

PD-AAM-052

The Population Council

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Project No. 532-0069

Project Title: Assistance in Development and
Implementation of a Comprehensive
Population Policy and Plan for
Jamaica

Quarterly Progress Report

For the Period: September - December 1982

Quarterly Progress Report, September - December 1982

Summary

1. The cooperative work focused on activities related to the final stages of discussing, developing, and approving the national population policy by the Cabinet and by Parliament and to the implementation of the national population policy. This involved:

- Assistance in the preparation of the Ministry Paper: National Population Policy;
- Assistance in the preparation of a seminar for Members of Parliament and Senators providing background knowledge on the national population policy;
- Preliminary discussions and preparations for a short-term training course and workshop on population and development issues;
- Discussions and preparations of a framework for the implementation of the national population policy.

2. In addition, selected ongoing activities and work plans were discussed with:

- The National Family Planning Board
- The National Planning Agency
- Department of Statistics
- University of West Indies

3. Most of the above was undertaken during a trip by Mr. Frejka to Jamaica on October 12-26, 1982. In addition various matters were handled through correspondence and over the phone.

1. Activities Related to the Finalization and Implementation
of the National Population Policy

Ministry Paper: National Population Policy

The national population policy which has been developed during the past several years (Population Policy Task Force activities since 1980; Jamaica Population Policy Development Conference - June 1981; Statement of National Population Policy - August 1981; Cabinet Paper, 1982) is reaching the final stage in the process of a national debate and adoption. The final stage is to present the national population policy to Parliament. For this to occur a Ministry Paper had to be drafted. This was done, it was discussed and amended at the meeting of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee on 25 October 1982, and it was provided to the Minister of Finance and Planning and to the Minister of Health for discussion in Cabinet and for presentation in Parliament early in 1983.

Seminar for Members of Parliament and Senators

Based on an agreement at a meeting of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee, 23 August 1982, a proposal for a seminar on population trends, population and development interrelationships and on population policy to equip Members of Parliament and Senators with background knowledge on the national population policy was prepared. A subcommittee consisting of Dr. Thwaites, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Powell was nominated. This subcommittee explored with leaders in Parliament and with the Committee on Population in Parliament, the feasibility of conducting such a seminar. It was decided to convene the seminar on 27 January 1983. The main topics to be presented will

be: outline of population and development interrelations; population trends and their implications for social and economic development in Jamaica; social and economic strategies to modify Jamaica's future population growth; discussion of ongoing projects in population and development; national family planning projects; 200 towns project.

Preparations for a Short-term Training Course and Workshop on Population and Development Issues

The main objective of such a Population and Development Training Workshop is to upgrade the qualifications of the core personnel dealing with population issues in various governmental institutions. The course would be of two weeks duration probably in late April and/or early May 1983. A 3-4 person group from the Population Council as well as several Jamaican specialists would prepare lectures and seminars for this workshop. Preparations for this Workshop will continue during the first part of 1983.

Framework for the Implementation and Monitoring of the National Population Policy

Following a proposal at the meeting of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee, 23 August 1982, a draft outline of the basic activities needed to implement and monitor the national population policy was prepared. The basic points are:

- wide dissemination of the national population policy
- integration of goals and tasks into national and sectoral plans
- the involvement of non-governmental organizations
- the conducting of policy-relevant research

- the analysis of the population impact of other social and economic policies
- the reporting on the results

2. Review of Activities and Work Plans with Individual Institutions

National Family Planning Board

It was established that the main contact person for the Population Council will be the Secretary of National Family Planning Board, Mrs. Rattray. At two meetings with officers of the National Family Planning Board we discussed various areas of possible cooperation between the Population Council and the National Family Planning Board and agreed to focus on the elaboration of a system for planning and evaluation of activities for the National Family Planning Board, and on a Population and Development Workshop.

The National Family Planning Board prepared a short statement of their needs regarding the planning and evaluation system, and Mr. Frejka informed them that Mrs. Dorothy Nortman of the Population Council would probably be the person to work with the National Family Planning Board. The NFPB, however, has not yet hired a planning and evaluation officer. Although Mrs. Nortman could start work with the NFPB in the near future, we have to agree whether it is wise for her to start before a planning and evaluation officer is hired. Mrs. Nortman prepared a draft of a job description for the planning and evaluation officer of the National Family Planning Board.

National Planning Agency

Mr. Frejka assisted in the preparation of materials for the meeting of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee on 25 October 1982, where mainly items discussed above under 1) (Ministry Paper; Seminar for Parliament; Training Course; and Implementation Framework) were on the agenda. In addition to assisting in the preparation of the meeting of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee, we discussed in greater detail how the National Planning Agency could pursue the implementation of the national population policy in sectoral and regional plans; what type of studies might be useful to work on at the NPA Population Unit; and the prospects for additional staffing at the NPA.

With respect to the studies that would provide background material for the further development of the national population policy we discussed the possibility of cooperative studies in the area of fertility determinants and international migration. Mr. Mead Cain and Mr. Charles Keely would be the counterparts at the Population Council.

While the NPA is hoping to hire two professionals soon (a recent Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and a M.A. from the University of West Indies) the outcome is not assured. Frejka sent a listing of Population Research and Study Centers that could be contacted and advised on how the Ministry of Planning could advertise vacancies in the PAA Affairs.

Department of Statistics

The main constraint holding up the work of the Population Unit at the DOS is the absence of a project director. The DOS has made continuous efforts to hire a professional for that position but thus far without success. Mr.

Frejka provided the DOS with the list of Population Research and Training Centers and with the information of how to advertise the vacancy in the PAA Affairs.

University of West Indies

Due to the fact that the anticipated one year diploma course in demography has not become part of the curriculum for the academic year 1982/83, the Department of Sociology is renegotiating the subcontract with the NFPB. The two research projects that are anticipated to provide insights for population policy development purposes are: Women's Family and Work Roles and Fertility; and Survey of Internal Migration and Occupational Mobility.