

- PD-ABK-347

ISA 92917

CHAD: CHILD SURVIVAL PROJECT PAPER DESIGN
AND
N'DJAMENA-BASED IEC PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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Dates of In-Country Work:
April 22 to May 14, 1989

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/N'Djamena) and the Regional Economic Development Services Office for West and Central Africa (REDSO/WCA), Philippe Langlois, Senior Program Officer with the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) traveled to Chad from April 22 to May 14, 1989. The purpose of the visit was to:

1. As a member of a design team, provide the information, education and communication (IEC) inputs and components in the preparation of a Chad child survival project paper;
2. Initiate the development of an eighteen-month child spacing IEC project to be executed in the N'Djamena area.

A first draft of the project paper was left with the Mission which will finalize it in form and content, and discuss its approval with the Government of Chad before making a request for proposals (RFP) for implementation of the project. Child survival in the case of the future project refers to three specific activities: oral rehydration therapy, prenatal care, and childspacing.

There is also a good opportunity for a small-scale N'Djamena-based child spacing IEC project in Chad. Following discussions with all interested parties, it appears that the most suitable place at this stage to nest the project will be with the Directorate of Professional Training and Health Education within the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH). The success of the IEC project will depend in good measure on developing a close collaboration between the MOPH and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Welfare (MSAWW). The MSAWW's social workers already provide much of the health education through their social centers.

The eighteen-month IEC project is currently scheduled for start-up in September or October, 1989. Objectives will focus on upgrading the MOPH and the MSAWW's IEC capability, and increasing the target population's level of knowledge and acceptance of childspacing. Activities will be funded in

most part through a \$84,500 buy-in from the Family Health Initiatives-II (FHI-II) Project into the JHU/PCS Project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. JHU/PCS should prepare the first draft of a child spacing IEC project proposal which will be submitted to USAID/N'Djamena and the MOPH, as well as the MSAWW, for their feedback.
2. A JHU/PCS representative should visit Chad in October, 1989 to participate in early project activities, including the consensus-building workshop which will bring together representatives of key Chadian ministries and organizations interested in child spacing activities.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	-- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BSPE	-- Bureau de la Statistique, de la Population et des Etudes (Bureau of Statistics, Population and Studies)
CA	-- Cooperating Agencies
FHI-II	-- Family Health Initiatives-II
FP	-- Family Planning
GOC	-- Government of Chad
IEC	-- Information, Education and Communication
INTRAH	-- University of North Carolina Program for International Training in Health
JHU/PCS	-- Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services
KAP	-- Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
MOPH	-- Ministry of Public Health
MSAWW	-- Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Welfare (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Condition Féminine)
ORT	-- Oral Rehydration Therapy
PIO/T	-- Project Implementation Order/Technical
PRITECH	-- Primary Health Care Technologies Project
REDSO/WCA	-- Regional Economic Development Services Office/West and Central Africa
RFP	-- Request for Proposals
UNICEF	-- United Nations Children's Fund
URTNA	-- Union des Radiodiffusions et Télévisions Nationales d'Afrique (Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa)
USAID	-- United States Agency for International Development

I. INTRODUCTION

At the request of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/N'Djamena) and the Regional Economic Development Services Office for West and Central Africa (REDSO/WCA), Philippe Langlois, Senior Program Officer with the Johns Hopkins University/Population Communication Services (JHU/PCS) traveled to Chad from April 22 to May 14, 1989. The purpose of the visit was to:

1. As a member of a design team, provide the information, education and communication (IEC) inputs and components in the preparation of a Chad child survival project paper;
2. Initiate the development of an eighteen-month child spacing IEC project to be executed in the N'Djamena area. The project will be funded through a \$84,500 buy-in from the Family Health Initiatives-II (FHI-II) Project into the JHU/PCS Project.

The objectives were satisfactorily met despite the fact that Mr. Langlois arrived in-country several weeks later than other members of the project design team. This created some coordination and adjustment problems in the earlier stages of the visit. Mr. Langlois' stay, originally scheduled for two weeks, was extended by one week at the request of the Mission in order for Mr. Langlois to participate in the draft of other sections of the project paper. This was the second JHU/PCS visit to Chad, JHU/PCS Senior Program Officer Moncef Bouhafa having visited in October 1988 to carry out a population/family planning (FP) IEC needs assessment, and to attend a national family planning conference.

II. BACKGROUND

Ever since Chad achieved a semblance of political stability after years of recurrent civil unrest, international donor organizations have converged on Chad in an effort to help rebuild the local economic, health and social infrastructures. USAID has been an active presence in the health sector with a number of projects and activities designed to strengthen the Chadian Ministry of Public Health's (MOPH) capability to deliver services.

The Mission has supported activities in health planning and information systems by funding the upgrading of the capability of the Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Studies (BSPE--Bureau de la Statistique, de la Population et des Etudes) of the MOPH to collect, store and analyze health information data. In another area, Africare undertook training and an education campaign to promote oral rehydration therapy (ORT). That project is about to enter a second phase.

USAID has also helped the MOPH initiate discreet FP activities in this country which has yet no population policy, and which is still technically under the French Law of 1920 which forbids the sale or the promotion of contraceptive products. Funded through central and regional sources, these activities were mostly carried out by cooperating agencies (CA) and focused on such areas as policy formulation, data collection, training and IEC. One of the high points was the family well-being conference held in October, 1988.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF IN-COUNTRY WORK

A. The Chad Child Survival Project

Because much of the earlier reconstruction work in the health sector was given to specific or emergency activities, the Government of Chad (GOC) has only relatively recently begun to look into the development of sectoral plans. In that respect, USAID/N'Djamena and Chadian authorities have begun discussions towards the development of a bilateral child survival project.

In addition to Mr. Langlois, other members of the project paper design team, most of whom were fielded by the Primary Health Care Technologies Project (PRITECH), included team leader Noel Brown, organizational development specialist Richard Marrash, Pauline Wright for service delivery and training, and Taryn Vian, a health economist with Abt and Associates. Amal Rassam from REDSO/WCA also worked with the team and provided the paper's social soundness analysis.

A first draft of the project was left with the Mission which will finalize it in form and content, and discuss its approval with the GOC before making a request for proposals (RFP) for implementation of the project. Child survival in the case of the future project refers to three specific activities: ORT, prenatal care, and child spacing. Immunization is usually included in child survival

projects, but in view of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) decision to increase its participation in Chad's Expanded Program of Immunizations, USAID has decided to discontinue its support for the national program.

B. FP/IEC Project in N'Djamena

There is a good opportunity for a small-scale child spacing IEC project in Chad. As a result of the recent bridge activities funded by USAID in anticipation of the upcoming child survival bilateral project, a newly-established FP service delivery network is now in place in the N'Djamena area. Currently, nine health facilities in the capital city--with the Assiam Vamtou clinic as the flagship operation--offer childspacing services. In addition, seven social centers run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Welfare (MSAWW) offer childspacing information, and may eventually offer non-prescription contraceptives. All these installations have personnel who were recently trained either in service delivery or in IEC by the University of North Carolina Program for International Training in Health (INTRAH).

There already exists good data for a quick start-up of an IEC project. A 1988 knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey carried out by Columbia University and the MOPH in N'Djamena provides a good picture of what women currently know about childspacing, and how they feel about it. Findings from the survey are complemented by data from the first statistical yearbook published by the BSPE which gives an excellent nationwide overview of health facilities and their current level of staffing and equipment.

Following discussions with all interested parties, it appears that the most suitable place at this stage to nest the FP/IEC project will be with the Directorate of Professional Training and Health Education within the MOPH. While that directorate is currently understaffed and underequipped, the MOPH feels strongly that it should assume the mandate of coordinating FP/IEC activities. The success of the IEC project will depend in good measure on developing a close collaboration between the MOPH and the MSAWW. The MSAWW's social workers, a number of whom have been trained in FP/IEC by INTRAH, already provide much of the health education through their social centers. A large portion of the project's benefits--training, IEC materials--will accrue to social affairs personnel, as well as to the country's media.

The eighteen-month IEC project is currently scheduled for start-up in September or October, 1989. Project objectives will focus on upgrading the MOPH and the MSAWW's IEC capability, and increasing the target population's level of knowledge and acceptance of childspacing. Activities will include the creation of a small IEC committee, a consensus-building workshop for representatives of different ministries and organizations involved in childspacing in Chad, training in interpersonal communication, production of a few simple print materials and some radio programming. JHU/PCS will provide a significant amount of technical assistance in the course of the project, which will be funded in most part through a \$84,500 Family Health Initiatives-II (FHI-II) buy-in into the JHU/PCS project.

C. Quick Cuts

- While visiting the national radio station, it was gratifying to note a frequent use (in French and many national languages) of the Family Health and Communication bulletin containing ready-to-air news and advice items on health and childspacing. The bulletin is published under a JHU/PCS project with the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA--Union des Radiodiffusions et Télévisions Nationales d'Afrique).
- One of the more interesting findings of the Columbia University KAP survey reveals that more than half the respondents (women interviewed in clinic settings) stated that they had lived in N'Djamena for five years or less. If true, this figure would suggest that the population of the capital city--currently estimated at 500,000--may have doubled in five years.
- Another surprising piece of information comes from a 1988 KAP study on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) carried out in the five largest cities of Chad which revealed that the higher the respondents' level of education, the more they believed there was a cure for AIDS.
- Donor agencies are flocking to Chad. All want to work with the same limited number of local counterpart organizations. One of the GOC's

major challenges in the years ahead will be to ensure a careful orchestration of outside assistance in order to avoid an "international donor gridlock."

- Laptop computer users should definitely have a "spike bar" or surge protector to minimize the risk of problems with their equipment when traveling to Chad. On any given night, the best hotel in N'Djamena experiences ten to fifteen power failures.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The time seems to be appropriate for the development of a modest IEC effort for childspacing in the city of N'Djamena. The capital city is currently the only area in the country which has an adequate number of facilities and the personnel to deliver competent services and information. A small-scale IEC project will help build up the MOPH's institutional capability to design and deliver effective family health messages while not overburdening the Ministry's still very fragile infrastructure. Implementation of the activities will also provide a good IEC training ground prior to the signing of the bilateral child survival project. Recommendations for future action are as follows:

1. JHU/PCS will prepare the first draft of a child spacing IEC project proposal which will be submitted to USAID/N'Djamena and the MOPH, as well as the MSAWW, for their feedback. The tentative start-up time for the project will be October 1, 1989.
2. As agreed with the Mission, some of the research activities originally stated in the scope of work for the buy-in's project implementation order/technical (PIO/T) will be replaced by material development activities since there already exists sufficient data to develop messages.
3. A JHU/PCS representative will visit Chad in October, 1989 to participate in early project activities, including the consensus-building workshop which will bring together representatives of key Chadian ministries and organizations interested in childspacing activities.

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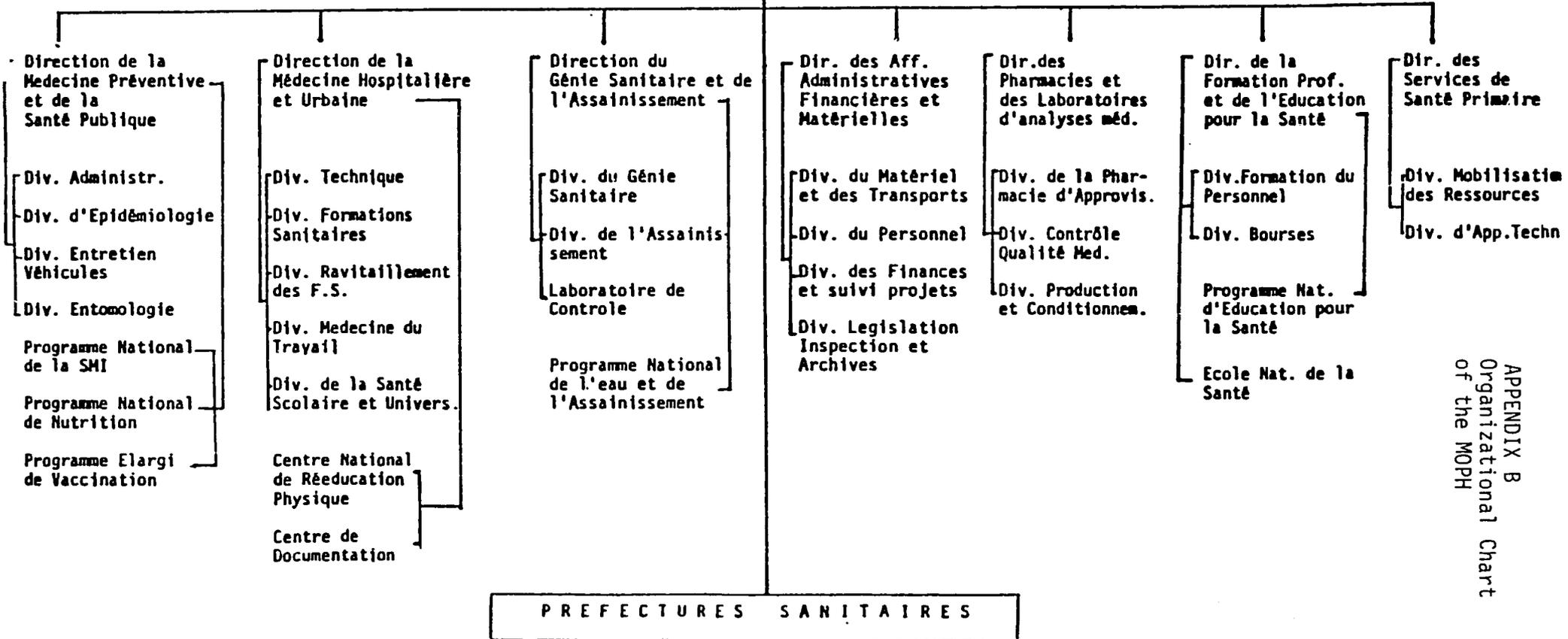
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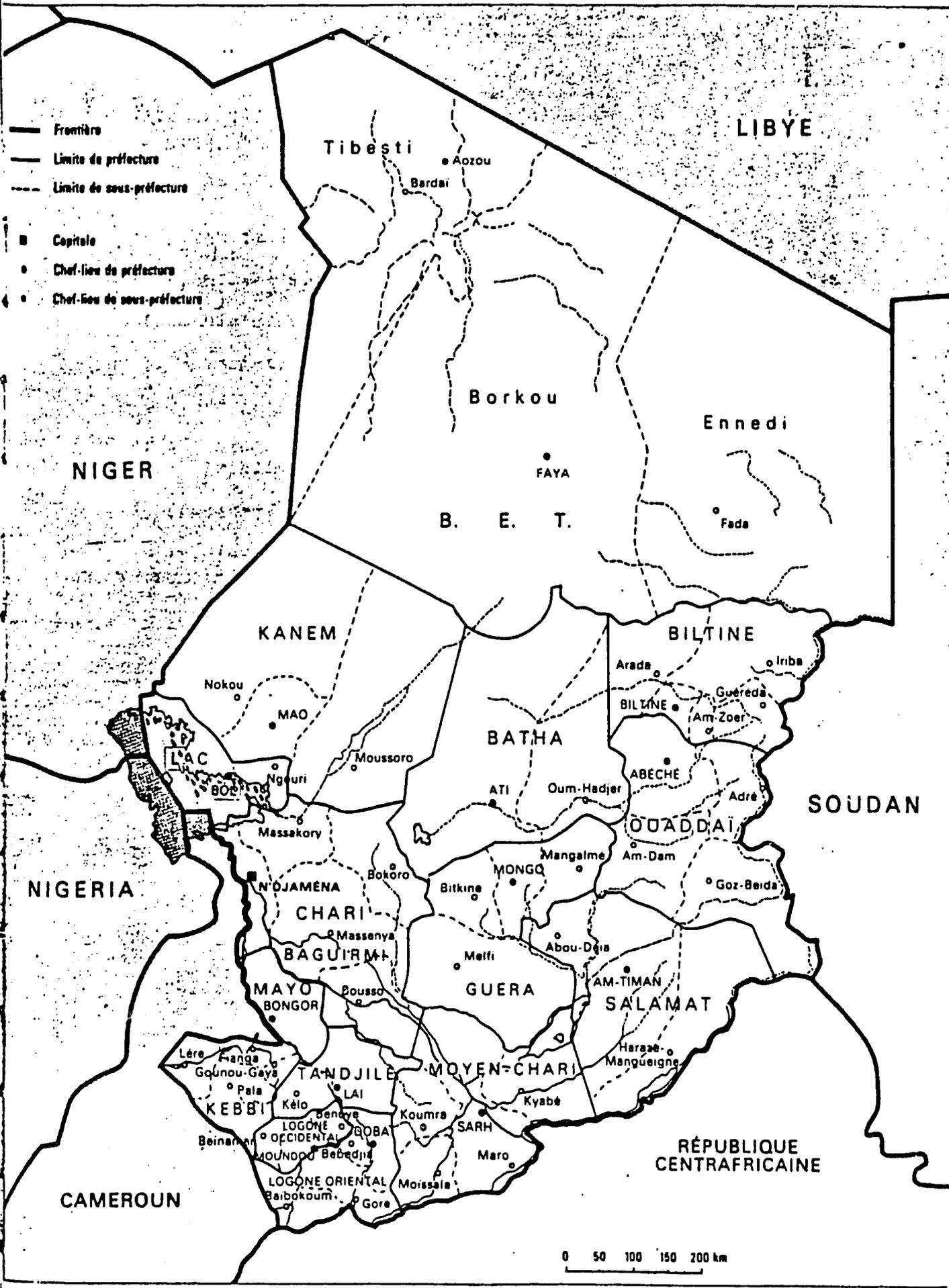
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APPENDIX B
Organizational Chart
of the MOPH





MAP OF CHAD

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