication of a number of research findings (reports, articles) in the various publications of the Institute in collaboration with external partners;
- (d) Organization in Addis Ababa on 28 and 29 May 1992, of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Institute;
- (e) Signing on 22 July 1992 by Cameroon, ECA and UNFPA of the Agreement integrating IFORD into the University institutions of the host country;
- (f) Abolition, on 30 June 1992, of the posts of UN experts/teachers at IFORD and the recruitment, in October 1992 of the new team of teachers pursuant to the norms and procedures of the University of Yaounde in that area;
- (g) Organization in Yaounde of four scientific meetings, either alone or in collaboration with other organizations;
- (h) Graduation of the 17th intake of students: 31 out of 33 students admitted in October 1991, graduated in July-September; and the admission of the eighteenth intake in October 1993.
- (i) The worsening financial situation of the Institute due to the non-payment of contributions by States.

## B. BRIEF REVIEW OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

### 1. Training Activities

Of the 33 students admitted to the seventeenth training course in October 1991, 31 obtained the Diplôme d' Etudes Demographiques (Diploma in Population Studies) in July or in September 1993 after a two-year programme. The students came from 18 member States namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Zaire, and one student from Equatorial Guinea. The admission of this student from a non-member State of IFORD was authorized by the Governing Council of the Institute following an express request made by the Government of Equatorial Guinea. The two students of the batch who did not complete their studies at the Institute dropped out at the end of the first year after failing both the July examinations and the rest in September 1992. The



cancellation of the first year programme in October 1992, a common practice since 1986, in keep with the instructions of the Governing Council, made it impossible for these students to repeat the course.

Of the other training activities, the following major events are worth mentioning:

(a) Two former students of IFORD who were admitted to the introductory training course in research obtained the Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) (Post-graduate degree) from the Université de Paris I, following research work conducted during their course at the Institute;

(b) The Institute received a student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) for the period April/May 1992, who conducted research on AIDS in Africa;

(c) Between December 1972 and January 1993, five students from the Université de Paris V visited in IFORD, to participate, along with students of the Institute, in conducting a survey on students in Batouri, East Province of Cameroon;

(d) Between April and June 1993, a student from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris visited IFORD within the framework of preparing his end-of-course dissertation for the award of DEA; and

(e) A competitive entrance examination was conducted in April 1993, for the eighteenth intake of students in October 1993. The 23 students (out of the 818 who sat for the examination) came from 14 member States, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea Conakry, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Zaire and seven student researchers from four member countries, namely, Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Zaire. Here, it should be pointed out that the policy on the grant of scholarships was reviewed owing to a reduction in the funds UNFPA makes available to IFORD for scholarships. The students who succeeded in the entrance examination are, now on, expected to request and obtain from funding bodies, the necessary support funds totalling \$6,500 per school year for the period 1993-1995) that will enable them to study at IFORD.

Finally, it should be pointed out that, so far, IFORD trains only senior staff and the courses offered are essentially post-graduate. The training of junior staff such as senior technicians which is increasingly important, has never been done at the Institute. This is currently being examined at the University of Yaounde II in view of reforms. At the present stage, the adopted guidelines on the programmes to reform IFORD would have the consequences hereafter if adopted by supervisor academic authority:

(a) The opening of two training sections and programmes: a university section leading up to various university diplomas such as the Diploma of General University Studies (DEUG), First Degrees, Post-graduate Diplomas and Doctorates, and a professional section leading up to technical diplomas such as the Technical University Diploma (DUT), MAGISTERE and the Diploma of Higher Specialized Studies (DESS);

(b) Greater specialization of the Institute's diplomas: at least four options have been provided at the level of DEA (Population Analysis, Population, Environment and Territorial Development) and three options at the level of DESS (Data Collection and Analysis, Population Planning, Administration and Management of Population Programmes).



While keeping to its concern for professionalization, and in order to better meet new and diverse population needs emerging in the States, IFORD is therefore pursuing its effort to adapt and reorientate its training and research programmes.

## II. Research activities

The research activities comprise research work, publication and the organization of scientific meetings.

The main features of research work were as follows:

(a) Continuation of research activities started during the previous biennium; they concern the following projects:

- (i) Research projects on the identification of communities with high risk urinary schistosomiasis in seven African countries. This IFORD/SCHISTO project initiated by WHO and executed in network in the countries mentioned, is pioneered by IFORD as the coordinating unit of the network; WHO/TDR financing. The project was completed in September 1993;
- (ii) Survey on the knowledge, attitudes, practices and beliefs (KAPB) relating to the HIV infection and AIDS in Cameroon (Phase I); GTZ funding. Project completed in December 1992;
- (iii) Survey on reversed migrations to Cameroon, started in January 1991 jointly with the Centre français sur la population et le développement (CEPED), the Cameroon Ministry of Scientific Research (MINREST) and IFORD, with funding from the Coopération française. This project is currently in progress;
- (iv) Survey on rural exodus, urbanization and development in UDEAC countries: in collaboration with CEPED, with funding from the Coopération française. Project completed in June 1993; and
- (v) Analysis of the determining factors of infanto-juvenile mortality; in collaboration with the Centre for Demography and Ecology of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA), with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. Within the framework of this project, an IFORD researcher is in Wisconsin since January 1992, on the one hand, to participate in research work, and, on the other hand, to register for the doctorate programme of this University; the project has already granted him scholarship for a period of 12 months.

(b) Commencement of the following new research projects:

- (i) Acceptability of taking saliva during population census for purposes of detecting the HIV virus. Project executed in collaboration with the Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (INED, Paris) and the National Committee for the campaign against AIDS in Cameroon. Financing by INED;



- (ii) Assessment of the use of census results in Africa. This project, which started in October 1993, with funding from the Coopération française, concerns the following countries: Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal; and
- (iii) Survey on incentives to family planning services. Instituted and financed by USAID (Regional Office, Abidjan). This project which started in November 1993 concerns the following countries: Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Mali.

Besides the actual research work, IFORD also carries out a certain number of activities in order to promote research on population and development issues in Africa. Among the activities carried out within this framework, mention should be made, particularly, of the organization in Yaounde by IFORD either alone or in collaboration with other partners, of the following four scientific meetings:

(a) Research training workshop on "Sexual Behaviour and Safe Child-bearing in Africa" (Yaounde, 15 to 20 September 1992), in collaboration with WHO;

(b) Preparatory workshop on the "Programme for Small Subventions to Research on Social and Economic Aspects of Tropical Diseases in Africa". (Yaounde, 29 September to 1 October 1992);

(c) The "International Seminar on Infant and Juvenile Mortality in Africa: Report on Health Research Works and Policies". (Yaounde, 19 to 23 July 1993); and

(d) "First meeting of the Orientation Committee on the Programme for Small Subventions to Research on Social and Economic Aspects of Tropical Diseases in Africa" (Yaounde 18 to 27 October 1993).

Still within the framework of promoting research in the continent, IFORD pioneered a multidisciplinary research project between 1989 and 1993 on schistosomiasis in Africa entitled "Identification of Communities with High Risk Schistosomiasis in Africa": a study of many countries, commonly known as Project SCHISTO. Seven countries participated in this network namely: Cameroon, the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe; national teams comprised researchers in biomedical sciences (physicians, parasitologists or epidemiologists) and social sciences (demographers, sociologists or economists). Findings of this research were presented during the joint WHO/IFORD Workshop organized in Saly Portudal, Senegal, in April 1992; various publications are underway at the level of each participating country and IFORD or WHO.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the very positive experience acquired from the "Project SCHISTO" enabled IFORD to obtain from WHO substantial funding for the commencement of a new project on the promotion of research in Africa; "Programme for Small Subventions to Research on Social and Economic Aspects of Tropical Diseases in Africa". This programme, which covers the whole continent, was started in September 1992 for a period of three years; It enables IFORD to finance, each year, twenty research projects on a tropical diseases with special emphasis on social, cultural and economic aspects of the diseases.

During the biennium under consideration, IFORD was particularly active in the area of scientific publications. The main activities carried out are, particularly:



(a) The publication of two works in collaboration with CEPED on the topic (migration, urbanization and development in UDEAC countries) within the framework of a joint research project on the same topic; the two works were published in the series Les Cahiers de l'IFORD;

(b) The preparation by three IFORD teachers/researchers of the final report (in two volumes) on the "Survey on knowledge, attitudes, practices and beliefs (KAPB) relating to AIDS in the North West and South West provinces of Cameroon; and

(c) The publication by the scientific staff of IFORD of several articles in reviews of international reputation and the presentation of several papers during conferences organized by the Institute or other institutions. In the area of publications, mention can be made, particularly, of the following documents published either by IFORD singlehandedly or in collaboration with other organizations;

(i) In the series "Cahiers de l'IFORD"

KOUTON F. Etienne, Evaluation et recherche des facteurs de la fécondité précoce au Bénin. Cahiers de l'IFORD, no. 3, Yaoundé, 1992, 122 pages.

TIMNOU Joseph-Pierre, Migrations, urbanisation et développement au Cameroun. Cahiers de l'IFORD, no. 4, Yaoundé, 1993, 115 pages.

TATI Gabriel, Migrations, urbanisation et développement au Congo. Cahiers de l'IFORD, no. 5, Yaoundé, 1993, 94 pages.

(ii) In the series "Documents Pédagogiques de l'IFORD":

SALA-DIAKANDS Daniel M., Introduction à l'étude des populations. Yaoundé, 1992, 136 pages.

(iii) In the series "Les Annales de l'IFORD" : publication du Volume 15, No. 1.

Finally, following the seminar organized in 1987 in Yaounde in collaboration with the International Union for Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), a work co-edited by the Director of the Institute was published in English and French. Here are the references:

1. PISON G., VAN DE WALLE E., et SALA-DIAKANDA M., (éds.), Mortalité et Société en Afrique au Sud du Sahara, INED, Documents et Travaux, no. 124, Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 1989, 446 pages.
2. VAN DE WALLE E., PISON G., and SALA-DIAKANDA M., Mortality and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa. Oxford University Press, 1992, 450 pages.

### III. Advisory services

Among the advisory services rendered to member States between 1991 and 1993 were the following:



(a) Supervision and scientific guidance of the workshop on the analysis of census data in French-speaking Africa (Université de Liège, November 1992);

(b) Participation in two meetings of the orientation committee on social and economic research of TDR/SER (Caracas, December 1992 and Geneva, May 1993);

(c) Participation in the "First Scientific Workshop on the Demographic network of UREF", Bangui, June 1993;

(d) Scientific guidance of the national training workshop on Population-oriented Communication, UNESCO, Yaounde, June 1993; and

(e) Scientific guidance of research work within the framework of the project "Population Dynamic in Sub-Saharan Africa" of the National Scientific Academy of the United States (1990 to 1993).

### C. CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES

IFORD's resources come from three main sources: contributions by member States, funding by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and subsidies received within the framework of bilateral cooperation with national or international organizations. Though financial support from UNFPA and from bilateral cooperation has given rise to no particular problem so far, the same cannot be said about contributions expected from member States as had been noted by the ECA Conference of Ministers since 1984, that is, hardly two years after IFORD because a regional institution. In fact, in its resolution 489 (XIX) of 26 May 1984, "the Conference took note of the precarious financial resources of IFORD resulting from its regionalization, a situation induced by the inadequacy and the irregular payment of contributions by member States". Despite several "urgent appeals" made since then to member States, the situation of their financial contributions to IFORD has really not improved. Thus, during the period under consideration, only five countries have paid their contributions to the Institute. Worst still, as at 31 December 1983, 12 out of 25 member countries of the Institute have not paid their contributions since 1982. Amongst these countries only three of them have never used IFORD services. The table hereafter gives the statement of contribution arrears owed by States as at 31 December 1993; the total amount owed IFORD by States thus stands at 1,134,145,763 (one billion one hundred thirty four million, one hundred forty-five thousand, seven hundred and sixty-three CFAF). Countries with contributions amounts totalling 62,500,000 CFAF are those that have never made any contribution to IFORD.

The immediate consequence of such a situation is that IFORD was unable to face up to its local recurrent expenditure: inability to pay, regularly, the salaries of the administrative support staff and as well as the related social and employers' expenses difficulty to settle the bills of suppliers in respect of various services rendered and used supplies (water, electricity, telephone, telefax, maintenance of premises, office supplies, etc.), inability to carry out certain activities (short training courses, advisory services...) in favour of member States, etc. As from August 1992, the situation of contributions by member States had deteriorated so much that the Institute accumulated five months of unpaid salaries to its administrative and technical support staff in 1992 and eight months in 1993. In another connection, since July 1988, IFORD is no longer paying to the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) of Cameroon and the Housing Loan Fund the social employers expenses which theoretically, are deducted from the salaries of local employees. It was also noted that in 1992, there were twenty workers at IFORD but the Institute has never awarded any labour medals to any of them in



recognition of services rendered. Such a situation definitely leads to much frustration. No institution can obtain under such conditions satisfactory output from its staff. Thus, this seriously affects the functioning, credibility and image of its staff. The administrative staff of IFORD has gone on strike on several occasions and this has had adverse consequences on the activities of the Institute.

**SITUATION OF CONTRIBUTION ARREARS OWED BY  
MEMBER STATES OF IFORD  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1993  
(Amount in CFAF)**

Countries	Amount	Countries	Amount
1. Algeria	62,500,000	14. Madagascar	6,594,450
2. Benin	46,504,500	15. Mali	62,500,000
3. Burkina Faso	500,000	16. Morocco	62,500,000
4. Burundi	62,500,000	17. Mauritius	62,500,000
5. Cameroon	15,000,000	18. Mauritania	62,500,000
6. Central Africa	42,000,000	19. Niger	62,500,000
7. Chad	65,500,000	20. Rwanda	62,500,000
8. Comoros	62,500,000	21. Senegal	36,000,000
9. Congo	30,500,000	22. Seychelles	62,500,000
10. Côte d'Ivoire	36,000,000	23. Togo	36,000,000
11. Djibouti	42,000,000	24. Tunisia	62,500,000
12. Gabon	12,000,000	25. Zaïre	30,000,000
13. Guinea	51,046,813		
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,134,145,763</b>

To end this situation, the management of IFORD, after consultation with the competent services of the Government and thanks to decisive support from the Executive Secretary of ECA, requested and obtained from UNFPA advance funds which enabled it to terminate on 30 September 1993, the permanent contracts of 16 administrative support employees i.e. out of 18 that IFORD employed, and to pay their salary arrears, the social and employers' expenses as well as their other entitlements (notification, dismissal allowance etc.). However, given that the institute must continue to function, a smaller team of administrative support staff is currently being put in place; it will comprise, at most, nine employees, that is, a reduction of 50 per cent as compared to the initial staff strength. The reduction of the administrative and technical staff makes it possible to envisage a drop in the annual contribution owed IFORD by each member countries since 1994; the next governing council will have take a ruling on this issue.

#### D. PROSPECTS

Following the announcement by UNFPA that it was going to gradually reduce its contribution to population training institutes on Africa (IFORD and RIPS), the ECA Conference of Ministers passed resolution 577 (XXI), on the restructuring of those Institutes.



The process to restructure IFORD which effectively started in 1989, its almost completed. Within this framework the following measures were taken:

(a) Adoption by the Governing Council in May 1992, of new basic instruments that are expected, from now on, to govern the functioning of IFORD: statutes of IFORD, staff rules and regulations (with a new salary scale), headquarters agreement, agreement to integrate IFORD into the University of Yaounde, etc.;

(b) Abolition of the posts of UN experts/teachers and their replacement by regional posts since July 1992 (the post of Director of IFORD will be regionalized on 30 June 1994);

(c) Termination, on 30 September 1993, of the contracts of 16 permanent administrative and technical support employees and the payment of all their salary arrears and benefits, and their replacement by a very small new team comprising at most 9 employees out of the 18 that IFORD employed before that date. Their annual contracts could be possibly renewed depending on the availability of funds; and

(d) Reorientation of training and research programmes and the effective integration of IFORD into the University of Yaounde II since January 1993; the current pedagogic reform, if adopted, will make IFORD a big training and research institute which will need, as a result, substantial funding as well as infrastructure, equipment and academic staff for its effective take-off.

The foregoing reveals that the recent restructuring of the institute whose principle was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1986, is gradually being done through a substantial change in the structure of IFORD and the extensive streamlining of its financial situation. We would like to hope that member States will finally appreciate IFORD, this precious instrument for regional cooperation, by paying regularly their contributions, that the recent restructuring of the Institute will thus lay the necessary foundation for its better functioning and that the restructuring will enable IFORD to continue to be the regional centre for scholarship, while maintaining the good image it has succeeded to build over the past years.