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932-0547 File

CLASSIFICATION PD-AAJ-133 PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) - PART I

Report Symd

1. PROJECT TITLE World Fertility Survey (International Statistical Institute)	2. PROJECT NUMBER 932-0547	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE DS/POP/DEMO
	4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) 81-33 7/24/81	
5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES		

A. First PRC-AG or Equivalent FY 72 B. Final Obligation Expected FY 82 C. Final Input Delivery FY 83	6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING A. Total \$ 47,000,000 B. U.S. \$ 23,000,000	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION From (month/yr.) 11/77 To (month/yr.) 7/80 Date of Evaluation Review 7/80-10/80
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8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., program, SPAR, PIC, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
1. Review incoming proposal from ISI concerning future activities of the WFS.	Cornelius	June-July 1981
2. Adapt proposal as necessary; draft Project Statement for internal review/approval.	Cornelius	Feb. 198
3. Forward Project Statement to RAC for approval.	Cornelius	March-June 1982
4. Work with CM/COD to draft and process new funding document (PIO/T) and obligating document (grant or cooperative agreement).	Cornelius	June-July 1982

9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation Plan esp. CPI Network	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PIO/T	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Logical Framework	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/C	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> PIO/D	_____

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

A. Continue Project Without Change

B. Change Project Design and/or
 Change Implementation Plan

C. Discontinue Project

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)

(for intensive evaluations only)

Signature, DAA/DS/HRD

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval

Signature: Patricia Delidoro

Typed Name: DS/POP, J.J. Speidel

DS/POP/DEMO, Richard M. Cornelius

13. Summary

The World Fertility Survey (WFS) is an international program of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) whose purpose is to assist 40-50 developing countries to undertake nationally representative, internationally comparable, scientifically designed and conducting sample surveys of fertility behavior and attitudes. The key objectives of the WFS have been to (a) generate the data necessary to describe and interpret levels and trends in fertility; (b) facilitate international comparability of data through utilization of standardized questionnaire; and (c) build institutional capabilities within participating countries for future fertility-related survey work.

Since WFS began in 1972, 42 developing countries and about 20 developed countries have initiated fertility surveys as part of the WFS program. Of these, about half have published detailed analysis reports and have provided standardized data tapes to the scientific community for further analysis. Included among the ongoing analysis efforts are large scale comparative analysis programs by the United Nations and other organizations. Moreover, the evaluation found that WFS has in fact enhanced institutional capabilities. Many WFS-trained survey staff in host countries have used WFS survey procedures and sample frames in subsequent surveys. Thus WFS has in general terms fulfilled its original objectives.

14. Evaluation Methodology

This evaluation was jointly sponsored by AID and the UNFPA with the objectives of evaluating the overall progress of WFS, quality of data, utilization of information, and options for the future of WFS. It was expected that evaluation findings would play an important role in determining the scope of future WFS activities.

The evaluation team was comprised of six internationally respected individuals with a mixture of formal training and experience. There were three demographers (John Knodel, Harriet Presser, and Ted Smith), one statistician (Elsa Berquo), one epidemiologist (Nusret Fisek), and one MD (Antonio Ordonez-Plaja).

The evaluation began with a briefing in AID/w on 2-3 July 1980 followed by attendance at the WFS Conference in London on 7-11 July. Immediately after the Conference, the team spent two weeks at headquarters in London and The Hague during which time they carefully examined the basic survey documentation, reviewed progress, and interviewed a number of key staff. In August 1980 the team split into 3 groups and visited six participating developing countries to solicit the views of host government and local USAID officials regarding the quality and utilization of WFS data and the performance of the WFS staff.

A debriefing by the full evaluation team was convened at UNFPA headquarters in New York on October 10, 1980 with representatives from AID, UNFPA, and ISI/WFS present. The meeting included a summary and discussion of major findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The evaluation report was finalized during November-December 1980 and distributed by APHA in early January.

15. External Factors

There is an ongoing need by planners and policy makers in developing countries for timely and reliable data on fertility and family planning. In the years prior to the initiation of WFS, there was a general dearth of high quality data on these important topics. Some fertility data were available from censuses, but such censuses are for the most part conducted only every ten years, and census tabulation is a very slow and tedious process. Civil registration systems in the vast majority of LDCs were incomplete and did not yield usable fertility statistics. Fertility and KAP surveys were done in some countries, but there was no standardization of concepts or survey design and therefore no possibility for cross-national comparisons of data. WFS has transcended many of the limitations of these earlier surveys. It has generated a large body of high quality, internationally comparable data in 42 developing countries.

The demographic data needs of developing countries today are not very much different than they were prior to the WFS. What is different is the array of survey assistance programs now being supported by AID and others. Since the WFS was started in 1972, other similar interregional survey projects have also been started covering related topics (e.g. Birth and Death Data Collection; Contraceptive Prevalence Studies). Therefore, any future WFS activities will need to be structured to complement other projects, with emphasis on those aspects of survey activity which makes greatest advantage of WFS' comparative strengths.

16. Inputs

The quality of technical assistance to developing countries by WFS has been uniformly high, resulting in most cases in survey results which are superior to data from any similar previous surveys. Whenever special problems have arisen during survey operations in a particular country, WFS has had the capability to respond quickly with expert technical assistance.

The quantity of technical assistance, particularly regarding further analysis of the data, is necessarily related to the level of donor funding available to WFS. In 1973, it looked as though AID would be able to provide additional funding to enable acceleration of WFS efforts to promote, coordinate, and assist second-stage analysis. Regretably, these expectations were short-lived, and while WFS has nevertheless been able to make valuable contributions in the area of further data analysis, much more could have been done with additional funds.

17. Outputs

Outputs to date correspond quite closely with present project design as detailed in the current Project Statement. There are now 42 LDCs participating in the WFS, well within the maximum of 50 established by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Of these 42 countries, 23 have produced Country Reports and provided edited data tapes to WFS/London, thereby fulfilling the terms of their survey subagreements.

The remaining 19 countries are expected to publish their Country Reports by mid-1983, which again is consistent with present project design.

WFS also has given high priority to further analysis of WFS data. Their activities in this area include: (a) national meetings, which are convened at the time of publication of the Country Report to familiarize host country policy-makers with WFS findings for their country, and to discuss plans for further analysis; (b) technical/financial assistance for development and implementation of further analysis projects; (c) country and regional analysis workshops which bring host country researchers and their data tapes together for a 1-3 month period for concentrated research on a particular key topic (e.g., evaluation of birth histories); (d) illustrative analyses and technical bulletins, which are commissioned (and sometime produced) by WFS to provide concrete examples of the application of the latest analytical techniques to WFS data; and (e) maintenance of an active data archive service, including the creation and distribution of standard recode tapes, periodic updating of these tapes, processing of requests for release of data tapes, and limited production of special tabulations on request. WFS also is cooperating with international organizations such as the United Nations and the IUSSP to facilitate extensive comparative analysis of WFS data. Largely as a result of all these efforts to promote and coordinate further analysis of WFS data, there were more than 250 further analysis projects completed or underway at the time of the project evaluation. This level of input/output is fully consistent with project design.

Finally, one important recent output has been the successful planning and implementation of a global World Fertility Survey Conference, which was convened in London in July, 1980. The evaluation team was able to attend the entire conference, but used this time more for holding discussions with LDC participants regarding WFS, rather than critically evaluating the conference itself. Nonetheless, there is general agreement that the conference, which was attended by more than 600 participants from approximately 90 countries, provided a unique opportunity to disseminate WFS findings, discuss priorities for future research, and voice both praises and criticisms of WFS.

18. Purpose

The approved purpose of the WFS follows: "The WFS is an international research program designed to assist a large number of interested countries, particularly the developing countries, in carrying out nationally representative, internationally comparable, scientifically designed and conducted surveys of human fertility behavior."

Related to this central purpose, WFS has three primary objectives.

- (a) to help these countries to acquire the scientific information that will permit them to describe and interpret their populations' fertility;

- (b) to facilitate international comparisons and research in fertility and related fields by collection of data which are as far as possible internationally standardized; and
- (c) to increase national capabilities for fertility and other demographic survey and research work.

For a concise discussion of progress toward achievement of these basic objectives, the reader is directed to the Executive Summary of the evaluation report, which is attached as Appendix A.

19 Goal/Subgoal

The principal goal of the Office of Population is to provide couples in the developing world with the knowledge and means to effectively control their own fertility. Pursuant to that overall goal, the subgoal for the Demography Division is to utilize demographic data and analyses (a) to serve as the basis for assessing the magnitude and nature of the population problem; (b) to provide a statistical base for planning and executing population action programs and ; (c) to permit assessment of program effectiveness and the circumstances under which various approaches are feasible. To achieve this subgoal the Demography Division has developed projects to collect data on fertility and fertility regulating behavior; factors which influence that behavior; levels and trends of fertility, mortality, and family planning use; and migration. The Division also supports efforts to analyze and interpret these data so that their implications can be made known to policy makers and program administrators.

WFS has made major contributions to all three aspects of this subgoal. Indeed, WFS has been the single most important source of demographic data during the past decade. As such, it has greatly aided our understanding of demographic and family planning trends in the developing world. It also has served as a model for similar survey projects on other related topics.

20. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of this project are the gatherers and consumers of WFS data.

The gatherers (i.e. host country statistical offices) benefit primarily through the application of the latest and best survey procedures and analytical techniques developed and/or employed by WFS. Building of institutional capability for population survey research is one of the three central objectives of the WFS (see section 18 on Purpose), and the evaluation team confirmed during their country site visits that WFS has in fact had a significant impact on improving country survey competence.

The consumers of WFS data include, again, national statistical offices and planning offices who use the data for estimating and projecting current population trends; ministries of health who use the data to

understand current patterns of contraceptive knowledge and use, infant mortality, breastfeeding, and pregnancy wastage; the international scientific community who are using the WFS to further our knowledge of determinants of fertility and to develop improved demographic analysis techniques, and finally AID who is using these data to describe the demographic situation worldwide, evaluate the efficacy of AID population assistance programs, and indicate the general magnitude of unmet demand for family planning.

The indirect beneficiaries of WFS are, of course, the men and women in the developing world who stand to benefit from improved family planning programs made possible, in part, by the availability of high quality data.

21. Unplanned Effects

One important unplanned effect of WFS has been the emergence of a body of high quality data on infant mortality. Data of this type are conspicuously lacking in the developing world and, although not a primary objective of WFS, the pregnancy histories collected by WFS have yielded very useful information on infant mortality. Using WFS it is possible not only to estimate the incidence of infant mortality, but also its various correlates (e.g., breastfeeding, length of birth intervals, fertility levels, socioeconomic status, etc.).

22. Lessons Learned

As noted earlier (see section 19 on Goal/Subgoal), WFS has served as a model for survey projects on other related topics. For example, the Contraceptive Prevalence Studies (CPS) project was designed to incorporate the best features of the WFS' project design while modifying other design aspects (e.g., questionnaire length/content, survey cost and duration, etc.) to more adequately meet the specific data needs of family planning officials. Similarly, the Birth and Death Data Collection project is designed somewhat after the WFS model. These "hybrid" programs together with WFS itself are among the most important elements of the Demography Division program. We firmly believe that centralized survey programs like WFS, which develop and apply standardized survey questions adapted to the peculiar needs of each participating country, remain the most cost-effective approach for gathering high quality demographic data.

23. Special Comments/Remarks

In the course of its deliberations the evaluation team made a number of very useful observations and recommendations. In its own view the most important of its recommendations is that WFS continue well beyond 1982 "to enable it to complete the current round of fertility surveys, facilitate second-stage analysis, give proper consideration to the long-term future of WFS archives, redesign the core questionnaire and modules in the light of experience and the constructive criticisms made at the World Fertility Conference, review and revise the survey manuals, and assist and advise in a small number of selected countries that have completed first-round surveys and that wish to undertake further fertility surveys,

using improved survey instruments and ensuring the WFS standards are maintained." This recommendation was reaffirmed by the WFS Program Steering Committee in its most recent meeting in Princeton, N.J. in February 1981.

Acting on these recommendations, AID and UNFPA have agreed in broad terms on the parameters of a future program and have solicited from ISI detailed proposals for their respective agencies. These proposals will serve as the basis for further deliberations concerning the future of the WFS.

Appendices:

Appendix A--Evaluation Report of the World Fertility Survey: Executive Summary

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EVALUATION REPORT
OF THE
WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY

JOINTLY COMMISSIONED AND SUPPORTED BY THE:

United Nations Fund for Population Activities
U. S. Agency for International Development
(ADSS AID/DSPE-C-0053)

December 1980

Part 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the report of the third mission, which has been asked to study the World Fertility Survey Program. The first two missions concentrated on the activities of the World Fertility Survey (WFS) headquarters (HQ) and of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) as the organization administratively and financially responsible for the WFS project. The current mission concentrated its attention more on activities in the participating countries, and particularly on the extent to which the original objectives of the WFS had been achieved and the fertility survey data disseminated and used.

A. First Objective

The first objective of WFS is to help countries acquire scientific information that will permit them to describe and interpret their populations' fertility, to identify meaningful differentials in patterns of fertility and fertility regulation, and to provide improved data in order to facilitate efforts in economic, social, and health planning.

As of July 1980, a total of 36 less developed countries had completed fertility survey fieldwork. Of these, 21 had published their First Country Report. In addition, fieldwork was either in progress or expected to commence shortly in another 6 or 7 less developed countries. In order to achieve such widespread participation in a small number of years, some salesmanship on the part of WFS and the donor organizations was necessary, but all participating countries signed the required agreements after making their own final decisions on participation.

Clearly, a large number of less developed countries have not participated. A few countries are still "knocking on the door," but they are being told, with very few exceptions, that the list of participating countries cannot be expanded at this time. In a very few cases, countries had or thought they had adequate information; hence, they were not interested in participation. In a much larger number of countries, political conditions have not permitted participation. In other countries skilled manpower resources are so stretched that new survey activities tend to be rejected.

Each completed survey goes through the following successive stages: planning, funding, designing the sample, finalizing the questionnaire for both household and individual interviews, training field supervisors and interviewers, conducting field interviews, editing, data processing, and report writing. The questionnaire used for individual interviews of women of child-bearing age consists of a core questionnaire, which is standardized (only minor deviations from it are permitted) and a series of optional modules. At each

stage some technical assistance is provided by the WFS. WFS manuals are universally used, and WFS professional staff usually visit countries at each stage of the survey. Sometimes WFS resident advisers are posted. A First Country Report on each survey is produced in a relatively standardized form. Second-stage analysis projects are funded independently of the survey. The national agency involved in second-stage analysis is usually not the agency involved in conducting the survey.

The data from each survey provide information on the fertility of the country's population at the time of the survey. For a country to be able to acquire information on fertility at intervals of a few years and over a period of time, fertility surveys need to be repeated. This requirement is particularly important when the fertility rate is changing, since the later surveys are, in fact, the very instruments used to detect such change.

Finally, it should be noted that much more second-stage analysis is needed so that those countries which have participated can obtain the maximum amount of scientific information from their fertility surveys. The first objective must be regarded as not having been fully achieved until the analysis of the survey data has been taken much further.

After reviewing survey activities and the analysis of survey data in participating countries, the Mission reached the following conclusions on the achievement of the first objective:

Conclusion 1. The country visits of the Mission to six participating countries--the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, and the Philippines--indicated that the sampling, training, field supervision, editing, and data processing standards set by the WFS for the national executing agencies were higher than those which characterized previous surveys. Where there had been no previous survey, an excellent standard was set. The amount of technical assistance provided by the WFS was uniformly regarded as "about right."

Conclusion 2. Data processing was the major bottleneck in the participating countries during the surveys, in large part because of difficulties with machine-editing. The attrition of personnel, competition for machine and programming time, and computer capacity caused other problems. WFS intervention at this stage in most participating countries was a crucial factor in bringing the survey to a successful conclusion. The extent of the problems was not initially anticipated by the WFS.

Conclusion 3. An important achievement of the WFS program was the production of the First Country Report, which provided detailed, relatively standardized data from the survey. The involvement of WFS staff in report writing varied: in some instances there was relatively little participation; in others the involvement was almost total. The First Country Reports reviewed by the Mission

generally seemed to be of good quality, and they are potentially useful for those familiar with the basic data tabulation format. WFS itself took the responsibility for producing a short summary of the First Country Report in a form that policymakers can understand more easily.

Conclusion 4. At all stages of the survey there was a conflict between the time constraints on completing the survey and getting the report out and the desire to rely as much as possible on local personnel. This was particularly marked during data processing and report writing. In general, the problem appears to have been handled in a responsible manner.

Conclusion 5. On balance, it was wise to insist on the use of a standardized core questionnaire in country surveys; the benefits far exceeded the loss of the participation of a few countries because of such insistence. However, the use of certain modules, specifically, the community module and the economic module, was disappointing, and thus precluded a more thorough analysis of the determinants of fertility.

Conclusion 6. In some participating countries, the WFS survey was the first fertility survey of any kind ever taken. In many other countries it was the first nationally representative survey focused specifically on fertility. The quality of demographic data produced by the country fertility surveys was generally high and as good as or better than the quality of data produced in previous surveys. As indicated by post-enumeration surveys, the reliability of attitudinal data is generally low--a characteristic of most attitudinal surveys.

Conclusion 7. In all countries visited by the Mission, the survey produced important new information on national fertility levels and trends, whether or not there had been a previous fertility survey. In addition, the survey produced important new information on nuptiality, breastfeeding, and infant and child mortality. There was a clear feeling in each country visited that all the data collected in the fertility survey was essentially for the country's own use and benefit.

Conclusion 8. The value of data from the present round of WFS surveys extends well beyond short-term use. The data have long-term value, both as a source of comparison with future fertility survey results and as a medium for exploring a variety of interrelationships between variables.

Conclusion 9. The value of WFS data for program evaluation and policy formulation has, in some countries, been reduced because the size of the sample did not permit more detailed sub-regional estimates. The Mission recognizes, however, that increases in the sample size would have substantially increased the costs of the surveys.

Conclusion 10. A major contribution of the WFS to the advancement of demographic research has been the encouragement and facilitation of the assessment of data quality and the analysis of survey data that go beyond simple descriptive studies. The greater emphasis on the development of demographic rather than social and economic measures has, accordingly, limited the explanatory value.

Conclusion 11. As noted above, the second-stage analysis of completed surveys is insufficient. The initiation of second-stage analysis by participating countries has been limited.

Conclusion 12. A number of those interviewed in the countries visited did not consider a multi-purpose household survey approach to be an adequate substitute, now or in the future, for detailed fertility surveys, although they did consider it to be an important supplement.

Given these conclusions and the Mission's views on future needs for fertility surveys and improved survey instruments, the following recommendations for the first objective are offered:

Recommendation 1. The current round of fertility surveys, including those in countries in which a commitment has already been made, should be completed under WFS auspices, recognizing that this will involve the continuation of WFS well beyond 1982. Save for exceptional circumstances, other countries which have not yet made a commitment should not be accepted for participation.

Recommendation 2. WFS should continue to encourage and facilitate national evaluation and analysis of country survey data.

Recommendation 3. The core questionnaire on fertility and intermediate variables should be redesigned in the light of cumulative experience to serve as a model for future fertility surveys, whether or not these surveys are done under the auspices of WFS. Similarly, the survey manuals should be reviewed and revised in the light of cumulative experience and the redesigning of the core questionnaire.

Recommendation 4. Serious consideration should be given to several WFS-conducted small-scale, innovative studies designed to assess and improve the validity of a number of key variables, especially those concerned with contraceptive knowledge and practice and fertility preference.

Recommendation 5. Continuing efforts should be directed by the WFS to facilitate second-stage analysis by all possible means and with the participation of all appropriate national organizations. Whatever additional staff and equipment are needed should be provided to

the data processing division of the WFS to meet agreed requests, from both participating countries and research scientists of repute, for further analysis and tabulation of WFS data.

Recommendation 6. WFS should assist additional surveys in a small number of selected countries which have already completed a substantial amount of second-stage analysis. Improved survey instruments should be used and WFS standards maintained. An effort should be made to improve the measurement of socioeconomic variables, particularly female labor force participation, and to encourage the inclusion of improved community-level modules. Moreover, an additional module on the status of women should be developed for possible inclusion.

B. Dissemination and Utilization

As far as utilization of WFS data is concerned, at this stage the Mission was able to evaluate only the short-range use of the results, which is but one part of the total picture. Although WFS data from a country survey appear to be unlikely in themselves to lead to formulation of a population policy, the survey results in combination with data from other sources may increase the possibility that a population policy will be adopted. They also may be important in the determination of particular strategies for carrying out an existing population policy.

Short-term use of fertility survey findings appears to have been greatest in connection with development planning, and in particular in the production of population projections for planning purposes, including, most notably, educational planning. The Mission found that fertility survey data were regarded as an important input in population projection work in five of the six countries visited.

In a country that has not as yet decided on a population policy aimed at reducing fertility, the survey results do not appear to have been of much interest to Ministry of Health officials. Where, however, national family planning programs already exist, Ministry of Health officials are likely to be more prepared to examine survey results in relation to the family planning program.

In view of the novelty of fertility survey data in many of the participating countries, the Mission believes that the donor organizations and WFS should be reasonably satisfied with the degree to which the results have been used to date. It is unrealistic to expect governments of less developed countries to learn to use new tools for analysis at other than gradual stages; indeed, experience of the gradual increase in the use of population census data from an originally very low level of utilization should have been sufficient warning to donor organizations not to pitch their expectations too high.

Conclusion 13. In five of the six countries visited, considerable efforts have been made to disseminate the results of the fertility survey, but these efforts have been more sustained in some countries than in others.

Conclusion 14. The WFS mailing lists for distribution of WFS publications are in need of revision.

Conclusion 15. The fertility surveys in the participating countries have produced data that are relevant to policy formulation and that can be used by policymakers. However, because policymakers are often not trained in either statistics or demography, the utility of the data requires textual explanation and description to make effective utilization possible.

Conclusion 16. In five of the six countries visited, the fertility survey data are an important input in the production or revision of population projections for planning purposes.

Conclusion 17. In three of the six countries visited, the fertility survey data have, reportedly, been used to help determine strategies for or redefine the goals of an existing population policy. In one country it was reported that the formulation of population policies took place well in advance of the WFS and that the data provided by the survey were considered to be of little use in the short term for redefining new policies. In the remaining two countries there are no policies related to the rate of population growth, although in one of the two countries steps are being taken to formulate such a policy.

Recognizing that there can be no utilization without dissemination and that WFS cannot influence countries to use data in particular ways, the Mission recommends the following:

Recommendation 7. The mailing list of WFS publications should be revised thoroughly to:

- a. avoid duplication;
- b. reach the right people; and
- c. remove the names of inactive people.

The mailing list should be reviewed periodically.

Recommendation 8. Dissemination should not be restricted to national seminars, which should be regarded as one stage only in the dissemination process and the encouragement of proposals for second-stage analysis.

Recommendation 9. To maximize the use of WFS data, the Mission recommends that more attention be given to a one-to-one approach that can help make the data more relevant to planners.

C. Second Objective

The second objective of WFS is to increase national capabilities for fertility and other demographic survey and research work. As far as this objective is concerned, the Mission's judgment is based on visits to six countries and on discussions with WFS personnel in London and with persons involved in the WFS/ESCAP-sponsored workshop in Bangkok. WFS assistance in building up a survey and research capability varies from country to country. At the top level, survey directors and their associates have gained a great deal from participating in the WFS program, particularly in countries with meager previous survey experience. Unfortunately, such people are often transferred after the survey to posts where they have little chance to apply the skills they have acquired. The contribution of WFS to continued survey leadership is, therefore, somewhat fragile. It is at the middle and lower levels of survey work that WFS participation has contributed most effectively to building up as a lasting asset a survey-taking capability, although, again, the ability to take advantage of this asset varies from country to country. The contribution of the WFS to an improved data processing capability in the participating countries was less effective than contributions in other stages of the survey work. It is too early to make a positive judgment on the WFS's contribution to an improved in-country capability in data analysis.

The main conclusions about the extent to which the second objective has been achieved are as follows:

Conclusion 18. As indicated above, WFS has contributed to building up leadership in survey capability, but this capability depends on a very few individuals who may, in some cases, receive other types of appointments and be transferred to other posts. Continued ability to carry out and lead such surveys is, therefore, fragile, but beyond the control of the WFS.

Conclusion 19. WFS has contributed to the survey-taking capability of supporting staff in participating countries. In the countries visited, the middle- and lower-level personnel who were used at various stages of the survey (interviewers, supervisors, coders, and

data editors) are a permanent asset, and their continued employment in survey and census work varies from "moderate" to "most satisfactory."

Conclusion 20. The manuals, questionnaires, and other materials produced at WFS headquarters and the local adaptation of those documents have the potential for building survey capabilities in institutions other than the fertility survey executing agencies. In some of the countries visited there were early indications that these documents were being used to a moderate extent.

Conclusion 21. The workshops sponsored or co-sponsored by the WFS on evaluative and multivariate analysis have been a very effective means of training. Communication between participants from different countries was greatly facilitated because there was a common, core set of variables on which to focus.

Conclusion 22. The illustrative analyses sponsored by WFS are examples of high quality demographic research which can be helpful in workshop teaching. However, some appear to be too sophisticated to serve on their own as effective illustrations, and their substantive content is disappointing.

The following are recommendations for further improving the survey capability in participating countries:

Recommendation 10. Greater efforts should be made to arrange more in-country seminars organized by both external and internal experts familiar with WFS to improve the ability to undertake analyses of national fertility survey data. Regional workshops devoted to second-stage analysis should be continued at the present level. Both in-country seminars and regional workshops should, wherever possible, provide the motivation and encouragement for more in-country involvement in second-stage analysis.

Recommendation 11. The revised core questionnaire and survey manuals (see Recommendation 3) should be regarded as a resource for future fertility surveys, and their use should be promoted through the adequate distribution of new documentation and through teaching at seminars and in workshops.

Recommendation 12. In view of the importance of the topic, a practical handbook should be produced for an analysis of birth/pregnancy history. In addition, a relevant computer programming guide should be prepared.

Recommendation 13. In view of the incomplete build-up of survey capability and the views expressed in some of the countries visited by the Mission, an international organization, either the WFS or some other agency at the same level of competence, will be needed for some time to coordinate and guide fertility surveys in a way that maintains high standards and introduces the maximum possible flexibility to meet an individual country's felt needs.

D. Third Objective

The third objective of the WFS is to facilitate international comparisons and research in fertility and related fields by collecting data that are, as much as possible, internationally standardized. While comparative analysis of WFS data is still at an early stage, the Mission feels that the potential for such analysis is great. However, there are three limiting factors. One, the data gathered in the surveys through the household schedule, the individual core questionnaire, and the recommended modules are not sufficient, in the opinion of some researchers, to test some of the hypothesized explanations for human reproductive behavior. Two, the data are not completely standardized because countries were free to accept or reject the use of modules. Three, WFS data can be used only with the permission of the country in which the data were collected. WFS has, despite these limitations, made available a gold mine of data for research in fertility and related fields.

About this third objective, the Mission came to a single conclusion:

Conclusion 23. The core questionnaire ensured that comparable data were gathered on a number of crucial variables. However, while the questionnaire used by WFS provides unprecedented opportunities to undertake comparisons between countries in demographic variables, explanatory, multi-level comparative analysis is restricted by the limited number of structural variables.

The Mission recommends the following:

Recommendation 14. Countries that have been actively engaged in second-stage analysis should be encouraged to participate in comparative analysis.

E. Financial and Organizational Matters

In the course of its investigations, the Mission came to certain conclusions which were not directly related to the general terms of reference of the Mission but were related to certain specific terms of reference. During its discussions at WFS headquarters in London and at the parent body, the International Statistical Institute, in the Hague, the Mission came to the following conclusions:

Conclusion 24. The WFS has been and continues to be a highly competent international operation that responds to the needs of participating countries and employs high-caliber staff from both more and less developed countries.

Conclusion 25. The original estimate was that the WFS would last five years and cost approximately \$20 - \$25 million. At present, a commitment has been made to 1982, i.e., for a period of 10 years, and the estimated overall cost is approximately \$47 million. If all the recommendations of this Mission are accepted by the donors, an additional minimum of five years will be required, bringing the end of the WFS to 1987. According to estimates based on ISI/WFS figures, this extended commitment would require additional funding of approximately \$40 million, bringing the total for the WFS program to approximately \$87 million.

Conclusion 26. The channeling of funds for country surveys through ISI/WFS (by USAID) worked better than the channeling of funds through the UNDP resident representative (by UNFPA), since ISI/WFS was substantially involved in conducting country surveys.

Conclusion 27. London has proved to be an excellent base of operation for the WFS in almost every way, with the notable exception of the rapidly rising costs in the city since 1978.

Conclusion 28. There has been a clear-cut division of labor between ISI in the Hague and WFS in London.

On the basis of its investigations in London and the Hague, and in the light of the conclusions listed above, the Mission recommends the following:

Recommendation 15. A temporary increase and a further shift in the distribution of WFS professional staff from data collection to data processing and data analysis are recommended. The expectation is

that this will provide more flexibility in meeting country needs and also provide adequately for archival work in the data processing division.

Recommendation 16. It is essential that the WFS archival function continue and expand to meet all reasonable demands. Consideration should be given now to long-term future arrangements for these archives. There should be a periodic review to reconsider arrangements for releasing data.

Recommendation 17. WFS headquarters should remain in London, at least until 1987, or for the period during which WFS may exist after 1982, and there should be no decentralization of major activities.

F. The Future of WFS

In the long term, fertility survey results can only be put to maximum use if the surveys themselves are repeated at intervals of five or, at most, ten years. Many of the less developed countries that have participated in WFS will need some guidance and technical assistance, although not on the scale of the first round of fertility surveys, if the surveys are to be repeated regularly. Within WFS itself a vast fund of experience and expertise has been built up, and this must not be wasted. It is imperative that this expertise be put to good use to provide the required assistance in the future. The Mission does not express a view on the long-term future of WFS in its report; it does, however, take the view that the efforts made by the WFS will have been partially wasted if no organization is available in the future to take over the operation of such technical assistance at as competent a level and with the same degree of flexibility that the WFS now has.

In the short term, the Mission considers it highly desirable that WFS continue to be funded to 1986 or 1987 to enable it to complete the current round of fertility surveys, facilitate second-stage analysis, give proper consideration to the long-term future of WFS archives, redesign the core questionnaire and modules in the light of experience and the constructive criticisms made at the World Fertility Conference, review and revise the survey manuals, and assist and advise in a small number of selected countries that have completed first-round surveys and that wish to undertake further fertility surveys, using improved survey instruments and ensuring that WFS standards are maintained.

The Mission, therefore, makes its final but most important single recommendation:

Recommendation 18. The Mission unanimously recommends that WFS be funded through 1986 or 1987 to achieve more fully the original objectives and to accomplish Recommendations 1-17 above.