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THE EGYPTIAN POPULATION  
POLICY PROGRAM  
FIRST YEAR MAJOR ACTIVITIES

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## WORK PLAN OF THE POPULATION POLICY PROGRAM

### Introduction

This report incorporates discussions between Dr. Hussein Abdel Aziz Sayed of the Population and Family Planning Board and Dr. George B. Simmons of the University of Michigan concerning the workplan for the Population Policy Program during its first year. This report supplements the more general materials prepared in the "Workplan for the Population and Family Planning Board", Cairo, June 1983.

The Population Policy Program (PPP) will comprise two activities: those related to a wide range of sectors or central activities, and those related to particular sectors or ministries.

### Central Activities

Provision of Basic Demographic Data. Within the Population and Family Planning Board (PFPB) a service capability will be established to make basic population data available to users in sectoral ministries and other organizations. These data would include population estimates, age and sex structure, fertility and mortality levels and trends, migration indicators, spatial distribution and alternative population projections. The objective of this service will be to provide the sectoral ministries with information they need for their own activities. Every effort will be made to assure that the information provided is accurate and that the different sets of data are consistent and presented in a format which will make them easy to use. Staff of the PFPB and T/A agency will be available to help users with this data where appropriate.

Dissemination of Basic Population Facts. The Population Policy program will make every effort to disseminate basic information about population to the relevant audience of policy-makers and interested individuals in the Egyptian community. First a brochure will be prepared discussing the kinds of data available and how they can be obtained and used in the work of different agencies. Efforts will be made to prepare publications presenting basic population information in an easily understood and useful format. For example, papers will be prepared providing the latest information on population size and age/sex structure, on fertility levels and trends, etc. Many of these papers will be prepared in collaboration with CAPMAS. They will be reviewed by recognized experts to assure accuracy and quality of presentation, and will be presented in a standard format to facilitate use and

recognition as products of the information dissemination component of the program. They will be distributed to key policy-makers in various ministries and other government agencies as well as to individuals who are working on population matters outside of the government. In addition to the publications, efforts will be made to disseminate the material through special-purpose seminars and one-on-one communications with potential users of the material.

Analysis of Major Population Policy Questions. A major objective of the Population Policy Program is to increase the sophistication of the public discussion concerning population policy in Egypt. To this end efforts will be made to identify the most important issues relating to population policy; to undertake objective and balanced analyses of these issues; to disseminate the results of such analyses and wherever possible, to derive the logical conclusion for government action. These analyses will be based on the best empirical information available. Where possible and appropriate, written presentations will be supplemented by computer models developed for planning purposes.

Examples of topics suitable for this kind of analysis include: trends in international migration in and out of Egypt and conditions under which present trends are likely to be altered; the economic, social and political implications of such migration patterns and how conditions in Egypt might be affected by changes in the pattern of migration; the impact on the rate of population growth and on Egyptian society of raising the age of marriage; the relationship between family planning program inputs and the acceptance of contraceptive methods; factors determining contraceptive continuation; major laws affecting the status of women and their effect on the rate and pattern of population growth.

These analyses would be carried out by experienced individuals or teams. Efforts will be made to secure consensus on the major conclusions and where that is not possible to identify the sources of difference. Written reports would be accessible to a broad audience and written presentation of results would be supplemented by special purpose seminars and other communication efforts tailored to specific audiences. The general analyses will be related back to the needs of specified sectors, e.g., health or education, as appropriate.

Programs for Specific Audiences. There are a number of specific groups or communities particularly concerned with population policy and programs. Examples of such groups include women and women's organizations, economists as a professional group, the military, and religious leaders. Programs designed to meet the special concerns of such groups

will be developed. These programs might include publications as well as seminars or conferences, linkages with professional organizations and training.

Coordination. Many observers within Egypt and from the international community have identified coordination among family planning and population agencies, as a major problem. The need to upgrade this function has been recommended in a number of reports. There are two aspects to coordination that will be addressed by the Population Policy Program. The first is the need for greater awareness of the basic facts of population growth in Egypt and of the steps being taken by government agencies to deal with this growth. Second, coordination is required to eliminate or reduce program duplication and to identify gaps in existing programs. To achieve this objective an inventory of population and family planning projects will be developed. The inventory will be examined for program gaps and duplication. Where identical or similar programs are found to exist, representatives of the agencies involved will be encouraged to coordinate their efforts. Where gaps are identified, the national agencies and donor groups will be encouraged to help meet the need. This process of coordination will focus on those activities involving more than one ministry or agency, or on clearly identified gaps in the national program. Issues relating to program aspects identified as the mandate of particular ministries or agencies will be addressed through mechanisms outside the Population Policy Program. An annual or semi-annual meeting of representatives of agencies in the field of population and family planning will be a part of the program for coordination. Each of these meetings may be structured around a particular theme.

Most of the Central program activities will be conducted on a relatively small scale. At any given time there may be five or six small scale projects managed directly by the project staff or performed under contract with recognized experts.

### Sectoral Activities

A major objective of the Population Policy Program is to improve the effectiveness of ministries and agencies in the government's population and family planning programs. Work with ministries will be undertaken to improve their institutional capacity to analyze population issues and develop plans for action programs. The specific approach will be adapted to the needs and capacities of individual ministries, and are likely to involve technical assistance, training, and the development of specific methodologies for planning.

Priorities for work with the sectoral ministries will be defined. While it may be logical to give high priority to ministries represented on the Supreme Council, it may be desirable to undertake work with such ministries as the Ministry of Construction and New Settlement.

The highest priority for the first year of the program is to initiate work in the Ministries of Planning, Health and Education and to continue work that has already been initiated in the Ministry of Manpower.

The first priority for the USAID funded component of the Program will be to establish collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The procedures that will be used have already been spelled out in the "Workplan for the Population Policy Program of the Population and Family Planning Board" (Cairo, June 1983). The discussions that took place during the Alexandria workshop in May 1983 may provide a point of departure for work with the Ministry of Health; in particular, further development of health planning models with a strong population component may be a part of the work.

The second priority for work during the first year will be given to the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Manpower. Contacts will be made with Ministry representatives and decisions regarding follow up activities will be based on their reactions.

The UNFPA has shown interest in participating in the Population Policy Program. They have indicated that their highest priority is the development of insitutional capacity for population analysis and planning, and have expressed an interest in working with the Ministry of Planning as a part of the larger Population Policy Program.