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of African Planners, Statisticians  
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**ECA POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 1992-1993, EXAMINATION OF THE  
APPROVED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1994-1995 AND CONSIDERATION  
OF THE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1996-1997**

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, the secretariat implemented the 1992-1993 work programme and submitted to the legislative organs a proposed programme for 1994-1995, which was considered by the Nineteenth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers and adopted by the Forty eighth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It is worth recalling that the 1994-1995 draft work programme had been submitted to the seventh session of this Conference in March 1992 and that some discussion had taken place on the opportunity given to reflect the needs of the member States in the 1994-1995 programme.

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 Conference of Ministers adopted the proposed work programme and priorities for the 1994-1995 biennium, as second package within the Medium-Term Plan, after it had been prepared by the secretariat according to the new instructions received from the Secretary General<sup>1</sup> with the view to show clarity, as requested by member States.

4. One important feature in the budgeting system is the consolidation of related activities in more comprehensive and less numerous Subprogrammes. Thus, Population now falls under a new Subprogramme called Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Development, that covers also Environment, Human Settlements, Agriculture and Rural Development. The linkages and relationships between food and agriculture, population, environment and human settlements are critical to Africa's development. Hence the objectives of the Subprogramme include increased awareness and efforts to design appropriate policies in food production and distribution, rural development and transformation, population growth and distribution, urbanisation and population movements, environment management, etc.

5. This report outlines the implementation of activities of the Secretariat in the field of population during the 1992-1993 biennium. It presents the approved work programme for 1994-1995 and the 1996-1997 draft outline for review, in the framework of overall orientation given to it by the legislative organs, with reference, in particular, to the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA), the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, the Family and sustainable development and other needs and priorities, as they may be expressed in the debate.

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<sup>1</sup>A/C.5/47/3

6. During the 1992-1993 period, the member States continued the implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and with 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.

7. 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, the Third African Population Conference was convened, as planned and proposed by the last session of this Conference, in December 1992 in Dakar, Senegal.

8. 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 1992-1993 work programme**

9. The 1992-1993 work programme continued to address population issues, in line with the needs of Member states, as expressed in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-Reliant Development and the fourth United Nations Strategy for Development.

10. Specifically, it dealt 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 were undertaken on the evaluation of family planning and birth spacing programmes, fertility, mortality, population distribution and urbanization. the areas covered by the programme of work included 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.

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

### III. Activities

The activities were performed and outputs delivered as planned.

#### A. Parliamentary Services

12. Eight reports were presented to the Seventh Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, which was held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 7 March 1992. These are:

- (i) Assessment of national experiences in the implementation of the recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action;\*
- (ii) Study on the interrelationship between infant and child mortality and fertility levels and their policy implications in selected ECA member States;
- (iii) An assessment of the socio-economic impact of refugee movements in selected African countries;
- (iv) An evaluation of urban migration policies in selected African countries;
- (v) Updating of knowledge on African population size and dynamics: highlights from the 1980 and 1990 rounds of population censuses conducted in ECA member States;
- (vi) Report on ECA regional demographic training and research institutes;
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) Identification of obstacles, problems and suggested solutions for self-reliant development and sustainability of national population information facilities in ECA member States.

#### B. Published Materials

13. The Population Division published the following materials:

##### 1. Recurrent Publications:

- (i) Demographic Handbook for Africa [document ECA/POP/93....] (was sent to the printing shop in mid-1993).

14. The major objective the publication is to present in a consolidated form, demographic data and analysis from various sources pertaining to principal demographic indicators of ECA member States. The 1992 handbook, the latest edition, contains 42 tables organized around six chapters: world summary, population size, structure and growth; fertility and mortality; urbanization, internal and international migration; demographic data collection systems; and general (population policy, family planning, environment and women).

(ii) African Population Newsletter

15. Publishes articles and other news information on population issues, and serves as a status report on population-related activities in Africa. It is published twice a year in both English and French. During the period under review, the following issues were published:

No. 62 (Jan.-June 1992) - Population and Environment in Africa.

No. 63/64 (Jan.- Dec.1993) - Third African Population Conference.

(iii) African Population Studies Series

16. The Series present results of research carried out by the Secretariat of ECA, or on its behalf by consultants. It is published in English and is addressed to a specialized audience of researchers and academics. The present issue - Number 11, entitled "Mortality levels, patterns, trends, differentials and their socio-economic inter-relationships in Africa, 1993 [document E/ECA/SER.A/93]" contains five chapters on different aspects of mortality in some parts of Africa. The issue was finalized and submitted to printing.

(iv) A List of Publications of the Population Division.

17. Presents a selection and annotation of major publications which have resulted from the Population Division's work programme. The present publication, which is the second in the series, covers the period 1988 to 1993. Its main objective is to make readers aware of the various types of publications produced by the Division. The issue is being finalized.

## 2. Non-recurrent publications:

The following were finalized:

- (i) Strategies to improve contraceptive use to influence demographic trends in African countries, December 1992 [document ECA/POP/TP/92/1[2(b)]]].

18. The study reviews the experiences on contraceptive use in African countries as well as in other regions and suggests strategies to improve contraceptive use. The paper points out that such strategies should focus on both improving socio-economic conditions and family planning programmes. Combined efforts at these two fronts will have increased joint impact to increase contraceptive use and eventually moderate demographic trends.

- (ii) Assessment of the methodology and data from the World Fertility and Demographic Health Surveys: Implications for future Demographic Surveys in Africa, November 1992 [document ECA/POP/TP/92/2[3(b)(i)]]].

19. The study assesses the methodology and the data of the World Fertility Survey and the Demographic and Health Survey programmes in 13 African countries. It also highlights the achievements and drawbacks of the two programmes and their implications for future demographic surveys in Africa.

- (iii) Assessment of mortality levels, trends and differentials in relation to the goal of "Health for all" by the year 2000 in some ECA member States, November 1992 [document ECA/POP/92/3[b(iv)]]].

20. The implementation of primary health care as a strategy of the 'Health for All', was examined in the context of development and provision of health services and facilities in selected Eastern and Southern African countries. The study attempts to identify the relationship between mortality reduction and health development by formulating a conceptual framework of analysis.

- (iv) An assessment of the formulation and implementation of national population programmes in ECA member States during the 1990s, [document ECA/POP/TP/93/1[3(b)(i)]]].

21. The study assesses the formulation and implementation aspects of National Population Programmes (NPPs) and sets out the modalities for their design, as a prelude to the review of about 13 Programmes in the region. The major topics covered by the study include: the scope and design of NPPs; an outline of selected NPPs a summary of the constraints in the design of NPPs; and suggestions for future NPPs in the region.

- (v) Alternatives to traditional approaches in the formulation and implementation of family planning programmes in African countries, November 1993  
[document ECA/POP/TP/93/2[2(b)vii]].

22. This publication reviews traditional approaches to birth spacing/family planning programmes in Africa. Having identified the limitations of these approaches, the study stresses the need for organized modern family planning programmes as alternatives to traditional approaches. Furthermore, the study discusses the ingredients of successful and organized birth spacing/family planning programmes.

- (vi) Consistency of United Nations population projections with those produced by selected ECA member States, June 1993  
[document ECA/POP/TP/93/3[2(b)(ix)]].

23. The United Nations population projections are compared with those prepared by national demographers in ECA member States with a view of delineating differences. The paper focuses on four main themes, namely:- perceptions of African governments on population size; the status and problems of population projections in ECA member States; consistency of the estimates and projections of the United Nations and member States from a global perspective; and review of the results of the analysis on consistencies for selected countries.

- (vii) Correlation of changing infant and child mortality and fertility in relation to development programmes in selected ECA member States,  
[document ECA/POP/TP/93/4[2(b)(v)]].

24. The study attempts to identify correlates between demographic dynamics and development processes that would be useful for policy formulation and implementation in selected ECA member States. The major themes dealt with by the study include:- an analysis of infant and child mortality; a correlation analysis on infant and child mortality to identify the determinants; an examination of fertility determinants; and an analysis of the interrelationships between demographic processes and development.

- (viii) Relationship between population and environment with particular reference to mortality in ECA selected member States [document, ECA/POP/TP/93/5[2(b)(vi)]].

25. The paper focuses on the identification of population-environment interrelationships and linkages. The linking variables are hoped to provide knowledge to be utilized for the integration in development plans, which in turn lead to achieving declining mortality rates, better quality of life, higher standard of living and better use of natural resource base to achieve sustainable development.

- (ix) A manual for the integration of population factors in human resource development with particular reference to educational sector planning, [document ECA/POP/TP/93/6(b)(vi)].

26. This manual is the second in the series of manuals for the IPDP process. It reviews educational developments in the region since gaining political independence in the 1960s and outlines elements of educational systems. It also provides an annotation of 8 possible models for the planning, management and administration of education.

#### **C. Technical Material**

27. The Division designed, set up and is maintaining a database for population policy, mortality and morbidity, fertility, population distribution/urbanization and family planning, using Paradox Software.

#### **D. Operational activities**

28. It was planned to organize 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). But given the resource limitations, it has not been possible to implement these activities.

#### **E. Coordination, harmonization and liaison**

29. The Division took part in two sessions of the ACC inter-agency working group meeting reviewing demographic estimates and projections; it also attended one meetings of the UNFPA inter-agency consultative meetings and one session of the Population Commission.

### **IV. Work programme 1994-1995**

30. An evaluation of existing infra-structural arrangements for integrating population variables in development plans of ECA member states.

31. Patterns, causes and consequences (for development planning) of female migration in African countries.

32. Assessment of achievements in mortality reduction targets of the 'health for all by the Year 2000' in selected African countries.

33. Socio-economic and demographic consequences of AIDS in African countries.



34. Second edition of the Statistical Compendium and Contraceptive Prevalence and Practice in African countries.

35. Comparative Study on Family planning and birth spacing programmes in African countries.

36...Recent (i.e. using WFS and DHS data) fertility levels, differentials and trends in ECA member states: analysis and prospects.

37. Indirect estimates of levels and trends of fertility for small geographic areas in selected African countries.

#### **V. Work Programme 1996-1997: Tentative Outline**

38. The Committee may wish to review this outline and suggest to retain, among the proposals, the most useful and feasible ones.  
[All Colleagues: kindly make suggestions]

##### **- Adolescent reproductive behaviour**

39. A Manual for Integration of population factors in development planning in the health sector for ECA member states.

40. A review of patterns, causes and consequences (for development planning) of international migration in selected African countries.

41. Assessment of achievements in mortality reduction targets of 'health for all by the Year 2000' in selected African countries.

42. The interrelationship between population and environment and their influence on socio-economic development planning in selected African countries.

43. Relationships between infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in the least developed countries in Africa.

44. A statistical compendium of the contribution of traditional birth attendants in the health delivery system of African countries.

45. Family planning programme targets in relation to fertility reduction in selected African countries.