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Report of a Consultation

M O R O C C O

May 17 - 24, 1981

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## Report of a Consultation

### Morocco

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#### OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

- To collect information on Home Economics/Family Planning program in Morocco
- To contact responsible persons at the Moroccan Women's Union, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Moroccan Family Planning Association (AMPF), and Ministry of Education
- To present and explain AHEA/IFPP objectives, materials and help country understand procedures to initiate request for official assistance from the Project
- To identify key persons and establish contacts with them for follow-up in Project activities.

#### BACKGROUND

- Total population (1980) 20,130,000
- Crude birth rate (1980) 48%
- Number of children 0 to 4 years old (1980) 4,003,000
- Female population 15 to 44 years old (1980) 4,187,000
- Total population less than 25 years old (1980) 13,116,000
- Life expectancy at birth (1978) 55 years
- Total mortality rate per year 16%
- Infant mortality rate compared to total mortality 40%
- Rate of National population increase (1980) 3.17 % per year

### ARRIVAL IN MOROCCO

On May 17 after a long flight from Cairo to Morocco with a connection in Tunis, the Project Director and Regional Assistant Director arrived in Casablanca in the evening. A transfer from Casablanca to Rabat was made the same evening. The trip took an hour and a half by taxi.

### USAID/Morocco

On May 18, the Project Director and the Regional Assistant Director went to visit the AID Office in Rabat. They met Ms. Ursula Nadolny, Health/Population/Nutrition Officer, who had planned a tentative schedule and certain appointments with persons the RAD had contacted earlier. The Project staff informed Ms. Nadolny and showed her the Working with Villagers materials (French and Arabic). Mr. Gerard Bowers, Chief, Health/Population/Nutrition, joined the discussion and gave some direction on the feelings of certain local Associations toward family planning. He also showed us some locally made posters and commented on the people's reactions. We left at the office, an English set of Working with Villagers.

### STAFF WORKING SESSION

During the afternoon the Project Director and Regional Assistant Director discussed a strategic work plan for Morocco. The plan of work included:

1. What could be done to help strengthen home economics in Morocco?
2. Developing a series of simple lessons in nutrition
3. Developing a demonstration technique along with the lessons
4. Developing (later) lessons in other subjects such as child development/maternal and child health
5. Seeking funds from other international organizations as a possibility.

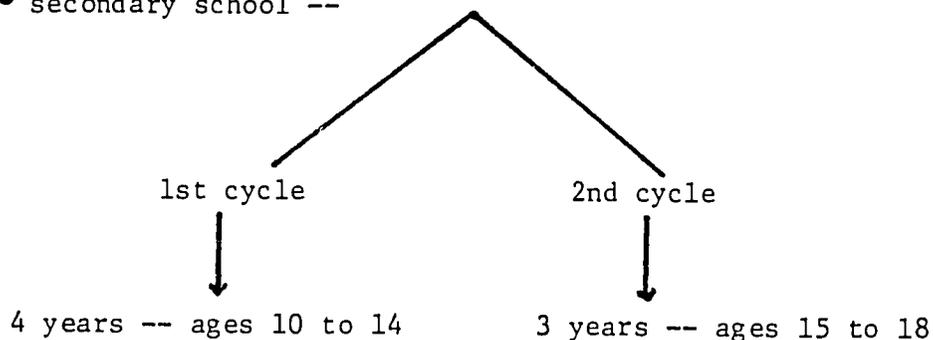
### HOME ECONOMICS IN MOROCCO

On May 19, we met Mrs. Fatima Idrissi, Professor "1<sup>er</sup> Cycle, Ecole Normale Supérieure" teaching at "Centre Pédagogique Régional" and in charge of the coordination of the program. Mrs. Idrissi could not speak English and spoke French with the RAD. Mrs. Idrissi summarized the history of home economic in Morocco as follows:

- The older curriculum was established in 1953 to train Domestic Science Educators for primary school levels.
- Later, the program was cancelled at the primary level but a follow-up was established at the Secondary Technical School. It was noticed that most of the participants of that program belonged to a certain category of educationally retarded students.
- In 1962, a new program was established for the training of two groups:
  - a) Secondary Technical School Teachers (Cadre MIM)
  - b) Higher Institute Teachers (Cadre Ecole Normale Supérieure 1<sup>er</sup> Cycle)

- In 1965, the Technical Schools were closed.
- In 1970, they started to generalize (again) the home economics teaching at the Secondary School level. In order to understand the educational system in Morocco, the school years are divided as follows:

- nursery school -- 2 years                      ages 3 to 5
- primary school -- 5 years                      ages 5 to 10
- secondary school --



- University level
  - a) Regional Pedagogical Centers -- 2 years
  - b) Faculties -- 4 to 6 years (depending on specializations)

Actually the home economics program in Morocco is taught at the 1st cycle of the secondary school level, which is composed of 4 school years. Home economics at that level is not an individual program by itself, but it is identified under certain courses included in the general educational program. For example, in the first and second years, they teach nutrition, hygiene, and handwork. For the second and third years they teach home management and child development. In the third and fourth years they prepare the girls to become teachers. The first two years the program is optional but the third and fourth years of the program are compulsory, however, graduates of that program have no access to University education. There is no home economics program at the 2nd cycle of the secondary school. At the present time home economics is called "Culture Féminine" and it is being changed to "Economie Familiale."

#### Centre Pédagogique Regionale

This teachers training center was opened in 1973. Students accepted are those who terminated the seven years of secondary school (1st and 2nd cycles). Duration of study in the Center is two years. Graduates of the Center are all trained to be teachers of the 1st cycle in secondary schools. They have 30 graduates each year and now they have 35 enrolled at the first year. The teaching is assured by eight persons specializing in different areas of home economics. The teaching is in French and the subjects taught are:

### General Teaching

- Arabic language 2 h.
- French language 2 h.
- Psychopedagia 3 h.
- Special Pedagogia 2 h.

### Special Teaching

- Natural Sciences applied to family life hygiene and child development 3 h.
- Applied sciences to human nutrition and food hygiene 2 h.
- Physics and Chemistry 2 h.
- Physics and chemistry applied to home economics 2 h.
- Design and history of traditional arts 2 h.
- Textiles 1 h.
- Pattern cutting 3 h.
- Sewing 7 h.
- Hand arts and crafts 1 h.
- Practical work (Ironing, Cleaning) 2 h.
- Cooking 3 h.

### USAID Assistance Program

On May 19, we had the opportunity to meet again with Mr. Bowers, Chief of Population/Health/Nutrition, who briefed us on their program of assistance in Morocco.

The Assistance Program has nine sub-project programs covering the following important points:

- pilot project in Marrakech
- support of an expansion program to serve an additional 10 provinces
- house-to-house contact to deliver services (VDMS)
  - infant weaning food -- pregnant women -- immunizations
  - provide commodities -- contraception devices -- equipment
  - supporting the renovation of a hospital for surgical assistance and to be a reproductive or sterilization center for women.
- run a training center for reproductive health in Rabat
- support AMPF providing materials for brochures and posters, organize workshops for journalists and agriculture extension workers
- for rapid presentation a computer model is used with demographic data on schools, hospitals and life expectancy
- ten new medical centers for treating side effects are under construction -- those centers are spread over ten provinces and include training centers to teach how to conduct research activities in family planning

- the program makes commercial distribution of contraceptives. There is an objection from the Moroccan pharmacists, who are against the advertisement.
- they participated in a world fertility survey in which 50 other countries participated. The UNFPA contributed to that survey.
- they have a very important mass media program diffused in 10 provinces. Seventy-five percent of the population is reached by that program.

#### Moroccan Family Planning Association (AMPF)

On the afternoon of May 19, we visited the Moroccan Family Planning Association where we met Mr. Abdallah El Mahdi, Executive Director, and the two persons responsible for the Information, Economic and Social Committees.

Mr. El Mahdi led the discussion and gave a description of the (AMPF), its objectives and activities:

- L'Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF) was established in 1971 and is sponsored by IPPF. AID is presently has a three year contract with them.
- Structures of the Association
  1. At the National Level --
    - a) a national council is responsible for elaborating on the Association's general policies
    - b) a national executive committee in which the members are chosen from the council and is in charge of executing the Association's program activities. This committee includes 15 voluntary members. Her Highness Princess Lalla Fatima Zohra is the President of Honor. Mrs. Zahra Doukkali is the President. The National Executive Committee is helped by consultative committees:
      - Administrative Committee
      - Information, Education and Communication Committee
      - Medical Committee
      - Fund-raising and Interrelations Committee
      - Juridical Committee
      - Economic and Social Committee
  2. At the Regional Level --

The Association is represented in the provinces and prefectures by Regional Committees located in Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech, Tangier. The first two committees serve five provinces each and the last two committees serve three provinces each.

### Objectives of the AMPF

- motivates, informs and educates the Moroccan population to understand the advantage of family planning on the individual family and on the national scale;
- provides the motivated population with the appropriate medical services;
- extends the medical services and distributes the contraceptive product to the lesser developed rural populations.

### Activities of the AMPF

1. Information activities through communication programs, radio, T.V., news media, exhibits, posters, pamphlets, booklets, conferences, seminars, home visits, etc.
2. Medical activities through free-of-charge consultations and I.U.D. insertion at the family planning centers;
3. Distribution of contraceptive products through groups of people equipped with audio-visual mobile units.

Mr. El Mahdi and his colleagues were interested to learn about AHEA-IFPP. The RAD described in French the objectives and activities of the Project as well as she demonstrated the French and Arabic Project materials. Mr. El Mahdi was impressed with the materials and asked if they can receive copies in Arabic and French. He mentioned that they trained a group of 60 agriculture extension workers (all women) and asked about possibilities for future collaboration with IFPP. The RAD presented to him a copy of the activity proposal form and explained the steps to be followed for an official request.

### Visit with a Sociologist

In the afternoon of May 19, we were received by Dr. Fatima El Mernissi, Sociologist and Professor at the University of Rabat. She is an active woman and well informed on population education and family planning work done in the different Moroccan ministries.

Dr. El Mernissi looked through the Working with Villagers while listening to the explanation of the objectives and activities of the Project. She then suggested that we might be interested in meeting Mme. Laaziri at the Ministry of Public Health and Mr. Ben Jellorin at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### Union National des Femmes Marocaines

On May 20, the Regional Assistant Director was received by Her Highness Princess Lalla Fatima Zohra, President of the "Union Nationale des Femmes Marocaines (National Union of Moroccan Women). Present at the meeting were Mrs. Assia Benhayoun, Executive Secretary of the Union, and Mrs. Zhoure Lazreq, M.D. Unfortunately the Project Director was sick that day and was not able to attend the meeting.

The National Union of Moroccan Women is an affiliation of the Arab League of Organizations of African Women. It was established in 1969 and is chaptered by 25 provincial committees. The principal activities and functions are: education of all women; family planning; young people's development; child care centers; centers for young women and close collaboration with the government. They organize conferences at the National and international level. While in Morocco, the National Union of Moroccan Women was hosting the conference of the "International League of Arab Women."

They also publish the "Magazine of the Arab Women." They gave it the name of "Aieha" after the name of Princess Aieha whose public unveiling in 1943 was the benchmark of social change. In an earlier day, Moroccan women in cities lived a highly secluded life within walls. Girls and women were not supposed to pass the door-sill. Women abroad from their homes were veiled; women's visiting paths took them across roofs instead of through streets. They took air and sunshine in interior courts or in "women's territory" on the flat roofs. The only formal educational institution open to girls was the Koranic school. Formal academic schooling became available at first only to a small feminine elite, still largely secluded. It was not until 1943 that girls were allowed to enter primary school. While this feminine school-population has expanded enormously within the last twenty years, population growth levels, and limited school and teaching-cadre resources still limit opportunity for school places.

After a careful listening to the Project descriptions and a quick examination of the Project materials, Her Highness the Princess was very supportive of the program and expressed her desire to plan several working sessions for training and adapting the Project's materials to the local needs of Morocco in Arabic. She was especially sensitive to the idea of gradually integrating family planning into home economics subject matters and not imposing "family planning per se." She said "we have the duty to inform the people, but they should have the freedom to make their own decisions."

The Regional Assistant Director gave them a copy of the French and Arabic Working with Villagers; a slide-tape set of "Partners in Change," a green folder, and an activity proposal form. It was decided that they will review the materials and will discuss a proposed plan of activities.

#### Promotion Feminine in Morocco

Within the framework of services offered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, "La Promotion Feminine" has a network of centers spread throughout Morocco. Those centers are called "Foyers Faminins", and offer an alternative to scholastic education for young girls and women. The program has until now been slanted toward an essentially domestic technology. The "Foyer" education include personal hygiene and health, nutrition, child-care, family planning, household management, sewing, knitting, embroidery, cooking, practical housework and shopping. Some rural centers try to develop and assist projects for women such as gardening and poultry raising. Recipients range from illiterate girls and women who have received no other formal schooling, to college students who come in during their spare time to learn household skills.

"Promotion Feminine" has 339 centers across the country, of which 203 are rural and 136 serve urban populations. They reach a clientele of between 25,000 and 30,000 girls and women. The program is run by 923 staff persons, 13 of them within the Ministry. Field staff include 15 "Educatrices", 482 "Instructrices" and 426 "Agents Publiques Permanents."

The Regional Assistant Director tried several times to contact Mrs. Najat M'Rabet, Director of Promotion Feminine, but she was never available at her office. The RAD could have only a half-hour appointment on May 21 with Mrs. Betty Lussier, an American consultant at Promotion Feminine. Mrs. Lussier was curious to know about the AHEA-International Family Planning Project and to obtain copies of the materials, then she referred the RAD to meet with the Secretary General of Promotion Feminine for further discussion and information about their Project.

In order to meet Ms. Fatima Dehbi, Secretary General of Promotion Feminine, the RAD went on May 22 to the Hilton Hotel where a conference of the "League of Arab Women" was held the previous days and Ms. Dehbi was there to supervise the delegates' departure. The RAD was able to obtain a brief appointment in the afternoon. The AHEA-IFPP objectives were explained and the materials presented. Ms. Dehbi was interested to obtain the French version of "Working with Villagers" for revision and asked the RAD to write to the Director for further contacts and information.

#### Ministry of Agriculture

On the afternoon of May 21, the RAD visited the Ministry of Agriculture and met Mr. Mohamed Mouline, Director of Agriculture Extension and Agrarian Reform, and Mr. Ahmed Bendanoune, Chief of the Agriculture Extension Division. Mr. Bendanoune had training in Agriculture Extension in Wisconsin, USA. Mr. Mouline and Mr. Bendanoune were very interested to learn about the objectives and services of AHEA-IFPP. They specifically commented and agreed that the villagers should be aware and motivated by subjects of their interests without any stress or obligation. Every person should have the right to make his own decision.

Mr. Mouline explained that they have about one hundred rural women extension workers who are in direct contact with the villagers. They all have a four-year secondary school education. They are spread in all the provinces and they teach the rural women about agriculture, poultry, gardening, and animal husbandry. Sixty of these extension workers received family planning training at their National Association.

Mr. Mouline expressed his interest in the AHEA-IFPP and its materials and mentioned his desire for collaboration and training of his extension workers. He also asked to receive an Arabic copy of Working with Villagers. The RAD gave him an available French copy to review until the Arabic copies were received, and also gave him a copy of the proposal form which they promised to study and submit.

### USAID Briefing

On May 22, the Project Director and the RAD went to the AID office to brief Mr. Bowers on the results of the different consultation meetings. Mr. Bowers was satisfied and gave the RAD some suggestions for future follow-up. Mr. Bowers was particularly interested that we:

- a) inform the Women's Union about the possibility of slide-tape reproduction with the collaboration of "Association Marocaine du Planing Familial";
- b) remind Agriculture Extension people of the proposal form and inform them about possible personnel help in developing it and also arrange a second consultation visit.

### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Morocco has a good start in Family Planning. They have physical facilities provided by IPPF and AID but they lack educational materials and professional trainers. It is recommended that AHEA/IFPP continue contact and provide technical assistance and training.
2. Developing a series of simple lessons in nutrition, health and sanitation, mother and child care with the integration of family planning might be very helpful in rural training programs.
3. Developing a program and materials for Morocco could become a regional model for the North African countries.
4. It is recommended that materials be developed in Arabic since there is a great campaign in Morocco to use the Arabic language in all programs.
5. It is recommended that contact with key persons be maintained and that personnel assistance be given in developing programs of activities.

LIST OF CONTACTS

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