

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Report on a Mission to Tanzania
(13 to 30 October, 1990)

By

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This report is the sole responsibility of the writer.

Introduction

The mission was undertaken by the ECA Demographic Statistics Adviser from 13 to 30 October, 1990 at the request of the UNEPA Country Director in Dar-es-Salaam.

The terms of reference for the mission were:

- Review and assessment of basic population data collection programmes/ activities in Tanzania focussing on national institutional capacity, capabilities and resources as well as nature and scope of past and current activities;
- Determination of sources and users of basic population data;
- Review of existing/future mechanisms for co-ordinating activities of national governmental/non-governmental organizations as well as donor agencies;
- Critical assessment of past UNEPA/ other donor supported activities and inputs, focussing on scope, performance, achievements, failures and degree of co-ordination;
- Identification of future and potential need for international technical/financial assistance; and
- Recommendations regarding the nature and scope of future activities emphasizing areas which require specific attention.

In the course of the mission discussions were held with the persons listed in the Annex. The assistance and co-operation of the persons with whom discussions were held as well as the courtesies extended by staff of UNEPA and Bureau of statistics are acknowledged with thanks.

Background

UNEPA provides assistance to countries in the context of a national programme to enable respective countries achieve long-range population development objectives. In determining the assistance required by a country, an assessment of the country's needs in the field of population is carried out.

Thus, in October 1978 UNEPA sponsored a mission to Tanzania to assess "the country's future needs for population assistance in the areas of population policy, basic demographic data collection and analysis, training and manpower development, health policies and programmes, and family life education". The mission's findings and recommendations provided a basis for UNEPA assistance in various population related fields including support to population censuses and improvement in the country's civil registration system.

UNFPA has adopted a programme approach in providing assistance to countries and, generally, the programming process involves a cycle of four to five years. Currently, a programming process comprises four stages. These are: Programme review and strategy development (PRSD); programme development; project formulation; and programme/project approval and implementation.

It is proposed to carry out a PRSD exercise for Tanzania shortly and the review and analysis of population data collection programmes and activities in the country undertaken during the mission was part of the preparations for the exercise.

Mission Activities

The mission started with a briefing by the UNEPA Country Director during which it was indicated that the sectoral review and analysis of population data collection programmes and activities, which was the objective of the mission, was part of the preparations for a Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercise for Tanzania expected to be carried out in 1991. Thus, the findings of the mission would constitute part of the material to be used in preparing the main background document for the PRSD.

It was also pointed out during the briefing that the Bureau of Statistics had been informed of the mission and that the head of the Population and Tourism Statistics Section at the Bureau of Statistics would be the principal contact person. Further, a National Programme Officer (NPO) at the UNEPA Office would assist in arranging appointments with all those who needed to be contacted.

Following the briefing, the immediate activity was the identification of the agencies whose activities were considered relevant to the terms of reference of the mission. A list of such agencies to be contacted was prepared. They included the following:

- Office of the Prime Minister.
- Bureau of Statistics.
- Registrar-General's Department.
- Ministry of Education.
- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Local Government, Co-operatives and Community Development.
- Immigration Services, Ministry of Home Affairs.
- National Planning Commission.
- Ministry of Finance.
- University of Dar-es-Salaam.
- East African Statistical Training Centre.
- Dar-es-Salaam Chamber of Commerce.
- Tanzania Employers' Association.

The following were also identified as being involved in the provision of financial/technical assistance in population data collection activities in Tanzania in addition to UNFPA:

- Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the British Government.
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).
- Statistics Sweden.
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF); and
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

With the assistance of the head of the Population and Tourism Statistics Section, Bureau of Statistics and the UNFPA National Programme Officer, a list of persons considered to be directly responsible/involved in the collection and /or utilization of population data in the agencies/organizations listed above was prepared. The UNFPA Office then helped to make appointments with the persons concerned.

However, in view of the limited time available, the exercise was confined to the Tanzania mainland and the Ministries/Departments contacted were: Bureau of statistics, Ministries of Education and Health, the Registrar-General's Department and the Population Planning Unit of the National Planning Commission. With respect to discussions relating to external assistance, the following agencies other than UNFPA were contacted: Statistics Sweden, UNICEF and USAID.

In addition to the discussions held with the persons concerned at the ministries/departments and agencies indicated above, some relevant documentation were reviewed. The documents included project requests, relevant progress reports as well as questionnaires/forms and reports on results of various population data collection activities.

In the discussions held during the mission, efforts were made to obtain informatior on the following in respect of each ministry/department contacted:

- work programme (covering type and scope of population data collection activities) for the past 5 years including current year as well as for the next 2 to 5 years;
- resources for population data collection in terms of the organizational structure of ministry/department; staffing situation of section/unit dealing with population data collection/utilization including qualification(s) and work experience of staff concerned; training programme for staff; equipment and budgetary allocations for population data collection activities for each fiscal year since 1985/86;

- type of population data used/required by data users and the sources of such data;
- whether population data are generally available in the form/details required by data users;
- mechanism for co-ordinating activities among data producers and between producers and users of population data as well as procedures for contact with donor agencies; and
- perceived need for external financial/technical assistance in the area of population data collection.

In some instances information on the above issues was either not readily available or could be given only in general terms. Indeed, with respect to information on budgetary allocations for population data collection, no specific information in any detail could be obtained since it appeared such allocations were generally subsumed under the overall allocations of the agencies concerned.

Nevertheless, the conclusions of the discussions and the review of the available documentation provided a basis for an assessment of the programmes/activities relating to population data collection, at least in Tanzania mainland. It is recognized, though, that only a limited number of agencies could be contacted but since they included the major basic population data producers, the information obtained may be regarded as providing a reasonably fair indication of the general situation, at least in the mainland of Tanzania.

The preliminary account of the outcome of the mission was presented in an initial draft of the paper: "Basic Population Data Collection in Tanzania: Review and Analysis of Programmes and Activities" which was prepared during the mission. The paper was reviewed after the mission and a revised version subsequently sent to the UNFPA Country Director in Dar-es-Salaam. In addition to the "conclusions and recommendations" the paper comprised the following sections:

- Introduction.
- Sources of Population Data:
 - population censuses
 - national household surveys
 - administrative records
- Population Data Utilization.
- Institutional Capacity, Capabilities and Resources.
- External Assistance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In view of time constraint, only a few agencies in the public sector could be contacted.

The conclusions made at the end of the mission were, therefore, based on the assumption that those with whom discussions were held do represent the key agencies actively involved in basic population data collection activities in the country and hence the information obtained does provide an overview of the prevailing situation regarding that sector.

On the basis of the above assumption the general conclusion is that a decennial population census programme has been established and the cumulative experience in census taking has led to a steady improvement in the quality of census data over the years. Also, the first round of a programme of national household surveys is underway and administrative records relating to educational and health institutions are currently being processed for statistical purposes. Further, there is an on-going programme to improve the country's civil registration system so that relevant statistical information could be obtained from the registration records.

However, it did, not appear that there were adequate linkages between the various available population data sources nor effective co-ordination among the different producers of such data. The existing situation does not promote standardization of concepts, definitions and classifications and, in fact, it could result in duplication of efforts in some areas.

It is, therefore, desirable that an integrated approach is adopted in the development of the different sources of population data. Thus, co-ordinated programmes for collection and publication of basic population data through censuses, surveys and records of relevant administrative operations need to be prepared. This may ensure that activities in connection with the different sources of population data would be considered complementary rather than independent events.

The proposed co-ordinated programmes should have adequate provision to make them responsive to changing data needs and, for this purpose, appropriate mechanism for continuing dialogue among population data producers and also between the producers and data users needs to be established. In this connection, the collection and publication of population data should be considered an integral part of other population programmes and indeed the entire socio-economic development process.

It is foreseen that some external assistance covering training of staff at professional level and more importantly middle level, as well as acquisition of appropriate equipment and limited technical advisory services would be required. The assistance would help to strengthen existing machinery and to develop others in the population data collection and analysis sector and also generally to tackle expeditiously the issues raised above.

In line with the strategy proposed for the development of population data collection and analysis programmes and in furtherance of that strategy, a similar comprehensive and co-ordinated approach in providing external assistance in that sector would be desirable. Indeed, such approach would help in maximizing the impact of external assistance in the entire area of population data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and utilization. It should be stressed, though, that the approach should cover not only the provision of financial and material resources but also the delivery of technical support.

PERSONS WITH WHOM DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD DURING THE MISSION

Bureau of Statistics

Mr. S. A. M. Ngallaba : Assistant Government Statistician and Head, Population and Tourism Statistics Section.

Mr. P. Mayeye: Assistant Government Statistician and Head, Labour and Price Statistics Section.

Mr. H. Mbaruku: Senior Statistician and Co-ordinator of Statistics Sweden Assistance Programme.

Mr. C. P. B. Mkai: Assistant Government Statistician and Head, Sample Surveys Section.

Mr. E. D. Maima: Senior Programmer/Analyst.

Mrs. A. S. Komba: Statistician.

Ms. Philomena Timothy: Statistician.

Mrs. Nwashe: Statistician.

Mr. W. F. Lupassa: Librarian.

Registrar-General's Department

Mr. J. D. D. Galamula: Head, Civil Registration Project.

Ministry of Education

Mr. Tuguta: Assistant to the Commissioner for Education and Deputy Co-ordinator, Population and Family Life Education.

Mrs. N. H. Abrahams: Statistics Officer (Secondary Education).

Ministry of Health

Mr. Wilfred Yohana: Statistician, Health Information Unit.

National Planning Commission

Mr. U. Tenende: Head, Population Planning Unit.

Mr. E. M. Mjema: Statistician.

University of Dar-es-Salaam

Mrs. Bertha Koda: Senior Lecturer, Institute of Development Studies.

Dr. Sam Maghimbi: Senior Lecturer, Demographic Training Unit.

Mr. Eli Heguye: Lecturer, Demographic Training Unit.

Statistics Sweden

Mr. Altvall: Team Leader.

USAID

Mr. Dallas Voran: Ag. Population and Health Officer.

UNICEF

Ms. Valerie Leach: Head, Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation Section.

UNFPA

Dr. A. Arkutu: Country Director.

Ms. Marianne A. Campbell White: Programme Officer.

Dr. Flavian Magari: National Programme Officer.

Ms. V. Kessi: National Programme Officer.