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PROBLEMS RESPECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN
RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN VENEZUELA

Presented by the
Government of Venezuela



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I. INTRODUCTION

In Venezuela, problems relating to children and young people are analysed and studied - both in order to regularize the existing situation and with a view to future implications - within the frame of reference constituted by human resources in general and their utilization in accordance with the country's development needs. In other words, the planning of the various activities carried out in this field is based on an over-all approach to the whole set of problems arising in connexion with the rational employment of the human factor.

The adoption of this point of view in Venezuela's planning system stems from the steadily increasing importance attached to the programming of human resources in various countries where development plans are being drawn up. It has transpired that the execution of such plans often encounters serious obstacles on account of the shortage of skilled workers, which is usually associated with a high rate of unemployment. The training of men and women in the basic sectors of the economy is therefore bound to be a lengthy process, calling for the formulation of programmes, the adoption of many complex decisions, and the investment of considerable amounts of capital during a period of several years before the desired results can be obtained. From this standpoint, it is clear that a diagnosis of the problems relating to human resources is needed for their better understanding.

A. DIAGNOSIS OF THE EXISTING HUMAN RESOURCES SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

1. Demographic structure and education

The population of Venezuela, which by 1950 numbered 5,034,838 inhabitants, has reached 8,907,187 in 1965, according to the most recent estimates. Demographic trends in Venezuela display special characteristics as regards both the rate of population growth and the birth and death rates. The marked increment just noted is attributable to a reduction of the mortality rate in combination with a high and practically constant birth rate; the latter was 43 per mil in 1963, and the former 6.9 per mil. On the basis of the foregoing indexes, it is projected that in 1965-68 the population of Venezuela will increase by 1,286,278 persons, as the result of an annual growth rate of 3.49 per cent, slightly higher than that established for the preceding four-year period. Obviously, so rapid a natural growth rate, and the steady increase expected to take place in 1965-68, must necessarily introduce radical changes in the age structure of the population, making for its continuous rejuvenation, or, in other words, progressively augmenting the numerical and proportional importance of the population under 15 years of age. The tables presented in the annex to this study show the current age structure of the Venezuelan population, and a corresponding projection for 1968. Short though the

/period is,

period is, these figures reveal that the groups at the upper and lower extremes (0 to 14 years of age, and 65 years or over) increase proportionally at the expense of the vitally important central age group. At the present time, 45.4 per cent of Venezuela's total population is under 14 years of age; the 15-59 age group accounts for 49.8 per cent; and the remaining 4.7 per cent is constituted by the group aged 60 years or over (see annex, tables 1 to 7).

The birth, mortality and growth indexes have been adjusted in the light of the immigration into Venezuela that took place during the fifties, and left substantial balances of foreign population which to some extent modified the age structure and, in lesser measure, the demographic indexes registered.

(i) Determination and analysis of demographic rates in Venezuela, 1963

The estimated indexes are as follows:

Birth rate	43 per mil
Mortality rate	6.9 per mil
Growth rate	3.4 per cent
Expectation of life at birth	66.4 years

Geographical distribution and urbanization

In Venezuela a disproportion exists between the population and the area of territory inhabited, since 32.5 per cent of the population lives in 2.2 per cent of the territory; this means that in specific parts of the country, such as the Southern Region, which constitutes 49.8 per cent of the whole territory, barely 3.5 per cent of the population is to be found. Population projections for 1970 suggest that rather than an improvement of this uneven distribution, there is more likely to be an intensification of the demographic concentration in the Central Region. Only in the Guayana area is the number of inhabitants expected to increase, in view of the specific projects located in that part of Venezuela.

The foregoing situation is partly determined by the various migratory movements (from one region or from one state to another, from rural to urban areas, and from one urban area to another) which are continually taking place throughout the country. Inter-regional population shifts have developed along lines which demarcate two regions - the Central and the Western - where in-migration is strongly marked; two others - the Andean and the Eastern - where out-migration predominates; and, lastly, two more - the Southern Region and the Llanos - where the movements alternate, positive indexes being registered for out-migration at the present time.

Migratory movements from rural to urban areas, together with the rapid expansion of certain conglomerations in Venezuela, have been caused by such factors as the following:

/(a) The

- (a) The availability of more employment opportunities in urban areas;
- (b) The attraction invariably exerted by large towns from the standpoint of social aspirations;
- (c) The slow but steady improvement of productivity in the agricultural sector.

These are all factors that are present, in greater or lesser degree, in every Latin American country, and one that is more typical of Venezuela must be added, namely, the development of the petroleum industry, and, more recently, mining activities, which have established some townships and have contributed to the growth of others.

Broadly speaking, the point on which most stress must be laid is the complete reversal undergone by the composition of the Venezuelan population since the 1936 census, which recorded 65 per cent of rural and 35 per cent of urban population, whereas by 1961 the corresponding proportions were 33 and 67 per cent, respectively.

A clearer idea of this structure may be given by the following table:

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1961</u>
	<u>(Percentages of total population)</u>			
Rural	65.3	60.3	46.2	32.5
Urban	34.7	39.4	53.8	67.5

As regards the structural trend likely to be followed, it is expected that the proportion of urban population will increase from its present 71.5 per cent to 74.1 per cent by 1968.

(ii) The economically active population in relation to the youth of the population

As was stated with reference to the total population, the relative importance of the central age group within its age structure has been dwindling in consequence of the high natality and declining mortality rates registered, and as, in addition, the rate of child labour has decreased, the total activity rate fell from 33.89 per cent to 31.99 per cent between the 1951 and 1961 censuses.

In Venezuela, the demographic structure noted determines the composition of the economically active population, in which significance attaches to the percentage of persons between the ages of 15 and 65 years, the proportion represented by female workers and the participation of persons under 15 or over 65 years of age (see annex, table 8).

/The total

The total activity rates shown in table 9 reflect the evolutionary characteristics of the population in the period between two censuses; the male population can be seen to represent the higher percentage.

(iii) Variations in the rate of illiteracy

The problems connected with the utilization of Venezuela's huge labour force can be better understood if attention is drawn to the proportion of illiterate persons it includes. Despite the considerable improvement in this respect, the percentage of illiterate persons, which at the date of the 1936 census was 61 per cent of the total population over 14 years of age, is still high even at the present time, since in 1961 it stood at 33.5 per cent. Furthermore, the proportion differs in the male and female populations, for whereas in the former it dropped from 58.5 per cent in 1936 to 29.8 per cent in 1961, in the case of the latter the corresponding figures were 63.4 and 37.3 per cent, respectively.^{1/}

This higher proportion of illiteracy among the female sex is yet another characteristic of developing countries, and is one of the bottlenecks for whose elimination Venezuela is making provision in the educational plans now in course of formulation.

* 2. Social maladjustments

The switch-over from one culture to another that has taken place in Venezuela as a result of the migratory movements described above, the process of vertical and horizontal social mobility, and contact with mass communication media, have shown the population a world that differs radically from their original environment, awakening new expectations and ultimately causing a good deal of disruption of the family structure. The new living conditions (comfortless shanty towns, predominance of anonymity in social relations) have given rise to a whole series of maladjustments in this changing society. Broadly speaking, during the past forty years there has been a trend in Venezuela towards the break-up of the traditional rural society and the emergence of a new and substantially different social pattern, in which the industrialization process affects the structure of society, creating distortions which, on account of the socio-cultural background of its members, are difficult to straighten out. Thus, in large towns beset with housing problems, where living conditions are highly promiscuous, the sense of paternal responsibility is weakened, and in the end the woman becomes the visible head of the family group, assuming responsibility for the children's upbringing, even when her own illiteracy makes her essentially unfitted for the task.

^{1/} See Plan de la Nación 1963-1966, page 294. Percentages relate to the population of over 14 years of age.

3. Labour

For some years, the problems relating to childhood and youth with which Venezuela has been faced have gone hand in hand with unemployment. The national unemployment rate, which is about 13 per cent, is determined both by the shortage of employment opportunities and by deficiencies in the training of human resources. Although it might be assumed that the considerable development of the Venezuelan economy in recent years should have permitted a high degree of manpower absorption, structural unemployment and marginal occupation or under-employment still constitute the keystone of the nation's problems, determining and influencing other difficulties, notably those affecting young persons, who pour into the labour market at the rate of 80,000 a year, without the requisite training, or without finding the right job for the training they have been given.

There are other social problems in Venezuela which shape and condition that of the nation's youth. The problem of work, or rather of the lack of it, is closely linked to the questions which the present study attempts to analyse; they influence one another to such an extent that it is difficult to unravel their inter-relationships. This is why primary attention has been devoted here to labour problems in Venezuela, the difficulties being described from the over-all standpoint to begin with, irrespective of age groups, and subsequently with specific reference to those relating to the groups under 18 years of age.

This problem assumes tragic proportions in the light of the number of persons - about 80,000, as previously noted - that enter the labour market every year. Because unemployment in Venezuela is of a structural character, not even the recent intensive development of the Venezuelan economy has provided a solution, since it has not absorbed enough workers to eliminate what is nowadays the mainspring of the complex of problems with which the country is faced. The following factors are responsible for this state of affairs:

(1) A rapid rate of demographic growth, to which reference has already been made, and which is one of the highest in Latin America and even in the world, owing to the combination of a declining mortality rate with a relatively high and constant birth rate;

(2) The reduction of employment in so important a sector as the petroleum industry, in consequence of its high and continuously rising productivity. The position in 1964 can be stated in the following terms: the petroleum sector, which accounted for 93.4 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, 53.56 per cent of fiscal revenue and 21.0 per cent of the gross domestic product, employed barely 1.2 per cent of the labour force, or, in other words, provided work for 33,262 members of the economically active population, in contrast with the agricultural sector, which employed 793,000 persons, or 28.68 per cent of the economically active population, and generated 6.4 per cent of the gross domestic product. That is, while in the petroleum industry average annual productivity amounts to 218,868.4 bolivars per active person, in agriculture it reaches only 319.8 bolivars;

/(3) The

(3) The steady increase in the numbers annually entering the labour market. This situation is aggravated as a result of the rapid urbanization process alluded to above. The large segment of the population that migrates from the rural to the urban areas is not satisfactorily absorbed into the production process, or, in other words, remains to some extent on the fringe of economic development, seeks occupation in a range of relatively ill-paid services, and, in most cases, falls a victim to total unemployment for want of the necessary educational attainments. In short, human resources in Venezuela are not qualitatively adapted to the opportunities offered by the employment structure that development involves, particularly in the industrial sector, so that in the urban centres a disequilibrium is created in the structure of employment itself;

(4) The failure of the industrialization process launched at the beginning of the fifties to fulfil expectations as regards its capacity to promote the absorption of unemployed manpower, probably for the following reasons:

(a) A high percentage of the manpower employed in industry lacks the necessary skills, owing, inter alia, to the fact that these workers come from rural areas. The shortage of skilled labour has prompted entrepreneurs to adopt capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive procedures, capital being a factor which, unlike labour, has been relatively easily obtainable, considering that Venezuela is a developing country. It is common knowledge that manpower absorption capacity is in inverse ratio to the progress of technology, a situation which is exemplified in the industrialized countries, where there are signs of what has been termed, precisely, "technological unemployment";

(b) The import substitution process has been based on the application of procedures and techniques proper to industrialized countries, regardless of the need to give priority to those of a labour-intensive character. Moreover, it has two readily explicable shortcomings:

(i) As was natural in this initial stage, it has been confined to products whose manufacture entails easy techniques and calls for less entrepreneurial capacity, so that a capital goods industry has not yet been installed;

(ii) Import substitution industries still obtain most of their raw material supplies from abroad. That is, the industrial growth achieved through these activities continues to depend upon imports both of raw materials and of the requisite capital goods.

In so far as import substitution policy gradually scales greater heights of complexity, the country may be able to supply the lack of skilled labour by means of an immigration control policy designed to provide a short-term solution of the problem. In the meanwhile, education programmes will have to be continuously stepped up with a view to solving it satisfactorily on a longer-term basis;

(5) The availability of foreign exchange in plenty, which has enabled Venezuela to import the most advanced types of capital goods, and with them the corresponding techniques;

(6) The fact that, for various reasons which it is beyond the scope of the present report to analyse, relatively fewer employment opportunities are generated when that stage of industrialization is reached at which the import substitution process approaches saturation point in respect of consumer goods, and more complex lines of domestic production have to be undertaken to replace imports of raw materials or intermediate products, as well as of capital goods.

B. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1. General description of the National Development Plan (Plan de la Nación)

Venezuela's planning system was established on 30 December 1958, under Legislative Decree No 492, whereby the responsibility for top-level co-ordination of planning and of the implementation of government programmes was assigned to the President of the Republic, in consultation with his Cabinet, and assisted by an auxiliary agency to be known as the Central Co-ordination and Planning Office attached to the Office of the President of the Republic (Oficina Central de Coordinación y Planificación adscrita a la Presidencia de la República - CORDIPLAN). These provisions laid the foundations for the national planning system.

Its establishment, therefore, is a relatively recent development. Prior to the date in question, the "formulation of a national economic and social development plan" had been proposed in 1952 as part of the work of the Venezuelan Development Corporation (Corporación Venezolana de Fomento). In actual fact, this agency merely drew up a few sectoral plans in the industrial field, and did not go as far as putting forward an over-all development plan. Nowadays, planning plays a highly important part in the activities of the Venezuelan public administration, the position in this respect being crystallized in the National Constitution, article 191, which lays upon the President of the Republic the obligation to "outline the national economic and social development plan" in his annual Message to Congress. Furthermore, the Constitution likewise stipulates that "the State shall promote economic development and the diversification of production, with the aim of creating new sources of wealth, raising the income levels of the population and strengthening the country's economic independence". By virtue of these clear and categorical provisions, Venezuela became the sole Latin American country to recognize the need for planning in its National Constitution, taking the lead in this respect among the other countries of the region, and

/anticipating the

anticipating the resolutions embodied in the Charter of Punta del Este, which established that planning was a prerequisite for the acceleration of economic and social development. With these underlying ideas and on these lines the planning system was instituted, as stated above, with the creation of a planning unit - CORDIPLAN - at the highest governmental level, and of sectoral planning units and commissions; similar units and commissions also operate at the level of specific areas.

CORDIPLAN's terms of reference comprise multiple functions, both in the phase of programme formulation - when it has to carry out economic and social development studies and keep the over-all development plan up to date, besides discharging other duties that it would take too long to enumerate - and in relation to the discussion, approval and supervision of plans. CORDIPLAN takes no part in their actual execution; on the other hand it fulfils important functions in the fields of advisory assistance and technical training for programming. The six sections into which the Office is divided include a Department of Social and Industrial Programming, in which there is a unit whose specific function is the programming of human resources, in line with Venezuela's economic development requirements.

The aim pursued in the development plan for the next four years, as indicated by the President of the Republic in his Presidential Message for 1964, is that "of transforming a petroleum economy into one of a modern agricultural and industrial type, such as will promote a steady improvement in the level of living of the lower income groups". It is recognized that the Venezuelan economy will continue to be influenced by the petroleum industry, but a series of measures making for its diversification are programmed. In this connexion, the sectors that will do most to increase the gross domestic product, whose average annual growth rate, according to estimates, will be 7.2 per cent, are the various branches of industry. Manufacturing activities, production of public utilities (electricity, gas, water) and the building industry, in the aggregate, will expand at an annual rate of 11.5 per cent. For manufacturing industry taken alone, the corresponding figure will be 9.9 per cent; this is a lower rate than was envisaged in the preceding plan, because in recent years the sector in question has succeeded in substituting domestic production for most imports of consumer goods, so that it is in process of completing one stage of industrialization and embarking upon a new and more complex phase, which will culminate in the establishment of large-scale import substitution and export industries producing intermediate and capital goods. Within the period covered by the plan, it is hoped to begin construction of new plants in such basic fields as the chemical and petrochemical industries, steel-making, and metal-transforming activities.

/The improvement

The improvement of infrastructural facilities and of physical conditions in population centres will contribute to the development of productive activities.

The agricultural sector should attain an annual growth rate of 8 per cent. Provision will be made for endowing a further 159,000 rural families with land, and consolidating the settlement of another 134,000.

An ambitious low-cost housing plan, comprising the construction of about 180,000 housing units in four years, will also be carried out. As regards highways, it is proposed to build or reconstruct roads representing a total length of 4,100 kilometres, and to pave about 10,000 kilometres. The area currently under irrigation is to be trebled by the construction and development of systems that will increase it to 200,000 hectares, not to mention the fact that the reclamation of the areas to the south of Lake Maracaibo and the Orinoco Delta will add to the land available for the development of up-to-date farming. Over and above these undertakings, school premises for 300,000 pupils are to be built, and the execution of an aqueduct programme in urban and rural areas will provide potable water services for five and a half million people, i.e., 90 per cent of the urban population and all population clusters of over 500 inhabitants in the rural areas - a target that has nearly been attained already.

The continuance of the national electrification plan will raise existing generating capacity by over 50 per cent, mainly through the termination of the initial phase in the first stage of construction of the Guri Dam, which will then have a generating capacity of 1,750,000 kW. The five-year telecommunications plan (Plan Quinquenal de Telecomunicaciones) will be virtually completed; inter-communications will be established among the various parts of the country, and there will be reliable channels of communications with the rest of the world.

This vast production effort calls for better training of Venezuela's labour force. Accordingly, by virtue of the expansion of education programmes, the number of Venezuelan children and adolescents attending educational establishments will be raised to 2,200,000, which implies a 30-per-cent increase in relation to the 1964 enrolment figure. Illiteracy, already vigorously combated during the last five years, will drop from a rate of 20 per cent to 4 per cent; while the various programmes of the National Institute of Educational Co-operation (Instituto Nacional de Cooperación Educativa - INCE), of which more will be said later, will provide better training for 367,000 rural and urban workers.

2. Human resources programming

The essential objectives of the National Plan for the next four years having thus been outlined, more specific reference may be made to the ideas underlying Venezuela's planning for its human resources. Such planning must, of course, cover the whole process whereby the satisfactory development and rational utilization of the resources in question can be ensured. Thus, it includes the definition of the human aptitudes needed for each major activity; the determination of the scale of these requirements and of the manner in which they are to be met; and the utilization of existing institutions or the establishment of new ones to provide manpower at the right time, in the right amount, and of the right quality. Furthermore, it calls for careful investigation of the various institutions to make sure that together they can produce the staff required to impart the training and knowledge that are indispensable for economic and social development.

In view of the critical shortage of qualified personnel and the high unemployment index to which reference has already been made, and considering that the sectors in question are inter-related inasmuch as what constitutes a solution for one may afford partial solutions for another, it is clearly necessary to work out a planning and development strategy in the sense of establishing specific objectives, for the short, medium and long terms alike. These objectives will serve as landmarks indicating the general direction to be taken by all the relevant government action, of which the most important components will be the following:

- (1) An evaluation of current employment and unemployment, by occupational category and by areas;
- (2) An attempted forecast of the employment situation over a period of not less than about ten (10) years;
- (3) An inventory and evaluation of existing institutions, specifically including the system of formal education, both public and private, training and apprenticeship programmes, training of the armed forces, education and training abroad, adult education programmes, community development, etc.;
- (4) A programme for the expansion of formal education at all levels, as well as for improving its quality and, at a later stage, linking it more closely to national development needs;

(5) A programme for training and instruction other than formal education, to comprise the following: (a) improvement of working skills; (b) programmes such as those developed by INCE; (c) training through military services; (d) literacy and adult education campaigns; (e) agricultural extension services; (f) community development;

(6) A plan for creating incentives which will attract both male and female workers into socially useful and productive activities;

(7) An organization to integrate and encourage the activities of new institutions, agencies, groups, Ministries and other bodies that have to take part in the above-mentioned studies and programmes;

(8) A resolute effort, through all these lines of action, to encourage a progressive outlook. People are thinking in terms of progress, and it is essential to ensure their understanding of the development process and their participation in it.

All these strategies will be the subject of research and analysis in the course of the next few years, and objective solutions, to be put into effect in the shortest possible space of time, will be propounded in order of priority.

II. MEASURES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN VENEZUELA, AND REQUISITES FOR THE MORE EFFICACIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

A. DESCRIPTION OF SECTORAL PROGRAMMES SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, AND EVALUATION OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION (1964)

Some account will next be given of programmes designed specifically for the benefit of Venezuela's children and young people, in the various sectors, with reference to what was done during the year 1964, and, where possible, successes and failures in the implementation of each sectoral programme will be evaluated.

/1. Education

1. Education

The Government of Venezuela has spared neither efforts nor resources to give both the child population and young persons in general an education which will fit them for the free exercise of their rights and the faithful discharge of their responsibilities in a democratic society. Steps have been taken to get rid of the scourge of illiteracy, to train useful members of the community, to raise the cultural level of society, to improve the quality of education and to buttress the nation's economic and social development.

In this context, the following developments may be singled out as significant:

- (a) Seventy-nine per cent of the school-age population is attending educational establishments;
- (b) Only 20 per cent of the adult population over 14 years of age is illiterate;
- (c) In the school year 1963-64, 1,656,000 persons, including children, adolescents and post-adolescents, were following regular courses of study in the various branches of education. At the present time (1964-65), over 1,700,000 children and young persons are receiving education, which implies that 24.1 per cent of the population over 4 years of age is attending educational establishments in Venezuela. It should be noted, however, that these data do not take into account the number of persons who are given training in labour centres, offices or factories.

In this last connexion, it is worth pointing out that during the year 1964 more than 4,700 unemployed youths were trained for one or other of the skilled occupations classified as strategic areas in the employment market. But, on the other hand, at the level of primary education retardation was observable in the case of 12 per cent of the pupils enrolled, i.e. they were entered in a grade lower than that corresponding to their age.

Moreover, despite the efforts made, there are still many shortcomings that must be rectified before the entire population of Venezuela can be given free access to education. If such problems as those mentioned above were solved through efficient utilization of the existing installed capacity, the educational deficit could be automatically reduced to 11 per cent. Another striking fact is that 47.3 per cent of the total number of pupils repeating a primary school year are to be found in the first grade, which signifies a serious problem, attributable in the main to deficiencies in evaluation systems or in teaching methods and content; to the marked retardation in the first grade, where ages range from 5 to over 20 years; and to other similar factors.

In 1962-63, at the primary level, 12.8 per cent of the total numbers enrolled, or 1,317,787 pupils, dropped out. Of every 100 pupils enrolled

/in the

in the first grade, only 23 managed, 6 years later, to pass into the sixth grade (figure for the 1958-59 to 1963-64 cohort).

With respect to secondary education, the situation displays much the same features as in the case of primary schooling, for the latter's retardation problems are perpetuated in logical sequence, while those relating to dropping-out differ in accordance with the specific branch of secondary education concerned. Thus, for example, in vocational education for industry 48 per cent of the students enrolled dropped out in 1961-62, and out of every 100 students of the 1957-58 to 1962-63 cohort enrolled in the first year, only 9 reached the sixth year. As can be seen, these indexes reveal a very low retention capacity and consequently a scanty output (see annex, tables 10, 11 and 12).

Enrolment in higher education increased from 7,000 students in 1950-51 to 41,000 - almost six times as many - in 1964-65. This fact alone presupposes the existence of a complex of problems concomitant with so remarkable an expansion. In the first place, a falling-off can be noted in the quality of education at this level, probably because in many areas the necessity of making provisional arrangements is attended by handicaps ranging from the employment of poorly qualified staff to shortages of technical material. But there is one phenomenon upon which particular stress must be laid: during the last few years of the present democracy, a constant motive of concern has been the influence exerted on education by the disturbingly bitter political strife waged within the educational establishments themselves, with the deplorable result that the principle of authority has been undermined and academic standards have been relaxed. Hence it is a common experience to meet with suspension of classes for political reasons, absenteeism on the part of the teaching staff and a string of other occurrences that characterize the critical situation through which education is now passing, especially in the universities. The state of affairs reflected in the foregoing diagnosis has led the Government of Venezuela to establish a set of objectives by whose attainment matters will be improved. Some of these are enumerated below.

At the primary level, the following are the targets proposed:

By 1968-69, absenteeism in the first grade should decrease from 27.4 per cent to 5 per cent of the 7-year-old group; by 8 per cent in the 8-year-old group; and to 11.7 per cent of the 9-year-olds. The school deficit will be reduced from the current 21 per cent to 10 per cent. The proportion of the total number of pupils repeating a year represented by those repeating the first grade, which was 47.3 per cent in 1964-65, will drop to 28.9 per cent by 1968-69; for the second grade, the corresponding decrease will be from 15.7 per cent to 10 per cent; and repetition will also be reduced to 10 per cent in the case of the third grade. The position, it is hoped, will be such that in relation to total enrolments repetition can be brought down to 10 per cent in all primary school grades. Again in relation to total enrolments, dropping-out is expected to decrease to 10 per cent in the period under consideration, while the promotion rate will rise to 80 per cent.

/To meet

To meet the foregoing targets, it is estimated that 13,348 additional teachers will be incorporated into the system during the four-year period, and that 2,540.4 million bolivars will be allocated to expenditure on overheads, building and equipment, irrespective of the sums that will be earmarked for these purposes by the private sector, which is responsible for 13 per cent of the total number of pupils enrolled.

In pursuance of the campaign against illiteracy in Venezuela, concurrently with the training of adults in the skilled occupations that represent strategic areas in the labour market, it is hoped to reduce the present illiteracy rate (20 per cent of the population aged over 14 years) to 4 per cent. According to estimates, the public sector will allocate 91.6 million bolivars for the implementation of this programme.

In order to introduce reforms in the structure of education which will adapt it to the needs of development, a new Education Act is to be brought into force in 1965-68, incorporating the fresh approach demanded by the nation's economic and social growth. In this connexion, secondary education will be remodelled in order to channel the youth of Venezuela into the varying activities of national life, which is evolving in the direction of steadily increasing complexity. The intention is to put into execution a far-reaching programme of incentives to promote the enrolment of larger numbers of students in those branches of education which are of vital importance for development. The reform of the educational system will be accompanied by a series of basic research projects which will enable the existing situation to be accurately mapped out. Among the measures to be adopted, mention may be made of the following:

- (a) Establishment of an experimental basic cycle in the whole of the secondary education system;
- (b) Expansion of the school and vocational guidance programme;
- (c) Evaluation of training schools for primary and secondary school teachers;
- (d) An intensive in-service training programme for secondary school teachers;
- (e) Improvements in the institutions responsible for the systematic training of secondary school teachers.

At the level of higher education, 30,056 students enrolled in the year 1963-64 and, according to estimates, 41,106 in the present year (1964-65). By 1968 the enrolment figure is expected to reach 69,700 students; this will entail the employment of 2,508 additional teachers, which implies the application of a broad professional exchange and training programme. It is hoped to improve the situation in respect of university and advanced education in Venezuela by means of a set of instruments that will facilitate the rationalization of educational expansion in the different areas, the establishment of a rigid system of priorities, and the control of enrolment in study courses for over-stocked professions. The Secretariat of the

National University Council will take the necessary steps to set up a body responsible for the planning of university education and for correlation with schools at the advanced and lower levels, in order to ensure closer co-ordination between these various strata of the educational system.

The foregoing measures should deal successfully with Venezuela's higher education problems.

The attainment of the above-mentioned objectives will mean that in 1968 the allocations for investment and operational expenditure will be 36.2 million bolivars and 301.6 million bolivars, respectively. In brief, for the whole period covered by the plan (1965-68) the Government of Venezuela will earmark the sum of 5,676.4 million bolivars (i.e., 1,261.4 million dollars) to cover operational and investment expenditures at all levels of the educational system.

2. Public health problems

In enumerating the problems that affect children and young persons in Venezuela, the importance of those relating to public health services must not be overlooked.

One of the chief reasons for this importance is to be found in Venezuela's population structure, in which the younger age groups are predominant, since, as noted above, 62.45 per cent of the population is below 25 years of age. These figures indicate the immensity of the task to be carried out both in the field of public health services proper and in that of preventive measures, besides suggesting the variety of ills to which a population of this kind is exposed.

Secondly, alongside the population explosion and the rapid urbanization process registered in Venezuela, there has been an improvement in public health services which has consisted, on the one hand, in the eradication of the main diseases that ravage the health of rural families and, therefore, of the younger age groups, and, on the other hand, in the establishment of adequate health services in the urban areas, with a view to controlling the epidemics and similar evils that are rife in the outskirts of the larger towns, where most of the in-migrants from rural areas are huddled together, ill-housed and ill-cared-for.

Diagnosis of the existing health situation in Venezuela

(i) Mortality. Among the diseases to which the child population of Venezuela is chiefly subject is gastro-enteritis, which, although it is still the primary cause of infant mortality, will gradually diminish as environmental sanitation projects expand, the application of therapeutical treatment is intensified, and health education campaigns are conducted. Its relative importance can be seen to have decreased, inasmuch as in 1962 it accounted for 24.1 per cent of the number of deaths registered among

/infants under

infants under one year of age, and in 1963 for 21.85 per cent (see annex, tables 14 and 15). There are, however, other irreducible causes of death, such as premature birth, birth injuries and congenital malformations, which are beyond the reach of public health measures, and whose relative importance within the total thus increases as disease is controlled.

Other diseases that attack children and adults alike are dysentery, pneumonia, influenza, etc.

In the 5-14 age group, accidents become the primary cause of death, and cancer begins to take its toll, rising to fourth place in 1962 and 1963 (see annex, tables 18 and 19).

Accidents are still the leading cause of death in the 15-24 age group, while second in importance come suicide and homicide, the causes of which are such factors as neglect, lack of discipline, obfuscation and certain forms of mental disturbance (see annex, tables 20 and 21).

(ii) Public health programmes. Reference was made at the outset to the public health problems affecting children and young persons, for which various agencies are seeking solutions.

With respect to environmental sanitation, it should be noted that as far as the piped-water programme for rural areas is concerned, the potable water deficit will be reduced to nil by 1967 in places with 500-5,000 inhabitants. At the same time, a pilot plan is being developed in collaboration with UNICEF to cover scattered hamlets with under 500 inhabitants.

Attention is also being devoted to the construction of latrines as a means of combating the dissemination of parasitic diseases in general, and to a newly-launched rural sewage programme designed to permit integrated environmental sanitation.

The above-mentioned programmes, in combination with health education campaigns, will minimize the incidence of water-borne diseases, which are well-known to be a major cause of death among the child population.

Besides these environmental sanitation programmes, there are others concerned with mother and child welfare, school meals and nutrition (Programas Materno-Infantiles, del Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares, del Instituto Nacional de Nutrición, etc.).

(iii) Mother and child welfare programmes. These programmes are the outcome of the effort to reduce the child mortality rate. Although it fell from 64.4 per mil in 1958 to 48.1 per mil in 1963, the rate in question is still considered high, and every endeavour is being made to bring it down to the lowest possible minimum.

/Accordingly, the

Accordingly, the Mother and Child Welfare Department (Departamento Materno-Infantil) plans to take the following steps in 1965-68:

- (a) To set up new standards for the development of mother and child welfare activities, since those at present undertaken are not commensurate with the requirements of the demographic situation in Venezuela;
- (b) To apply measures aimed at reducing the mortality rate among children in general and new-born babies in particular;
- (c) To improve and expand the welfare services available to mothers, in order to consolidate the bases of the family unit and help to combat the causes of maternal morbidity and mortality;
- (d) To broaden the plan of campaign against child malnutrition, in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition (Instituto Nacional de Nutrición) and the School Meals Foundation (Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares);
- (e) To intensify the teaching and training of personnel, in collaboration with other dependencies of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare and the educational and university authorities;
- (f) To expand and co-ordinate paediatric services in Venezuela;
- (g) To intensify the activities currently undertaken by the National Child-Care Institute (Instituto Nacional de Puericultura) in the field of community development. To this end, a Home Economics School (Escuela de Formación para el Hogar) was inaugurated in January 1965.

The other two programmes to which allusion was made above are those of the Instituto Nacional de Nutrición and the Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares, which are the two institutions most closely concerned with nutritional problems in Venezuela. Their programmes are State-financed, and enjoy the technical co-operation and scientific advisory assistance of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.

The Instituto Nacional de Nutrición has been responsible for establishing standards and conducting research work in the field of nutrition, and has undertaken certain activities on the executive side. Under the 1965-68 Plan, the following programmes are to be expanded:

- (a) Protection of the pre-school child. A highly nourishing milk product (PL), which affords the child full protection against malnutrition, is prepared and, through the local public health centres, distributed to children previously selected by medical advisers. The programme is being developed on a national scale, and its progressive extension is governed by an order of priorities established in accordance with the geographical distribution of the problem and the accessibility of the child population in need of protection. Up to now, it has covered mainly the rural areas

/subject to

subject to sanitary inspection, where the problem has traditionally been more serious, while at present it is gaining in importance among the more necessitous sectors of the urban population.

(b) Pre-natal care. In all local public health centres, multiple vitamin and iron sulphate tablets are distributed to expectant mothers to protect them against vitamin and mineral salt deficiencies.

(c) School milk. Under this programme, pasteurized milk is provided for school children.

(d) Home dietetics. The aim of this programme is to show mothers and other women and girls how they can improve family diet, consistently with the possibilities of each household budget and with Venezuela's traditional food habits, and to ensure that foodstuffs are turned to the best possible account. To this end, a three months' course of theoretical and practical classes is given.

(e) Protein supplement. Here the intention is to supplement, through the schools, the ordinary diet of children from the lower income groups.

The targets for all the foregoing programmes are shown in the annex to the present study, table 22.

(iv) Programmes of the Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares.

Alongside the Instituto Nacional de Nutrición, the Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares is developing, throughout Venezuela, three complete-diet programmes for children of pre-school and school age and adolescents, and a diet supplement programme known as "Vaso de Leche y Merienda Escolar" (i.e., "School Milk and Meals").

Thanks to the work of PNCE, whereas in 1946, when the institution in question was founded, the malnutrition rate for children of school age was as high as 60 per cent, it has now been brought down to 10 per cent. In view of the results achieved, the programmes are currently being extended to cover the pre-school age group (2 to 7 years).

Since the anti-malnutrition campaign has been so successful, and in view of the increase in the school-age population, PNCE is thinking of expanding its programmes in 1965-68 and aiming at more ambitious targets. It is concentrating mainly on the complete-diet programme for children of pre-school age, since that is the population group in which malnutrition is a serious problem at the present time, besides producing unfavourable repercussions in the primary schools, in which month by month under-nourished children are enrolled; the greatest interest is therefore being taken in starting a pre-school programme on the same lines as that arranged for school children, under which, from 1965 onwards, a complete and balanced daily diet will be provided at breakfast-time for 50,000 children of pre-school age. The same facilities, equipment and staff will be used as for the school meals, while the technical and administrative experience acquired in connexion with these latter will also be turned to account (see annex, tables 23 and 24).

3. Vocational training

Some of the reasons for the shortage of skilled technicians are to be found in the Venezuelan educational system, in which emphasis has been placed on humanistic careers and academic training, with the result that highly-qualified specialists have been produced and the intermediate level has been neglected. These characteristics of the educational system are determined by Venezuela's historical, cultural and social structure, in which prestige is a highly important factor and education represents a means of acquiring it. Technical and manual skills are traditionally under-estimated, since they are not considered to be rungs in the social ladder. The educational system, in attempting to respond to the demands of the population in this respect, has evolved the prevailing characteristics cited; hence the shortage of technicians at the intermediate level.

Every endeavour should be made to lower the high index of dropping-out referred to in an earlier section, for it shows that the youth of Venezuela is not being trained to perform the tasks that lie ahead, and in such circumstances economic development proposals may prove fruitless for want of the human factor to put them into effect.

Dropping-out and lack of occupation in the younger age groups are among the root causes of a problem which is assuming alarming proportions: that of juvenile delinquency. In considering it, other factors must be taken into account, as, for instance, internal migratory movements, disruption of the family as an institution, inappropriate use of mass communications media, and such cultural element as the traditional belief in a paternalistic State.

(i) General training programme

The agency concerned with general training problems, including those relating to young persons, is that known as the National Institute of Educational Co-operation (Instituto Nacional de Cooperación Educativa - INCE).

This autonomous body, which is a juridical person and possesses capital of its own, was established by an act passed on 22 August 1959, the pertinent regulatory decree following on 11 March 1960.

The basic principle underlying INCE's activities is the scientific concept, which has grown up in recent years, that skill, training and ingenuity - factors in "human capital" - count for more in economic development than the plants, machinery and equipment that make up tangible capital. Vocational training is becoming an increasingly important objective, not only in countries that have reached an advanced stage of development precisely because of their action in this field, but in those that have more recently become independent communities, and see in it an indispensable means of speeding up their growth and solving their serious social problems.

/This new

This new view of vocational education as one of the major objectives of a modern State is responsible for the radical changes that are coming about in the organization and administrative structure of this service in Latin America.

Thus, INCE is the Venezuelan expression of a broad international movement towards reform, organized on typically Latin American lines and destined to fulfil a social function of limitless scope. It operates under the direction of representatives of the employers, the workers and the State, and its primary purpose is to organize and improve vocational education by means of elementary, specialized and advanced training courses for adult workers and a regular apprenticeship system for those of fourteen to eighteen years of age. In accordance with its statutory law, INCE discharges this function in close collaboration with the employers' associations and workers' trade unions, and its activities are co-ordinated with public administration plans.

INCE's capital is formed by: (a) an employers' contribution, equivalent to 1 per cent of the total salaries and wages paid to the employees and workers concerned; (b) a workers' contribution, equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the share of annual profits accruing to them; and (c) a State contribution, equivalent to a minimum of 20 per cent of the contributions indicated under (a) and (b).

In accordance with its terms of reference, INCE discharges the following functions:

It determines labour requirements for the nation as a whole and in specific industrial activities, by means of nation-wide or specialized surveys;

It prepares teaching manuals for the various trades and crafts, based on a detailed analysis of each of the operations they involve, and formulates training programmes under which every trainee will carry out on his own account each of the operations concerned, which are arranged in ascending order of difficulty;

It organizes and promotes, in close co-ordination with entrepreneurs and workers, vocational training on the job, by means of:

- (a) A regular apprenticeship system for workers aged over 14 and under 18 years;
- (b) The organization of elementary, advanced and specialized training courses within enterprises out of working hours;
- (c) The training of instructors within the enterprises themselves;
- (d) The training, or further training, of supervisors.

/It establishes

It establishes vocational training centres for those trades and crafts in whose case such a step is warranted by the findings of manpower surveys. These centres train instructors for the Institute itself and for enterprises and offer intensive training courses for adults, training courses for workers under 18 years of age, and advanced or specialized courses;

It promotes and encourages vocational training activities on the part of enterprises themselves, wherever this is technically and economically feasible;

It implements and manages, as an independent agency, an Extraordinary Juvenile Training Programme (Programa Extraordinario de Adiestramiento Juvenil) for unemployed youths between 16 and 25 years of age, the aim of which is to teach them a skill that will enable them to compete in the labour market;

Lastly, it carries out a special training programme for conscripts during their term of military service.

The purpose of each of these programmes is to relieve the situation in Venezuela as regards the under-training of manpower resources. The number of persons trained since the agency was established now totals 68,661, while in the year 1965 training will be given to 62,170 employed workers and 16,151 unemployed youths, i.e., 78,320 persons in all. During the four-year period under consideration, it is hoped that INCE will provide training for 377,045 persons, 293,724 under the ordinary and 73,346 under the extraordinary programme, leaving 19,970 for the special programme.

To meet the targets established for the Plan period (1965-68) the sum of 339.3 million bolivars will be allocated.

(ii) Juvenile occupation

The concern felt by the public and private sectors with regard to the situation of children and young persons in Venezuela was reflected in the establishment of a Juvenile Occupation Commission (Comisión de Ocupación Juvenil), sponsored by INCE, to formulate a short-term programme of action aimed at remedying the existing state of affairs.

This Commission was responsible for the promotion and organization of a first Juvenile Occupation Workshop (I Jornadas sobre Ocupación Juvenil), at which the topic was dealt with in terms of tactics for eradicating the problem of young people with nothing to do. The term juvenile occupation was taken to cover not only paid employment, but also any educational (school and out-of-school), community, recreational, artistic and other activities whatsoever that can pull the youth of Venezuela out of the slough of idleness. Similarly, papers and studies were discussed which approached the problem and its possible solutions from differing angles. The Workshop's resolutions and conclusions served as a basis for the recommendations listed below.

/General recommendations:

General recommendations:

That an agency should be appointed to define and co-ordinate the activities of the various public and private institutions and agencies working on behalf of children and young persons;

That steps should be taken to develop and encourage the implementation of programmes by public and private institutions, as well as studies and research in connexion with the situation of children and young persons;

That a detailed study should be carried out on human resources in Venezuela in relation to the economic development process;

That social welfare services should be extended to cover all children and young persons in Venezuela;

That measures should be instituted to expand and supplement the existing instruments for strengthening family life (education of parents for bringing up their children, protection of working mothers, adaptation of the family unit to changing conditions and social needs, etc.);

That in establishing services to meet the requirements of children and young people, priority should be given to preventive and rehabilitation services.

Specific recommendations:

These relate mainly to targets for the educational system, which is considered the key factor in tackling the problem of juvenile occupation and the training of Venezuela's human resources. The following are among the most important;

That curricula at the various educational levels should be revised and brought into line with integrated educational requirements;

That in order to remove one cause of juvenile idleness, the double-shift system in schools should be gradually eliminated, and that, as an immediate measure, no further schools of this type should be established;

That the educational system should be overhauled and adapted to the natural, economic, social and other conditions of the pupil's environment, so as to accord with the need for the individual to remain in his original surroundings and at the same time help to check the exodus from rural to urban areas;

That curricula should be adjusted to the requirements of children and young persons who have not attended school or have dropped out, so as to enable them to work at some trade or as auxiliary personnel in professional activities;

That pre-vocational education in the fifth and sixth grades of the primary school should be developed and extended;

/That detailed

That detailed labour market studies should be carried out to prevent the flooding of specific sectors and avert labour force disequilibria;

That the legislation in force should be reformed to bring it into line with development plans and provide incentives for productive activities and investment;

That community development should be included in the national programme, as a fruitful source of juvenile occupation, both through the promotion of small-scale and artisan industry organized on co-operative lines, and through training courses.

4. Integrated protection for minors

One of the duties that the State cannot shirk is that of guaranteeing children the requisite means and conditions for their complete and normal development, physical, mental and moral. The protective measures applicable make up a complex and adequate system of educational, legal, social and welfare activities.

The problem of children who have been abandoned or whose circumstances are otherwise abnormal assumes a special form in Venezuela, and should be accorded priority.

The problem data available are insufficient to give an objective idea of the evolution of this problem or to suggest how it is likely to develop in the immediate future, in relation to factors which cause it or are closely linked with it, such as housing, diet, agrarian reform, industrialization, unemployment, legal protection for mother and child, expansion of social security services, etc.

It is not surprising that social maladjustment in the younger age groups should have increased, as the result of causal factors which combine with those already noted: the exodus from the rural areas, paternal irresponsibility, unsatisfactory housing conditions, juvenile idleness, lack of recreation and sports grounds, defects in the educational system, confusion of spiritual values, subversion of moral and religious principles, and the undermining of adult authority.

To deal with the child and youth problem from the angle of abandonment and social maladjustment, the Venezuelan Children's Council (Consejo Venezolano del Niño), an agency responsible for ensuring the integrated protection of the under-age population, has continued to pursue a far-reaching preventive policy. Experience has likewise shown that extra-institutional welfare programmes are more effective and, obviously, cost less. Consequently, the Council devotes special attention to the following questions:

Reform of the Children and Young Persons Act (Estatuto de Menores), with a view to making it a really effective instrument, adapted to the requirements deriving from Venezuela's social situation. Although it is felt that this legal instrument should be thoroughly overhauled, special consideration is being given to the following points:

/Expansion of

Expansion of the provisions concerning adoption, so that it may play a more efficient social role;

Inclusion of provisions relating to legal recognition of adopted children and guardianship of persons under age;

Planning and co-ordination of programmes designed to strengthen the family unit;

Maximum application of the legal provisions in force for the protection of the family;

Expansion of extra-institutional and normal-environment welfare programmes, especially those relating to the placing of children in foster-homes, and youth aid programmes;

Promotion of a far-reaching vocational education and juvenile occupation plan;

Promotion of programmes relating to education for family and community living, basically designed to strike at the very roots of the problem of illegitimacy and paternal irresponsibility;

Expansion of planned recreation programmes.

The activities of the Council can be broadly classified in the four groups of programmes outlined below.

(a) Institutional care

Under this head are grouped the programmes carried out in the various types of establishments in existence.

Day-care centres and kindergartens. Day-care centres receive babies and children up to three years of age during the daytime, and give them the care and training essential for their normal development. Kindergartens do the same thing for children of four to six years of age.

The exceptionally important role of these institutions may be briefly described as follows:

They ensure that the child is given proper treatment in one of the decisive formative phases of its development;

They enable the mother to work, while preserving the natural ties between her and her child. Inasmuch as the latter returns home at the end of the day, another of the ideals of this type of welfare service is fulfilled: the family is not broken up;

Advantage is taken of the mother's contact with the institution to help her to reach a higher cultural level.

Hostels. Here children and young persons who have perpetrated anti-social acts can be temporarily isolated from the community, while at the same time their segregation from adult delinquents is ensured. After a minimum stay, during which their case is briefly studied, many of the young inmates are sent back to their homes, while others are transferred to observation centres or to reform schools.

Observation centres. Whatever the reason for their admission, minors sent to an observation centre undergo objective and continuous observation, meticulously organized on the basis of up-to-date techniques. Each case is studied by a team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and educators, so that a diagnosis may be formulated and a decision reached as to whether the child or youth can rejoin the community and be given normal-environment treatment or whether for the time being he should be placed in a reform school.

Reform schools. These are boarding-schools for children with behaviour problems who, in accordance with a Juvenile Court order or with an Observation Centre's diagnosis, have to undergo treatment and temporary segregation from their home and community. The establishments in question fall into two groups, namely, pre-vocational guidance institutes (Institutos de Preorientación) for children between 7 and 14 years of age, and rehabilitation institutes (Institutos de Readaptación) for young people aged 14-18 years. Both groups include two sorts of establishment: type A, for children or adolescents whose "delinquency" involves only minor irregularities of conduct, and type B, for more serious offenders. Apart from the general care and teaching given, special attention is devoted to vocational education through agricultural, artisan and technical pre-apprenticeship and training courses. The length of time spent in the institution depends upon the progress made in the rehabilitation process. On leaving, the pupils are given follow-up treatment in a normal environment, under the Council's supervision.

Special schools. The Council provides protection for mentally retarded children with psychopathic and prepsychopathic characteristics, by means of private institutions which it subsidizes. It also has a workshop for training the deaf and the dumb (Escuela Taller de Sordomudos), the basic objective of which is the protection and rehabilitation of deaf and dumb children, with a view to their normal incorporation in society.

Homes. Deprived children, or children whose home conditions do not guarantee a proper upbringing, live in these institutions in an atmosphere very similar to the family environment; they go out freely to school or to work, to public performances, or to the homes of neighbours; they receive visits, etc., exactly like any child in a normal household.

It should be stressed that the need to give children and young persons attending rehabilitation institutions a vocational education, in line with Venezuela's industrialization process and demand for skilled labour, has led to a substantial reorientation of the programmes developed in order to adapt them to these requirements. This change has not only affected the teaching process, but has necessitated intensive teacher training and modernization of the apprentice workshops.

(b) Extra-institutional care

Under this head come programmes relating to the following activities:

Vocational guidance. This includes research on the aptitudes, vocational bent and other individual characteristics of the children and young persons concerned, for vocational guidance purposes; artisan and technical training; utilization of residuals.

Placing in foster-homes, and adoption. The placing of children in a foster-home is an efficacious preventive measure when their circumstances are abnormal or when for any other reason segregation from their families is desirable. Adoption is an institution based on the social need to protect the child by giving him a home background and new family ties.

Youth aid. The primary objective of this programme is to prevent anti-social conduct on the part of persons under age, deal with cases of law-breaking or irregular street behaviour, and ensure that young offenders are sent to an establishment appropriate to the type of misdemeanour they have committed.

Normal-environment observation and care. It is important to call attention to this new approach, which consists in preventing and treating irregularities of conduct by what may be termed normal-environment methods, on the assumption that not all young people needing care must necessarily be sent to boarding-schools, and that in many circumstances, rather than removing them from their ordinary environment, it is preferable to work with them in the same atmosphere that they previously found hostile. The treatment given assumes two forms: the so-called follow-up for children or youths leaving the Council's re-educational institutions, and probation. Furthermore, in the field of juvenile employment the Council regulates and supervises, in accordance with their ability and skills, the participation of young people in apprenticeship courses, their placing as apprentices or in paid employment, their subsequent performance, besides seeing that the provisions of labour legislation for the protection of minors are duly complied with.

(c) Family welfare programmes and education for family living

Through family welfare programmes, an attempt is made to help the family unit and temporarily raise its economic level, while at the same time giving it the necessary guidance to enable it to stabilize and improve its own economic and social situation. These programmes comprise scholarships, aid for school children, family and maintenance allowances, and legal assistance.

The aim of the activities relating to education for family living is to raise the cultural level of the family unit, by awakening in its members awareness of their civic and parental responsibilities, while at the same time giving them the means of learning what they need to know in order to bring up their children properly, allocate the family income sensibly satisfy the need for healthy recreation, etc.

(d) Planned

(d) Planned recreation

Today the technical planning of recreation is considered to be one of the basic resources for the development and welfare of the individual and of the modern community. The concept of recreation as a mere outlet for surplus energy through games, sports, play or entertainment is categorically repudiated. Nor can it be envisaged solely as an instrument for the prevention of anti-social conduct, inasmuch as planned recreation has a much broader significance; it is the vehicle through which a whole phase of individual personality and human life can find expression. The patchwork of creative and pleasurable activities, properly planned, can be magically transmuted into true enjoyment of leisure. In accordance with this integrated concept, the Venezuelan Children's Council develops its planned recreation programmes in the light of the following basic considerations:

Favourable influence of planned recreation programmes on the formation of personality, from the social, cultural, aesthetic, civic, religious, and vocational standpoints, inasmuch as they facilitate incorporation in vocational training programmes;

Implications of planned recreation programmes for the social and democratic development of the community;

Data relating to all these activities of the Council are presented in the annex to this study, tables 25, 26 and 27.

The numbers of children and young persons benefiting by the foregoing programmes in the course of 1964 are indicated below, in aggregate terms.

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Number of beneficiaries</u>
Institutional care	28,136
Extra-institutional care	9,700
Family welfare and education programmes	30,008
Planned recreation	36,288
<u>Total</u>	<u>104,132</u>

In the private sector, the Federation of Private Child-Care Institutions (Federación de Instituciones Privadas de Asistencia al Niño - FIPAN) is an association of thirty-one non-profit-making organizations concerned with such child, adolescent and family care and welfare activities are pre- and post-natal centres; institutions for pre-school children; primary, secondary, teacher-training and vocational schools; scout movements; sports and recreational activities; education for family living, etc.

/The following

The following are FIPAN's main objectives:

To co-ordinate private undertakings in order to prevent duplication of effort or neglect of important aspects;

To promote and help to execute projects too broad to be carried out by small institutions;

To provide technical assistance for private institutions;

To conduct research and assemble statistical data on the status of child and youth problems;

To collaborate with the Government of Venezuela in the study of the social problems with which the country is faced in this field, in order to propose possible solutions and offer the co-ordinated contribution of private enterprise.

An important part of its regular activities consists in training courses for volunteer social welfare workers (Cursos de Entrenamiento de Voluntarios en Programas de Bienestar Social) and the training of personnel for holiday camps.

B. FAMILY AND CHILD LEGISLATION

Traditionally, the most important legal provisions established to protect the family and the child were mainly to be found in the Civil and Penal Codes. At a later date, far-reaching social legislation, such as the Labour Act (Ley de Trabajo) and the Compulsory Social Security Act (Ley del Seguro Social Obligatorio), as well as constitutional provisions, substantially expanded the protection thus afforded.

In 1939, the Children and Young Persons Code (Código de Menores) came into force, and, notwithstanding its limitations, powerfully furthered the interests of the youth of Venezuela, inasmuch as it established juvenile courts and instituted more flexible and appropriate procedures. In 1949 it was superseded by the Children and Young Persons Act (Estatuto de Menores).

Although this Act incorporated many of the postulates upheld by the new conception of children's rights, the changes taking place in the social situation in Venezuela have revealed the need for new legal instruments to be established whereby more effective protection can be accorded to the child and the family; hence the promulgation of legislation on offences against the maintenance rights of the child (Ley sobre Delito de Violación de los Derechos Alimentarios del Menor), and, most recently of all, in defence of the family (Ley sobre Protección Familiar).

(a) The National Constitution

The National Constitution in force was adopted in January 1961. It lays down principles regarding protection of the family and the child, which are mainly incorporated in Title III, Chapter IV, "Social Rights". Of salient

/importance are

importance are those established in Articles 73, 74 and 75, with respect to the following points:

Protection of the family as the basic unit of society;

Protection of the mother, whatever her marital status;

Integrated protection of the child, from the time of its conception until it is regarded as having reached maturity;

Right of the child to know its parents, parental responsibilities, and protection against abandonment and exploitation;

Adoption;

Provision for special legislation, agencies and courts of justice to safeguard the welfare of children and young persons.

(b) The Civil Code

The present Civil Code has been in force since 1942. Outstanding among the reforms it incorporates are the following:

Equalization of illegitimate offspring and children born in wedlock (the differences relate chiefly to rights of succession);

Liberal provisions for recognition and legitimization of children born out of wedlock;

Tendency to assimilate the exercise of paternal authority over the natural child to that of the father's rights over his legitimate children in the married state;

New and expanded provisions in respect of adoption and maintenance;

Designation of the birth certificate as proof of parentage;

In a country with so high a percentage of illegitimate children, the amendments indicated represent a considerable measure of protection for minors.

(c) The Penal Code

Promulgated in 1926, the Penal Code contains regulations concerning the family and the child which are incorporated in Title VIII, Chapters I-VII, Book Two, "On Offences against the Sanctity of Family Life" ("De los Delitos contra las Buenas Costumbres y el Buen Orden de las Familias").

As regards the non-liability of minors, it adopts the criterion of capacity to distinguish between right and wrong, and, without defining the meaning of the term "con discernimiento", lays down the following principle:

/"Article 69.

"Article 69. Penal sactions shall not be applied to a child under twelve years of age in any circumstances, nor to an adolescent over twelve or under fifteen years of age unless it appears that he acted in full awareness of wrongdoing (con discernimiento)...."

The Children and Young Persons Act removes the minor from the sphere of influence of penal law; in practice, therefore, the provisions on non-liability contained in Articles 69 and 72 of the Penal Code never have to be applied.

(d) Labour Legislation

The Labour Act (Ley del Trabajo) has been in force since 1947. It devotes particular attention to female and child labour, and includes:

Absolute prohibition of child labour in the case of children under fourteen years of age;

Limitation and regulation of the maximum working day for adolescents between fourteen and sixteen years of age;

Provisions to safeguard the physical and moral health of female workers and minors.

(e) Children and Young Persons Act (Estatuto de Menores)

In force since 30 December 1949, this Act introduced substantive changes that have brought about a marked improvement in State protection for minors. It establishes the right of persons under age to be defended and judged under special legislation and by special courts of justice; its provisions are applicable to all children and adolescents under eighteen years of age, and take precedence over those of other laws. Its content is as follows:

- (i) Establishment of the right of the child to live in conditions which allow it to attain full and normal physical, mental and moral development;
- (ii) Definition of the rights and obligations of the State in relation to expectant mothers, and the different ways in which protection should be extended to children and young persons, according to their age;
- (iii) Regulations governing the organization, object and aims of the Venezuelan Children's Council (Consejo Venezolano del Niño), established in 1936, and substantially broadening its terms of reference, which cover the following functions:

It acts as a technical consulting agency for the Federal State and municipal authorities, as well as for private individuals on all matters relating to the living conditions, development and welfare of children and young persons;

/It constitutes

It constitutes the supreme technical authority on all matters specifically dealt with in the Children and Young Persons Act;

It co-ordinates and unifies the following activities:

Material, moral and legal care and protection of expectant and nursing mothers and new-born infants;

Care and protection of children at the breast and of the pre-school, school and post-school age groups (up to 18 years);

Care of children whose circumstances are abnormal;

Care and protection of child workers;

(iv) Civic provisions relating to adoption, paternal authority, State tutelage minors under State supervision, out-placing in foster-homes and maintenance;

(v) Administrative provisions relating to child labour and the safeguarding of the moral and mental welfare of young workers;

(vi) Rehabilitation provisions;

(vii) A broad classification of children in abnormal circumstances dividing them into two categories: abandoned children and children living in dangerous conditions;

(viii) Indications of the sort of measures applicable in the case of children whose circumstances are abnormal;

(ix) General provisions in respect of juvenile courts, covering all points relating to their structure and operation, to the qualifications and powers of magistrates and the procedures to be followed, etc.

(f) Compulsory Social Security Act (Estatuto Orgánico del Seguro Social Obligatorio)

This Act, which has been in force since October 1951, superseded another dated 24 July 1940. It established regulations for compulsory social security in cases of illness, maternity, accident and occupational diseases. The benefits obtainable are extended not only to the woman living with the insured person in stable union, whether legal or not, but also to his legitimate, natural or adopted children.

The National Congress is at present discussing a bill on this subject, which considerably enlarges the area of social protection, inasmuch as it contains provisions relating to the following points:

Extension of security benefits to all persons rendering services under a contract of labour relationship, whatever the amount of their wages and the duration of their employment. (The existing law establishes limitations with regard to the labour sector and level of wages.)

/Extension of

Extension of insurance to include disablement, old-age and widow's and orphans' pensions, and unemployment benefits.

(g) Maintenance Rights of the Child Act (Ley sobre Delito de Violación de los Derechos Alimentarios del Menor)

This Act, which has been in force since 9 August 1959, is limited in its scope, and is intended to pave the way for the introduction of new legal patterns and, stage by stage, of the reforms required to make State protection for minors effective. It establishes non-compliance with maintenance obligations as a legal offence, and institutes three classes of penalty - imprisonment, fines or a combination of both - for delinquents. In addition, the offender may be deprived of the right to exercise paternal authority or of guardianship, if there are serious grounds for such a step. The law gives plenty of latitude for taking action, and the procedure indicated is simple and brief, as befits the case.

(h) Defence of the Family Act (Ley sobre Protección Familiar)

This is the most recent of the laws passed to protect children and young persons and the family unit, and has been in force since 13 December 1961. The following are its main objectives:

- (i) To facilitate the establishment of paternity, by means of the most reliable evidence - i.e., the birth certificate - at the time when there is most possibility of the father being willing to recognize the child;
- (ii) To ensure compliance with maintenance obligations, through the establishment of a family allowance sufficient to enable the recipient to discharge his duties in this respect;
- (iii) To institute a system of preferential benefits for persons with children under age, where parentage is legally proven. These benefits may take the form of agricultural, industrial, artisan or commercial credits, or loans for the building and purchase of the family dwelling; scholarships; employment in the public administration or with private firms, etc.

Conclusions

1. From an analytical standpoint, children and young persons can be regarded as separable components, but within the integrated planning of resources they cannot be envisaged independently of the family, which is the basic unit of society and with which they are linked in a closely interdependent relationship. Any policy formulated to secure the welfare of children and young persons, and to ensure their adaptation to a rapidly changing society, will be doomed to failure unless deliberate and clearly-defined action, on integrated and co-ordinated lines, is directed towards the general setting constituted by the family, in its capacity as the institution that engenders and maintains the individual human being.

In the light of such a conception, special importance must be attached to the following needs:

- (a) Dynamic legislation designed to promote the consolidation and stability of the family unit and to encourage the formalization of parental ties;
- (b) Appropriate machinery to ensure the effective application of the relevant laws;
- (c) Widespread publicizing of the legal instruments and programmes for the defence of the family, children and young persons, as a means of creating awareness of the rights recognized by the State in this field;
- (d) Community development and education for family living;
- (e) Vocational guidance and training;
- (f) Juvenile occupation (education - in and out of school -, vocational training, employment, recreational and community activities);
- (g) Planned recreation;
- (h) Effective co-ordination between the public and private sectors with respect to planning and programme implementation.

2. The need to base action on scientific knowledge of the conditions in which it is to be carried out means that an essential prerequisite is the conduct of empirical research, in the light of which the resources available can be adapted to the real requirements deriving from the complex of social problems.

3. Integrated action such as that outlined above calls for adequate programming of resources and provision for obtaining the necessary funds to carry out the plans formulated. The importance of planning units and commissions at various levels for the integration of nation-wide programmes is obvious, and so is the need to earmark a substantial proportion of the budget, rationally allocated, for the development of programmes to benefit children and young persons.

Table 1
VENEZUELA: TOTAL POPULATION, 1958 TO 1965 ^{a/}

Year	Population (Thousands of inhabitants)
1958	7 204
1959	7 436
1960	7 666
1961	7 899
1962	8 142
1963	8 391
1964	8 646
1965	8 907

Source: CORDIPLAN estimates.
^{a/} As at 30 June).

Table 2
VENEZUELA: TOTAL POPULATION, 1960 TO 1964, AND PROJECTIONS UP TO 1975

Year	Population as at 31 December	Annual percentage increase
1960	7 779 298	3.09
1961	8 019 678	3.07
1962	8 265 882	3.05
1963	8 517 991	3.03
1964	8 776 086	3.01
1965	9 040 246	2.99
1966	9 310 549	2.97
1967	9 587 072	2.95
1968	9 869 891	2.93
1969	10 159 079	2.91
1970	10 454 708	2.89
1971	10 756 849	2.87
1972	11 065 571	2.85
1973	11 380 940	2.83
1974	11 703 021	2.81
1975	12 031 876	2.79

Source: CORDIPLAN estimates.

Table 3

VENEZUELA: OVER-ALL MORTALITY RATES PER THOUSAND INHABITANTS, 1956 TO 1963

Year	Total number of deaths in the year	Over-all mortality rate (per mil)
1956	59 366	8.856
1957	61 814	8.883
1958	59 766	8.296
1959	57 260	7.700
1960	55 019	7.177
1961	55 466	7.022
1962	54 938	6.747
1963	58 269	6.944

Source: CORDIPLAN.

Table 4

VENEZUELA: NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED, 1956 TO 1963

Year	Number of births registered
1956	278 049
1957	280 539
1958	282 762
1959	312 565
1960	324 132
1961	340 432
1962	337 279
1963	353 537

Sources: Ministry of Health and Welfare, Anuarios de Epidemiología y Estadística Vital, 1960, 1961 1962 and 1963.
CORDIPLAN.

Table 5

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VENEZUELA: BREAK-DOWN OF TOTAL POPULATION BY URBAN AND RURAL SECTORS,
1936-1981 (SELECTED YEARS)

Year ^{a/}	Total population	Urban population ^{b/}		Rural population ^{c/}	
		Number of inhabitants	As percentage of total	Number of inhabitants	As percentage of total
1936	3 364 347	1 168 039	34.7	2 196 308	65.3
1941	3 850 771	1 516 444	39.4	2 334 327	60.6
1950	5 034 838	2 709 344	53.8	2 325 494	46.2
1961	7 523 999	5 078 624	67.5	2 445 375	32.5
1962	7 872 266	5 415 740	68.8	2 456 526	31.2
1963	8 143 626	5 678 751	69.7	2 464 878	30.3
1964	8 426 799	5 953 540	70.7	2 473 259	29.4
1965	8 722 212	6 240 544	71.6	2 481 668	28.5
1966	9 030 330	6 540 224	72.4	2 490 106	27.6
1967	9 351 602	6 853 030	73.3	2 498 572	26.7
1968	9 686 486	7 179 419	74.1	2 507 067	25.9
1969	10 035 435	7 519 844	74.8	2 515 591	25.1
1970	10 398 907	7 874 763	75.7	2 524 144	29.3
1975	12 433 970	9 866 623	79.4	2 567 347	20.7
1981	15 202 626	12 582 459	82.8	2 620 167	17.2

Sources: Ministry of Development, Statistics and National Census Department, Proyección de la población urbana y rural de Venezuela y de ciudades más importantes. CORDIPLAN.

^{a/} For 1936, 1941, 1950 and 1961, census data; from 1962 onwards, mid-year estimates.

^{b/} Living in population centres with over 1 000 inhabitants (intermediate population groups are assimilated to the urban population).

^{c/} Living in population centres with under 1 000 inhabitants.

Table 6
VENEZUELA: TOTAL POPULATION, AND POPULATION STRUCTURE BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS
ACCORDING TO 1936, 1941, 1950 AND 1961 CENSUS DATA

Age group	1936				1941				1950				1961			
	Number of inhabitants		Population structure		Number of inhabitants		Population structure		Number of inhabitants		Population structure		Number of inhabitants		Population structure	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4	240 120	233 508	14 534	13 638	292 473	285 520	15 325	14 701	432 681	415 067	16 951	16 721	684 394	656 505	17 899	17 741
5 - 9	241 375	230 133	14 610	13 441	266 753	255 893	13 977	13 175	352 758	334 560	13 820	13 478	581 525	550 975	15 209	14 889
10 - 14	214 908	197 209	13 008	11 518	246 333	226 819	12 907	11 678	298 518	276 204	11 695	11 127	456 025	441 300	11 927	11 926
15 - 19	164 435	184 703	9 953	10 787	190 892	211 629	10 002	10 896	244 191	252 375	9 567	10 167	350 875	359 600	9 177	9 718
20 - 24	158 841	174 234	9 614	10 176	182 714	190 573	9 573	9 812	236 133	237 615	9 251	9 572	313 450	304 025	8 198	8 216
25 - 29	135 652	149 395	8 211	8 722	154 307	167 346	8 085	8 616	202 418	198 196	7 930	7 984	286 100	268 325	7 483	7 251
30 - 34	104 113	113 614	6 302	6 637	124 440	127 028	6 520	6 540	170 176	157 437	6 667	6 342	264 300	242 925	6 912	6 565
35 - 39	98 196	102 005	5 944	5 957	106 042	109 237	5 556	5 624	156 330	145 213	6 125	5 850	211 725	193 375	5 537	5 226
40 - 44	80 363	88 318	4 864	5 158	93 873	96 588	4 919	4 973	124 964	114 614	4 896	4 618	175 950	156 300	4 602	4 224
45 - 49	65 393	59 804	3 958	3 493	79 815	72 259	4 182	3 720	97 832	86 996	3 833	3 502	151 675	142 300	3 967	3 845
50 - 54	52 249	58 919	3 163	3 441	57 600	60 707	3 018	3 126	82 619	82 117	3 237	3 308	110 050	107 550	2 878	2 906
55 - 59	32 901	32 144	1 991	1 877	38 303	38 298	2 007	1 972	52 359	49 520	2 051	1 995	87 400	82 400	2 286	2 227
60 - 64	28 736	37 968	1 739	2 217	31 757	40 855	1 664	2 104	41 518	50 948	1 627	2 052	63 975	72 950	1 673	1 971
65 - 69	13 485	16 060	816	938	16 089	19 163	843	987	22 025	25 894	863	1 043	37 625	42 875	984	1 135
70 years and over	19 729	32 493	1 194	1 898	23 044	37 513	1 207	1 932	33 291	52 220	1 304	2 104	48 500	79 025	1 268	2 136
Age not declared	1 634	1 740	99	102	4 110	2 798	215	144	4 678	3 401	183	137	-	-	-	-
Total	1 652 130	1 712 217	100 000	100 000	1 908 545	1 942 226	100 000	100 000	2 552 491	2 482 347	100 000	100 000	3 823 569	3 700 430	100 000	100 000

Source: Statistics and National Census Department; CORDIFLAN.

/ Taken on 26 December 1936.

/ Taken on 7 December 1941.

/ Taken on 26 November 1950.

/ Taken on 26 February 1961.

Table 7

VENEZUELA: POPULATION STRUCTURE BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS, ACCORDING TO THE 1961 CENSUS ^{a/} (1.5 PER CENT SAMPLE),
AND ESTIMATES ^{b/} FOR THE YEARS 1966, 1971, 1976 AND 1981

Age group	1961		1966		1971		1976		1981	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4	684 394	656 505	829 115	801 631	1 000 588	972 778	1 209 465	1 163 690	1 416 809	1 360 583
5 - 9	581 525	550 975	664 410	638 845	804 904	780 067	990 231	957 603	1 193 379	1 151 122
10 - 14	456 025	441 300	576 233	546 237	659 360	634 501	779 833	776 011	985 181	953 964
15 - 19	350 875	359 600	451 465	437 152	571 277	542 140	654 613	630 757	775 232	772 596
20 - 24	313 450	304 025	345 542	354 745	445 641	432 387	565 164	537 478	648 918	626 657
25 - 29	286 100	268 325	307 776	299 130	340 255	350 098	439 981	427 890	559 399	533 178
30 - 34	264 300	242 925	280 629	263 656	302 852	294 882	335 696	346 037	435 185	423 996
35 - 39	211 725	193 375	258 803	238 334	275 697	258 490	298 279	290 990	331 466	342 334
40 - 44	175 950	156 300	206 347	189 179	253 083	233 901	270 404	255 264	293 357	287 091
45 - 49	151 675	142 300	169 932	152 033	200 074	184 620	246 199	228 942	263 887	250 614
50 - 54	110 050	107 550	144 334	137 049	162 421	146 986	191 991	179 081	237 139	222 783
55 - 59	87 400	82 400	102 412	101 979	135 039	130 594	152 676	140 666	181 258	172 079
60 - 64	63 975	72 950	78 529	76 121	92 621	92 424	122 858	121 648	139 668	132 254
65 - 69	37 625	42 875	54 392	64 378	67 323	70 167	80 015	85 063	106 911	109 921
70 years and over	48 500	79 025	80 670	90 206	81 855	117 525	106 211	142 797	130 976	164 689
Total	3 823 569	3 700 430	4 530 589	4 390 675	5 400 990	5 242 560	6 443 616	6 284 017	7 698 765	7 503 861

Sources: Statistics and National Census Department; CORDIPLAN.

^{a/} Taken on 26 February 1961.

^{b/} As at 26 February.

Table 8

VENEZUELA: ESTIMATES OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION, 1965 TO 1968

Year	Total population	Economically active population (male)		Economically active population (female)	
		Number of workers	As a percentage of total population	Number of workers	As a percentage of total population
1965	8 722 212	2 201 737	25.24	531 298	6.09
1966	9 030 328	2 264 159	25.07	552 359	6.12
1967	9 351 602	2 329 340	24.91	574 855	6.15
1968	9 686 486	2 398 453	24.76	598 426	6.18

Source: CORDIPLAN.

Table 9

VENEZUELA: TOTAL ACTIVITY RATES, BY SEX

Sex	1950	1961
Male	54.96	51.19
Female	12.20	12.10
Both sexes	33.89	31.99

Source: CORDIPLAN.

Table 10

VENEZUELA: PRIMARY EDUCATION COHORT SERIES, SCHOOL YEAR
1951-52 TO SCHOOL YEAR 1963-64

First year of cohort period	Numbers in first grade	Last year of cohort period	Numbers in sixth grade	(4) as a percentage of (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1951-52	230 132	1956-57	44 691	19.4
1952-53	236 951	1957-58	48 276	20.4
1953-54	238 950	1958-59	54 155	22.7
1954-55	234 672	1959-60	63 693	27.1
1955-56	229 955	1960-61	71 321	31.0
1956-57	242 203	1961-62	80 979	33.4
1957-58	262 072	1962-63	91 420	34.9
1958-59	371 062	1963-64	105 119	28.3

Sources: Ministry of Education, Memories; CORDIPLAN, Education Department.

Table 11

VENEZUELA: SECONDARY EDUCATION COHORT SERIES, SCHOOL-YEAR
1948-49 TO SCHOOL-YEAR 1963-64

First year of cohort period	Numbers in first grade	Last year of cohort period	Numbers in fifth grade	(4) as a percentage of (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1948-49	7 992	1952-53	2 428	30.4
1949-50	8 936	1953-54	2 382	26.7
1950-51	9 743	1954-55	2 716	27.9
1951-52	11 754	1955-56	3 080	26.2
1952-53	12 815	1956-57	3 785	29.5
1953-54	14 661	1957-58	4 571	31.2
1954-55	16 986	1958-59	5 117	30.1
1955-56	19 381	1959-60	7 731	39.9
1956-57	21 620	1960-61	8 752	40.1
1957-58	21 742	1961-62	9 649	44.4
1958-59	27 907	1962-63	10 879	39.0
1959-60	34 337	1963-64	12 626	36.8

Sources: As for table 10.

Tabl2 12

VENEZUELA: NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS TRAINED, BY SPECIAL FIELD, 1958 TO 1963

Special field	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Public administration	111	82	155	211	235	434
Agriculture <u>a/</u>	85	90	124	166	351	396
Trades or artisan industry	27	20	111	102	211	325
Arts and crafts	30	13	20	14	24	22
Care and welfare services <u>b/</u>	162	260	572	510	236	524
Commerce and business services <u>c/</u>	1 757	2 571	3 117	4 040	4 512	5 309
Industry <u>d/</u>	918	454	649	864	1 016	909
Total	3 090	3 490	4 748	5 907	6 585	7 919

Sources: Integrated Educational Planning Office (Oficina de Planeamiento Integral de la Educación - EDUPLAN); CORDIPLAN, Education Department.

a/ Sub-professionals; agricultural practitioners; extension workers.

b/ Nurses; welfare workers.

c/ Sub-professionals; technicians.

d/ Skilled workers; Sub-professionals; technicians.

Table 13

VENEZUELA: RATIOS OF INFANT MORTALITY TO TOTAL MORTALITY AND LIVE BIRTHS, 1956 TO 1963

Year	Infant mortality (Number of deaths)	Annual variations	Total mortality (Number of deaths)	Annual variations	Infant mortality as a percentage of total mortality	Infant mortality rate per thousand live births registered
1956	18 556	-	59 336	-	31.26	66.7
1957	19 091	+535	61 814	+2 448	30.88	68.1
1958	18 224	-867	59 766	-2 048	30.49	64.4
1959	18 101	-123	57 260	-2 506	31.61	57.7
1960	17 887	-214	55 019	-2 241	32.51	55.2
1961	18 137	+250	55 466	+447	32.70	53.3
1962	16 187	+1 950	54 938	-528	29.46	48.0
1963	17 049	+862	58 269	+3 331	29.26	48.1

Sources: Ministry of Health and Welfare, Anuarios de Epidemiología y Estadística Vital; CORDIPLAN.

Table 14

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1962

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of infant mortality a/	Rate per hundred thousand live births registered b/
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis and colitis (including infant diarrhoea) (571-574)	3 904	24.1	1 157.5
Diseases of respiratory apparatus (480-483-490- 493-500-502-763)	3 396	21.0	1 006.8
Premature birth (774-776)	1 991	12.3	590.3
Birth injuries (760-762)	2 216	13.7	657.1
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy (769-773)	1 078	6.6	319.6
Infectious diseases (001-138)	1 075	6.6	318.7
Congenital malformations (750-759)	903	5.6	267.8
Infections and bacterial or other poisoning affecting new-born infants (765-768)	438	2.7	129.8
Simple meningitis (340)	185	1.2	54.9
Accident (E 800 - E 962)	129	0.8	38.2
Total	15 315	94.6	4 540.7

Sources: Ministry of Health and Welfare, Anuario de Epidemiología y Estadística Vital, 1962; CORDIPLAN.

a/ The infant mortality figure for 1962 was 16 187.

b/ The number of births registered in 1962 was 337 279.

Table 15

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1963

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of infant mortality ^{a/}
Gastroenteritis and colitis (571-764)	3 726	21.85
Diseases of respiratory apparatus (480-483-490-493- 500-502-763)	3 596	21.09
Birth injuries (760-762)	2 303	13.51
Premature birth (774-776)	2 263	13.27
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy (770-773)	1 278	7.50
Infectious diseases (001-138)	1 024	6.01
Congenital malformations (750-759)	889	5.21
Infections and bacterial or other poisoning affecting new-born infants (765-769)	553	3.24
Simple meningitis (340)	239	1.40
Accident (E 800 - E 962)	162	0.95
Total	16 033	94.03

Source: CORDIPLAN.

^{a/} The infant mortality figure for 1963 was 17 049.

Table 16

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 1-TO-4 AGE GROUP, 1962

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of age-group mortality	Mortality rate per hundred thousand inhabitants
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis and oolitis (543-574-572)	1 597	26.9	142.1
Pneumonia (490-493)	740	12.5	65.8
Dysentery (045-048)	432	7.3	38.4
Accident (E 800 E 962)	419	7.1	37.2
Avitaminosis (280-286)	426	7.2	37.9
Measles (085)	310	5.2	27.6
Influenza (480-495)	268	4.5	23.8
Other forms of helminthiasis (130)	230	3.9	20.5
Bronchitis (500-502)	159	2.7	14.1
Tuberculosis (001-019)	121	2.0	10.8
Total	4 702	79.3	418.2

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare, Anuario de Epidemiología y Estadística Vital, 1962

Note: The total population of Venezuela in 1962 is estimated at 8 142 000 inhabitants, and the age group at 1 124 000 inhabitants. The total mortality figure for the age group in 1962 was 5 937, or 10.8 per cent of the number of deaths in all age groups.

The infant mortality figure for 1962 was 16 187.

Table 17

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 1-TO-4 AGE GROUP ^{a/} 1963

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of age-group mortality
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis and colitis (543-571-572)	1 683	25.6
Pneumonia (490-493)	788	12.0
Avitaminosis (280-286)	450	6.8
Dysentery (045-048)	425	6.5
Measles (085)	411	6.3
Accident (E 800 E 962)	402	6.1
Influenza (480-483)	362	5.5
Helminthiasis (129-130)	285	4.3
Bronchitis (500-502)	215	3.3
Cancer (140-205)	156	2.4
Total	5 177	78.8

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare, Anuario de Epidemiología y Estadística Vital, 1963.

^{a/} The total mortality figure for this age group was 6 571 in 1963.

Table 18

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 5-TO-14 AGE GROUP, 1962

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of total mortality a/	Mortality rate per hundred thousand inhabitants ^{b/}
Accident (E 800 E 962)	465	19.5	21.1
Dysentery (045-048)	372	15.5	16.9
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis, colitis (543-571-572)	168	7.0	7.6
Cancer (140-493)	167	7.0	7.6
Pneumonia (490-493)	114	4.7	5.2
Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594)	61	2.5	2.8
Avitaminosis (280-286)	64	2.6	2.9
Other forms of helminthiasis (130)	20	0.8	0.9
Tetanus (061)	62	2.5	2.8
Tuberculosis (001 ~ 019)	59	2.4	2.7
Total	1 552	64.5	70.5

Source: As for table 16.

a/ The total mortality figure for the 5-to-14 age group in 1962 was 2 390.

b/ The 5-to-14 age group in 1962 totalled 2 206 000, i.e., 27.1 per cent of the total population which numbered 8 142 000 as at June of that year.

Table 19

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 5-TO-14 AGE GROUP ^{a/}, 1963

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of age-group mortality
Accident (E 800 E 962)	546	19.7
Dysentery (045-048)	344	12.4
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis and colitis (543-571-572)	273	9.9
Cancer (140-205)	189	6.8
Pneumonia (490-493)	137	5.0
Helminthiasis (129-130)	111	4.0
Avitaminosis (280-286)	92	3.3
Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594)	87	3.1
Congenital malformation (750-759)	69	2.5
Non-meningococcal meningitis (340)	68	2.5
Total	1 916	69.2

Sources: As for table 17, and CODEPLAN.

a/ The mortality figure for this group in 1963 was 2 767.

Table 20

VENEZUELA: TEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 15-TO-24 AGE GROUP, 1962

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of age-group mortality ^{a/}	Mortality rate per hundred thousand inhabitants
Accident (E 800 E 962)	630	26.9	44.0
Suicide and homicide (E 963 E 999)	432	18.5	30.1
Childbirth, and complications during pregnancy or puerperium (640-689)	171	7.3	11.9
Tuberculosis (001-019)	148	6.3	10.3
Cancer (140-205)	140	6.0	9.8
Heart disease (410-443)	103	4.4	7.2
Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594)	49	2.1	3.4
Pneumonia (490-493)	36	1.5	2.5
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	-	-	-
Dysentery (045-048)	58	2.5	4.0
Total	1 767	75.5	123.2

Sources: As for table 14.

^{a/} The total number of deaths in this age group in 1962 was 2 358, i.e., 4.25 per cent of total mortality.

Table 21

VENEZUELA: ELEVEN PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 15-TO-24 AGE GROUP, 1963

Cause	Estimated mortality (Number of deaths)	Percentage of age-group mortality ^{a/}
Accident (E 800 E 962)	632	27.4
Suicide and homicide (E 963 - 984)	431	18.7
Childbirth, and complications during pregnancy and puerperium (540-689)	144	6.2
Tuberculosis (001-019)	142	6.2
Cancer (140-205)	133	5.8
Heart disease (410-443)	105	4.6
Dysentery (045-048)	53	2.3
Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594)	51	2.2
Pneumonia (490-493)	40	1.7
Gastroenteritis, gastritis, duodenitis and colitis (543-571-572)	26	1.1
Influenza (480-483)	26	1.1
Total	1 783	77.3

Sources: As for table 19.

^{a/} The mortality figure for this age group in 1963 was 2 363.

Table 22

VENEZUELA: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NUTRITION PROGRAMME FOR 1965-68

Programme	1965	1966	1967	1968	Total 1965-1968
PL (milk product) programme (number of children to be served)	73 313	75 805	78 383	81 048	308 549
Pre-natal programme (number of patients to be served)	133 000	137 500	142 100	146 900	559 500
Nutritional deficiency programmes (number of patients to be served)	280 000	289 500	299 300	309 400	1 178 200
School meal clubs	1 600	1 654	1 710	1 768	6 732
Home dietetics (number of students)	1 206	1 247	1 289	1 332	5 074
Protein supplement (number of portions to be distributed)	446 708	-	-	-	-
Low-cost meals (People's restaurants)	10 000 000	10 340 000	10 692 000	11 055 000	42 087 000

Sources: CORDIPLAN, on the basis of data supplied by the National Institute of Nutrition.

Table 23

VENEZUELA: SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION SERVED BY THE PATRONATO
NACIONAL DE COMEDORES ESCOLARES, 1962-64

Year	School canteens	Daily attendance
1962	1 276	180 250
1963	2 000	300 000
1964	2 250	410 000

Source: CORDIPLAN, on the basis of direct information furnished by the Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares, and Aspectos de la Situación Sanitaria en Venezuela.

Table 24

VENEZUELA: TARGETS TO BE REACHED BY THE PATRONATO NACIONAL DE
COMEDORES ESCOLARES IN 1965-68

Programme	Targets (number of persons to be served daily)			
	1965	1966	1967	1968
Complete diet for school-age population	506 000	586 000	666 000	746 000
School milk and meals	200 000	320 000	440 000	560 000
Complete diet for pre-school population	50 000	150 000	250 000	350 000

Source: CORDIPLAN, on the basis of data furnished by the Patronato Nacional de Comedores Escolares.

Table 25

VENEZUELA: CARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, BY PROGRAMMES, 1960-64

Programme	Number of children and young persons cared for				
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
<u>Institutional care</u>	<u>31 810</u>	<u>29 335</u>	<u>27 917</u>	<u>26 437</u>	<u>28 136</u>
Day-care centres	4 660	4 643	4 482	4 257	3 862
Kindergartens	8 536	8 944	8 832	8 386	8 588
Homes	299	294	418	312	328
Hotels	10 060	8 766	7 509	6 089	7 605
Observation centres	2 368	1 241	1 192	1 488	1 534
Reform schools	5 790	5 349	5 379	5 791	5 973
Special schools	97	98	105	114	246
<u>Extra-institutional care</u>	<u>7 957</u>	<u>13 435</u>	<u>13 445</u>	<u>10 417</u>	<u>9 700</u>
Placing in foster-homes	6 075	6 085	6 070	5 717	5 862
After-care or follow-up treatment	1 640	1 505	1 560	1 231	990
Probation	242	300	582	754	812
Special normal-environment care	-	-	-	62	191
Youth aid programmes	-	5 545	3 635	1 732	-
Vocational guidance	-	-	1 598	921	1 845
<u>Family welfare programmes and education for family living</u>	<u>41 962</u>	<u>42 236</u>	<u>28 743</u>	<u>27 355</u>	<u>30 008</u>
Scholarships and aid for school children	2 409	8 636	4 287	3 334	3 218
Family allowances	27 130	19 195	10 427	9 766	11 462
Maintenance allowances	11 790	12 655	12 505	12 655	13 701
Education for family living centres	633	1 750	1 524	1 600	1 627
<u>Planned recreation a/</u>	<u>42 891</u>	<u>39 321</u>	<u>38 793</u>	<u>26 529</u>	<u>36 288</u>
Playing-fields and facilities for planned recreation	39 778	36 167	38 793	26 529	36 288
Holiday camps	3 113	3 154	-	-	-
<u>Grand total</u>	<u>124 620</u>	<u>124 327</u>	<u>108 898</u>	<u>90 738</u>	<u>104 132</u>

Source: Venezuelan Children's Council (Consejo Venezolano del Niño), Statistical Department.
a/ Numbers enrolled.

Table 26

VENEZUELA: SERVICES AND ESTABLISHMENTS IN EXISTENCE AS
AT 15 NOVEMBER, 1964

Name	Number	Capacity
<u>Services</u>		
Central Office	1	
Sectional and delegational agencies	23	
Social welfare offices	51	
Juvenile court and legal advisory bureaux	27	
Education for family living centres	8	
<u>Establishments</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>51 328</u>
Day-care centres	66	2 700
Kindergartens	71	6 455
Homes	8	235
Hotels	23	1 080
Observations centres	4	520
Reform schools	23	3 870
Special schools	2	180
Playing-fields and facilities for planned recreation <u>a/</u>	39	36 288

Source: As for table 25.

a/ Numbers enrolled.

Table 27

VENEZUELA: CASES, AND MINORS CONCERNED, REGISTERED IN WELFARE OFFICES, BY TYPE OF PROBLEM
1963 AND FIRST HALF 1964

Type of problem	C a s e s				Minors concerned			
	1963		First half 1964		1963		First half 1964	
	Number	Percent- age	Number	Percent- age	Number	Percent- age	Number	Percent- age
<u>Legal problems</u>	8 532	24.61	4 237	24.55	12 677	18.21	6 355	17.48
<u>Abandonment</u>	7 864	22.66	3 955	22.92	12 518	28.03	9 973	27.43
By father	6 969	-	3 516	-	17 697	-	9 092	-
By mother	561	-	301	-	1 302	-	659	-
By both parents	165	-	81	-	231	-	113	-
Reputation of minors by their parents	148	-	50	-	264	-	102	-
<u>Irregularities of conduct</u>	5 120	14.75	2 597	15.05	5 420	7.78	2 761	7.52
Serious	993	-	407	-	1 057	-	438	-
Slight	2 942	-	1 649	-	3 116	-	1 761	-
Fighting	219	-	92	-	259	-	100	-
Detention of minors	966	-	449	-	988	-	462	-
<u>Moral problems</u>	3 855	11.11	1 872	10.85	8 446	12.13	4 265	11.73
<u>Medico-social problems</u>	505	1.46	226	1.31	1 127	1.62	528	1.45
<u>Economic problems</u>	5 658	16.30	3 036	17.59	18 276	26.25	10 642	29.27
<u>Others</u>	3 160	9.11	1 333	7.73	4 158	5.98	1 833	5.05
<u>Grand total</u>	34 701	100.00	17 256	100.00	69 622	100.00	36 357	100.00

Sources: As for tables 25 and 26, and CORDIPLAN.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



LIMITED

E/LACCY/CS/L.2-Resumé
August, 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN
AND YOUTH IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jointly sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning, and the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation with the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Health Organization.

Santiago, Chile, 28 November to 11 December, 1965

SUMMARY
of

The Report Prepared by the Government of Jamaica

Introduction.

Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean having an area of 4 500 sq. miles and a population density of 377 inhabitants per sq. mile.

The birth rate is 40 per thousand and infant mortality rates have declined from 67.1 per thousand in 1954 to 39.3 in 1964.

The annual rate of natural increase of population stands at 3.2 per cent.

The population is of mixed descent, Negro, Indian, Chinese, Lebanese, European and other, but relations are harmonious and there are no class barriers to progress.

The greater part of Jamaican society is mother oriented, and some 70 per cent of births are illegitimate, though many of these are to stable common law unions.

The population is young: 41 per cent under 14 years of age and 52 per cent under 21.

/Unemployment is



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Unemployment is a major problem, particularly for youth; according to the 1960 census 39 per cent of the unemployed were in the 15 to 19 years age group and 54 per cent of the unemployed were seeking thier first job.

There is a trend toward migration to urban centers, which the Government seeks to counter by making rural living conditions and work opportunities more attractive, particularly for youth. For this purpose Community Development schemes, rural electrification, housing water supply programs, etc, are under way.

In 1963 the Government published a 5 year Development Plan which gives considerable attention to social development. Under the Plan 23 per cent of total development expenditure for the five-year period is allocated to social services, similarly, 27 per cent is allocated to community services.

Housing.-

Many people live in "tenement yards", compounds where rooms are let as individual units sharing communal cooking and lavatory facilities.

In rural areas bad housing contributes to the flow of young persons to the towns.

At the 1960 census 21 per cent of dwellings had water piped into the buildings, and 16 per cent into the yards; 20 per cent of dwellings had water closets. A very low proportion of such facilities exist in rural areas.

Health.-

Medical and public health facilities have improved but are stil inadequate.

There are 26 general and maternity hospitals with a total of 6 134 beds, that is, an average of 1 bed for 600 persons.

In 1964 a new 200-bed children's hospital was opened.

85 Health Centres provide simple medical services.

Hospitals and Health Centre provide ante and post natal care, either free or at low, income related fees. However, not all mothers can get to these services and many are assisted by 315 registered mid-wives. Nevertheless, 55 per cent of deliveries in rural areas are only attended by untrained "nannies".

/Malnutrition, still

Malnutrition, still common in the post-weaning period, still accounts for 20 per cent of deaths in the 1 to 4 years age group. There is a supplemental feeding scheme which distributes powdered skim milk to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children up to two years. This scheme was started with powdered milk from UNICEF and was continued with milk powder available under the U. S. Surplus Food Program.

Gastro-enteritis and other socio-economic diseases account for 50 per cent of infant deaths.

There are immunization programs against several communicable diseases:

Smallpox vaccinations averaging 100 000 children and adults a year;
typhoid inoculations averaging 180 000 children and adults a year;
polio immunizations averaging 140 000 children a year;
pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus inoculation averaging 160 000 a year;
BCG inoculations averaging 22 000 a year (61 000 tests also done).

A staff of 110 Public Health nurses does school and home visits.

Total expenditure on health represents approximately 10 per cent to total Government expenditure and 2.4 per cent of national income.

Education.-

Education is inadequate in quantity and quality.

A major objective of the Government's policy is to satisfy the accommodation and training needs of the 7 to 15 years age group and to provide the necessary teachers therefore.

School leaving age for those who do not enter the secondary stream is 14 years, the main problem for these children being the lack of opportunities for job training and the lack of employment.

Both the public and the private sectors provide education.

The public sector provides:

Primary education, -from 6 and one half years to the end of the academic year when children attain their 15th birthday. Non enrolment in this group averages about 8 per cent but absenteeism averages 40 per cent. It must also be remembered that children

/from low

from low income groups have poor home facilities for study and are required to do a fair amount of work in addition.

Secondary general education - some 3 000 to 4 000 children annually pass the 11 plus tests and enter secondary schools. Those who fail continue in the senior department of primary schools, enter private schools or drop out altogether. Also, some, on the basis of a selection test at 13 or 14 years enter Technical High Schools.

Higher education-- This is provided by the College of Arts, Science and Technology, by Teacher Training Colleges and by the University of the West Indies.

Children handicapped by polio may attend the rehabilitation center and school which aims at fitting them to attend normal establishments.

A voluntary association runs a school for children from 2 to 16 years who are deaf and/or dumb.

Voluntary groups also provide education for blind and mentally handicapped children.

Vocational training is provided in the formal education system, and efforts are being made to encourage youths to stay in agriculture.

The investment in education in the last five years has varied between 13 per cent and 14 per cent of total Government expenditure. This averages just under 3 per cent of national income.

Welfare and Special Legislation.

There is a limited provision of day nurseries and basic schools for the young children of working mothers, though the private sector also provides infant centres.

A voluntary case-work agency focuses on children's problems.

Child care is the responsibility of the Minister of Development and Welfare, whose expenditure amounts to £0.45 per head of the under 17 years population.

Children adjudged to need protection are placed in Homes where education, with emphasis on vocational training is also provided.

Juvenile offenders are sent to approved schools (correctional institutions).

The Jamaica Youth Corps operates two residential camps for boys 15 to 19 years of age on a principle of self-sufficiency and provides training in useful skills, both rural and urban.

Community Development programs also train young people in useful skills and expose them to cooperative efforts (which belong in Jamaican traditional culture but have to a certain extent been lost).

Legislation establishes Juvenile Courts for offenders and for neglected and ill treated children.

Maintenance of children under 16 is compulsory.

In general the legal system is under serious review.

