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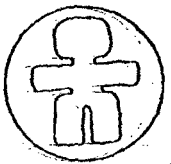
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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

Date of Submission: 6 May 1975

Project Number:

Region:

LATIN AMERICA

Project Title:

CENTRAL UNIT (Programme of Social
Research on Population Problems
Relevant to Population Policies
in Latin America)

UNFPA Work Plan
Categories

Requested by:

Economic Commission for Latin America

Executing Agency:

United Nations

Project Duration:

Two Years

Starting Date:

1 January 1976

UNFPA Contribution:

US\$ 388,735

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1. Objectives and institutional framework^{1/}

The Programme of Social Research on Population Problems Relevant to Population Policies in Latin America constitutes a joint effort of a number of the region's research centres which, with the support of several donor agencies, undertook the task of promoting and carrying out social interdisciplinary research on those relations between population and development deemed more relevant for the formulation of population policies.

The Programme's general objective is to promote and conduct interdisciplinary social research on the relations between population and development so as to produce the scientific information necessary for the formulation of population policies as a part of global development strategies.

The Programme has been structured on the basis of four functionally differentiated elements:

- A. Member Centres
- B. Associate Centres
- C. Programme Committee
- D. Central Unit

A. The Member Centres^{2/}

These are the group of research centres that integrated the Programme through invitation to do so, issued by the Organizing Committee on its first meeting (September 27-29, 1971) held in Santiago, Chile.

Besides undertaking research activities in the framework of the Programme's objectives, these Centres participate, through their representation in the Programme Committee, in the overall task of administrating the Programme.

1/ See Annexe 1, Programa de Investigaciones Sociales sobre Problemas de Población relevantes para Políticas de Población en América Latina (PISPAL).

2/ For a list of the Member and Associate Centres, see Annexe 2: Social Research Programme on Population Problems Relevant to Population Policies in Latin America: Progress Report (Mexico: June 1974).

B. The Associate Centres

Centres that either do not include population studies as a major concern in their own programmes, or have only limited capabilities to fully assume the commitments of the former category, may join the Programme as Associate Centres, at their request to do so or when invited to collaborate in specific research projects. In that capacity they become a part of the network of activities and information arising from the development of PISPAL's activities.

C. The Programme Committee

The Programme Committee has been set up as a working group of the Population and Development Commission of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (Comisión de Población y Desarrollo del Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales, CLACSO). Representatives of each Member Centre, the Secretary of CLACSO's Population and Development Commission and the Coordinator of the Central Unit make up this Committee. This body is responsible both to the funding agencies and the region's scientific community for the direction and supervision of the Programme.

D. The Central Unit

The Central Unit is located at CELADE's headquarters. It consists of a multidisciplinary team of social scientists, all financed by UNFPA as UN staff members.

The United Nations is directly involved in the Central Unit through CELADE, which participates in the programme in a double capacity, as member centre and host to the Central Unit. The director of CELADE has been delegated by the Programme Committee with the responsibility of selecting the staff for that team as well as of directing and supervising its activities.

The functions entrusted to the Central Unit are:

- a) to undertake studies and research related to the subject matter of the Programme;
- b) to spread out knowledge generated by the research undertaken by the participant centres, and prepare bibliographies and inventories of pertinent data;

- c) to render technical assistance to centres participating in the Programme;
- d) to advise centres participating in the Programme on the formulation of research projects tending to link the general fields of research defined by the Programme with specific features of the countries in the region;
- e) to establish assistance agreements with international organizations and governmental as well as academic institutions, with previous authorization from the Programme Committee and in the last two cases with further approval and eventual collaboration of the respective national centres;
- f) to organize meetings and seminars as the Programme Committee may decide for the design of projects or sub-projects, discussion of research reports and its findings;
- g) to receive and administrate financial resources in its capacity as Technical Coordinating Secretariat of the Programme, as the Programme Committee may decide, according to instructions from the latter and,
- h) in general, to act as Technical Coordinating Secretariat of the Programme.

Furthermore, it is expected that the Central Unit will participate in all those activities of CELADE which are relevant to the Programme's objectives and to the Central Unit's specific functions in it.

2. Supporting information

In accordance with the programme objectives and the functions entrusted to it, the Central Unit has carried out a number of activities with respect to research, dissemination of information relating to the Programme, technical assistance to participating as well as non participating centres, workshops and seminars.

A. Definition of research priorities

Given the very broad spectrum of subjects which might legitimately be defined as relevant for population policies, the first task of the Central Unit was to provide criteria for defining that spectrum more precisely and establishing research priorities. This was done through different steps.

The first decision was to make an inventory of social science research relevant to population policies, in all those countries where member centres are located. The Central Unit was made responsible for providing with the common framework necessary to collect and classify the information; for editing and complementing the work done by the centres, and for publishing the inventories.

In part parallel to the previous activities, but partly based on them, a critical review of the literature on population policies and on the relationship between population and development, so as to accumulate and integrate previous knowledge, was done.

In connection with this review, the Central Unit started to work on a diagnosis of the relations existing between some aspects of the Latin American development and the dynamics of population within the region.

The critical review and the diagnostic studies allowed the Central Unit to define the three research areas of the Programme: agricultural development and population dynamics; urbanization, industrialization and population; political structure and population policies.^{3/}

^{3/} See Annexe 3: Programme of Social Research on Population Problems Relevant to Population Policies in Latin America, Addendum to the Programme proposal of Activities 1975-76-77, Santiago, Chile: Noviembre, 1974.

Those specifications made possible the application of more sharply defined criteria in the evaluation of the research projects requesting financing during the period March 1975-March 1976. This, on its turn, brought as a consequence that only three out of 19 of those projects were accepted, while 9 were given the chance to be re-submitted once specified and adapted to the priority areas, and seven were rejected.

With the view to start collecting information useful for the comparative projects described below, the Central Unit initiated during 1975, and is now engaged in, a couple of exploratory studies based on secondary and census data. These refer to social factors related to population concentration (using mostly Argentinian data) and agrarian structure, urban settlements systems and population dynamics (based mainly on Chilean and Central American data). The adequacy of different theoretical approaches and techniques for the empirical analysis of those problems is being explored, so as to determine their feasibility for comparative purposes and improve the technical assistance which the Central Unit provides to the Centres.^{4/}

B. Dissemination of information relating to the Programme

The Central Unit has published a brochure describing the project,^{5/} several documents presenting the findings from its substantive activities, and the Inventory of Social Science Research Relevant to Population Policies (those on Chile and Mexico are being distributed, while those on Argentina, Colombia and Brazil are now in press).

Finally, eleven new documents are now being revised for publication during 1975.^{6/}

^{4/} See Annexe 4: Unidad Central PISPAL, Investigaciones y actividades durante 1975.

^{5/} See Annexe 1.

^{6/} See Annexe 4.

C. Technical Assistance

The Central Unit has advised several Centres (El Colegio de México; Programa de Ciencias Sociales, CSUCA; ASCONAME; CIESU, Uruguay; CEDIP, Brazil; CENEP, Argentina; CELADE, Population Policies Sector) that have asked for its assistance specially in relation with the preparing of research projects and, sometimes, with their implementation. In some opportunities these requests of assistance have originated in research centres which are not institutionally participating in PISPAL, as it is for example the case of the Centro Paraguayo de Estudios Sociológicos.

Also, members of the Central Unit have been asked to participate in educational programmes leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees in subjects concerned with population and development in different academic centres or universities in the region.

Furthermore, the professionals of the Central Unit have participated in CELADE's technical assistance to governments in the area, specially in the fields of population distribution, demographic-economic models and urban services and infrastructure.

D. Workshops, seminars and meetings

Two seminars have been organized by the Central Unit and a Member Centre. One on Agrarian Structure and Development, with El Colegio de México (Mexico, 25 to 30 November 1974) and another on Political Structures and Population Policies, with CELADE (Santiago, 26 to 30 May 1975).

During 1975 major efforts have been devoted to the organization of workshops on: Urban structure, Urbanization and Population Dynamics, to be held in Santiago from 20 to the 22 of August; Agrarian Structure and Population Dynamics, to be held in Santiago in September, 1975; and Political Structure and Population Policies, also to be held in Santiago during that same month.^{7/}

^{7/} See Annexe 4.

Aside from all the organizational arrangements, the Central Unit is preparing the main discussion papers to be presented to those workshops, dealing with a definition of the problem area, a framework for the development of new research projects, suggestions to increase the comparability of the data, and procedures to better integrate the findings.

Besides seminars and workshops organized by the Central Unit, its members have actively participated in the meetings of the CIACSO working groups on Internal Migration and on Human Reproduction.

3. Work Plan for 1976-77

In June 1974, the Programme Committee presented to the donor agencies of PISPAL the tentative Programme of Activities for 1975, 76 and 77, together with a formal request for financial support for this second stage.^{8/}

This programme which is now officially under way, contemplates a substantial increase in research activities and the creation of the conditions still needed to fulfill the objectives of PISPAL.

The Work Plan for the Central Unit is in accordance with that Programme of Activities and with the role that its functions and its institutional location give to this team in the Latin American Regional Population Programme.

The Work Plan comprises: research activities, dissemination of information relating to the Programme, training and technical assistance, and workshops and seminars.

A. Research.

The activities regarding research are oriented to attain the fullest possible integration of all research projects into coordinated and comparative programmes within the three research areas: Agricultural Development and Population Dynamics; Urbanization, Industrialization and Population, and Political Structure and Population Policies.

With that purpose, the Central Unit has been requested by the Programme Committee to coordinate the research projects now under way, so as to ensure that:

- a) they are integrated into a research strategy which allows for coping gradually and systematically with those problems deemed crucial for the development of scientifically based population policies within each country, and
- b) the potential of their findings for theory building and comparative purpose is exploited fully.

^{8/} See Annexe 5: Programme of Social Research on Population Problems Relevant to Population Policies in Latin America: Tentative Programme of Activities and Budget 1975-76-77, Mexico: June 1974. Also, Annexe 3.

As it is explained below, workshops are the main vehicles through which these purposes are expected to be achieved. All the activities related to them should crystallize in the proposal of comparative projects to be carried out during 1976-77. The approved Programme of Activities for 1975-76-77 has not specified which those projects will be, but in general terms it is expected that they adopt two different forms:

- a) projects which are the direct outcome of the workshops. These projects will be centered on the priority area covered by the specific workshop and their comparability will result from having chosen a common research problem and having agreed upon the general methodology to be used, rather than from following the same research design or using the same instruments. In other words, this type of comparative project is built upon specific subprojects which keep their individuality, but which are coordinated and their findings integrated by the Central Unit.
- b) comparative projects in which the Central Unit chooses the problem, prepares the research design, selects the countries to be covered, builds the instruments to be used and determines the analysis to be done, all this then being suggested to possible participating centres. As in the previous type, these projects will involve social sciences centres from selected countries and the analysis will be partially done by them; the responsibility for coordinating the project as well as for the comparative analysis of the data, will remain with the Central Unit.

Three projects of the first type are planned for the period 1976-77, one for each basic priority area. In the area of agricultural development and population dynamics, it is planned to integrate the individual projects already being financed by PISPAL, or that might be financed in the future, dealing with the impact of different modalities of agricultural development on rural employment and on rural migration (both intrarural and rural-urban). The following financed projects will be included in this cooperative effort: "Demographic changes in different agricultural socio-economic contexts of Mexico" (CEED, El Colegio de México); "Socio-economic characterization of the rural areas of Argentina" (CEUR, I.T.T); "Development and agrarian structure in Brazil" (CEBRAP); "Population rural development and migration in Central America" (Programa Centroamericano de Ciencias Sociales, CSUCA); "Population dynamics: the case of the Uruguayan rural sector" (CIESU).

A first integrated progress report on this project is planned to be finished by the end of 1976, but its very nature makes it impossible to start working on the final report until the individual projects are finished. Because of this it is not anticipated that it will be prepared earlier than 1977.

In the area of urbanization, industrialization and population, the main effort to integrate findings will be centered on the relationships existing between different urban settlement systems, the urban social stratification structure and the rates of natural growth of the urban population. The studies on "Urban system, urban structure and marginality: the Brazilian case" (CEBRAP); "The insertion of the Argentinian working class in the economic structure: 1952-1972" (CEUR, I.T.T); "Migration and health" (ASCOFALME) are the three presently financed projects which at this moment are more relevant for those integrating purposes. It is expected that the coming workshop on the subject will bring as an outcome the formulation of new projects which might enrich both the number of countries included and the analyses done.

Because most of the individual projects participating in this cooperative effort will start in 1976, no integrated report is planned until 1977.

In the priority area dealing with the study of political structures and population policies, comparative research will develop along the lines of research suggested by the recent Seminar on the subject matter of this area.

On that basis, comparative research in this subject area will be carried on through a project in which the core is made up by two specific and closely interrelated research problems that can be summarized as follows:

- a) for different societies in Latin America, what are the relationships that can be established between sets of policies that define different strategies of national development (i.e. policies of industrialization, agrarian reform, urbanization, employment and so), the structural features of socio-economic development and the demographic dynamics of these national societies;
- b) for the same cases, what are the relationships that can be established between the political processes of policy making at the State level (phases, agents and issues), and the viability of population policies integrated into national strategies of planned development.

Two projects already being financed by PISPAL (CCRP "Development policies and spatial distribution of the population in selected Latin American countries"; CEIAD, "Development strategies and population policies in Latin America") will allow to further specify some of the relationships involved in this comparative analysis. Besides, it is expected that the next workshop in this priority area will increase the number of projects to be submitted for financial support next year. Thus, an integrated report of this comparative project should not be expected before 1977.

One comparative project of the second type is planned for the period 1976-1977. The work advanced by the Central Unit during 1975 has allowed to make some preliminary specification as to what the research problem will be and the countries to be covered.

With regard to the first point, it was considered desirable for the problem to cut across the three priority areas, so as to complement and help in the integration of findings from the first type of projects. Taking this into account, it was decided to study on a comparative basis the interrelations existing between regional investment policies (both of productive activities and services), settlement patterns of the rural as well as the urban population, differential access to services, and natural growth determinants of the rural and semi-rural population.

As to the countries to be covered, a final selection will be made among the following: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Paraguay. Several considerations were taken into account to make that preliminary selection: in the first place, with the only exception of Bolivia, a country with the highest mortality of the region, the population of these countries is growing at rates higher than the regional average. In the second place, with the exception of Colombia and Venezuela, they all are less urbanized than the Latin American average. The two exceptions are countries where the urbanization process has been very fast during the last decade, thus making them particularly relevant for the purposes intended.

From another point of view, it was also taken into account the need to obtain more information relevant for population policies from those countries which, for various reasons, are at the moment poorer on this respect. By concentrating on those countries, not only the scope of comparable information will be considerably widened for scientific purposes, but also their governments will have a firmer basis for choosing among alternative policies, and their research centres will be strengthened.

Final decisions as to a sharper definition of the research problem and the countries and centres to be included will be taken during the second semester of 1975. It is planned that the process of data collection will be initiated in the first semester of 1976, and that the analysis as well as a general interpretation of the findings will be finished during 1977.

B. Dissemination of information relating to the Programme.

With the purpose of disseminating the knowledge accumulated through the different research activities undertaken within PISPAL, the Programme Committee has deemed of utmost importance to launch an editorial programme. This programme will be of special significance in the effort of reaching policy makers at different levels and of putting at their disposal the findings and results which are thought to contribute to the necessary scientific support of their work.

Therefore during 1976-77 the Programme aims at publishing through the Central Unit the reports of the different research projects, as they are completed, so that their results become known to professionals and students in the social sciences, to civil servants at decision-making levels in the area of population policies and to interested public opinion. Likewise, the Central Unit aims at a wide diffusion of those documents prepared in or for the workshops and seminars.

Three books are planned to be published during 1976:

1. Desarrollo Agrícola y Dinámica Poblacional (Agricultural Development and Population Dynamics), including a selection of the papers presented to the PISPAL Seminar on the subject;
2. Estructura Política y Políticas de Población (Political structures and population policies), a selection of the papers presented to the PISPAL Seminar on the same subject;

3. La Investigación en Ciencias Sociales y las Políticas de Población (Social Science Research and Population Policies), now being prepared by the Central Unit.

For the moment, only two books are planned to be published in 1977:

1. Urbanización, Estructura Urbana y Dinámica Poblacional (Urbanization, Urban Structure and Population Dynamics), a selection of the papers to be presented to the Seminar on the subject;
2. Migración y Desarrollo Agrícola (Migration and Agricultural Development) based on the final integrated report of the comparative research on the subject.

Furthermore, it is expected that the Central Unit will coordinate the publication of directly publish during 1976-77 the following series:

- a) reports on research projects undertaken by Member or Associate Centres within the frame of PISPAL;
- b) documents on theoretical and methodological approaches in the social sciences as applied to population studies;
- c) documents released by the Central Unit;
- d) documents and reports from the Seminars;
- e) a periodical prepared by the Central Unit to report on the progress of the activities related to the Programme in Latin America.

C. Training and Technical Assistance.

Training

The training activities of the Central Unit during 1976-77 will be centered in the participation of its members in the training programme of CEIAD in its different levels, as well as in those courses related to population and development offered by centres and universities in the area in which the Unit's collaboration is requested.

Technical Assistance

In accordance with the functions defined for the Central Unit, the technical assistance activities it will carry out during 1976 and 1977 can be grouped as follows:

- a) technical assistance given to centres (participating or not participating in the Programme), to international organization and to government agencies, at their direct request to the Central Unit, and
- b) technical assistance given by one or more members of the Central Unit as part of the activities that in this respect are conducted under ECLA's Regional Population Programme.

Lending technical assistance by the Central Unit to government and international agencies in the region, in the context of the second group of activities mentioned above, becomes a real possibility through its direct operational relation with CEIAD, specially now that this Centre is integrated in the ECLA system.

D. Workshops and seminars.^{9/}

Workshops

In order to achieve the research purposes described above, three yearly workshops have been programmed, in which researchers of Member Centres, Associated Centres and Guest Centres, will meet with one or several of the following purposes:

- a) compare and analyze the different theoretical and methodological approaches suggested by the Central Unit or by researchers who are already active or who intend to initiate studies on subject in the research areas which fall within the scope of the Programme so as to allow a level of coordination conducive to a more systematic approach to the corresponding field of study and, in the long run, to an integration of the results obtained;
- b) prepare and coordinate comparative research;

^{9/} See Annexe 5.

- c) prepare research projects in which two or more centres jointly analyze the same problem (cooperative research);
- d) review the progress of projects which have been undertaken using the coordination mechanism afforded by the workshops, and
- e) examine progress attained by the Central Unit in the study of different aspects of the research areas.

One workshop will be held yearly for each of the three basic research areas already mentioned. Those to be held in 1976 will be particularly concerned with:

- a) approving a coordinated research programme for each of the priority areas;
- b) agreeing on the steps to be followed so as to gradually and systematically analyze the different research problems in all countries involved;
- c) discussing the analyses made and suggesting further analyses of the data;
- d) determining the procedure to be followed so as to make available for secondary analysis by the Central Unit the data which are being gathered in the different projects.

The workshops during 1977 will be devoted to review the work done in each basic research area, examine the progress made by the Central Unit in the integration of the different findings, evaluate their implications for population policies, and decide on the publications to be made.

Seminars

In addition to the workshops, the Central Unit will organize yearly seminars during 1976-1977. While participants in the former are researchers from Member and Associate Centres engaged in projects financed by the Programme, the workshops thus having an internal character, in the Seminars, other highly qualified professionals, from Latin America or otherwise, will also be invited to participate. Accordingly, this type of scientific meetings will be concerned with:

- a) enabling researchers involved in the Programme to obtain information on the progress achieved by reviewing a given field of knowledge which has a direct interest for the Programme;

- b) giving researchers involved in the Programme the opportunity to participate in discussions in order to compare their theoretical and methodological approaches with those suggested by other researchers in other regions or in Latin America, who are not directly involved in the Programme, and
- c) facilitating the presentation and discussion of reports on research projects completed.

A Seminar on Urban Structure, Urbanization and Population Dynamics is planned to take place during 1976. It is also planned that by the end of 1977 a Seminar on the general problem area covered in the comparative research conducted by the Central Unit will be organized.

4. Project covering UNFPA contribution
(RIA-72/P13 PISPAL)

Components	1976		1977		
	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	
10	<u>Project Personnel</u>				
11	<u>Experts</u>				
11-01	Senior Researcher	12	31.295	12	31.920
11-02	Senior Researcher	12	34.930	12	35.630
11-03	Junior Researcher	12	25.260	12	25.765
11-04	Junior Researcher	12	28.765	12	29.340
11-05	Junior Researcher	12	23.485	12	23.955
11-09	Assistant Researcher	12	16.035	12	16.355
11-99	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>159.770</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>162.965</u>
13	<u>Administrative Support Personnel</u>		<u>33.000</u>		<u>33.000</u>
19	Component Total	72	192.770	72	195.965
99	<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>192.770</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>195.965</u>

