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POPULATION POLICY STUDY-ZIMBABWE

A Report Prepared By:
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SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this assignment was to assist the Whitsun Foundation of Zimbabwe in the development of national population policy by conducting an analysis of fertility levels and their implications for social and economic development. To accomplish this task it was necessary to conduct a series of interviews with Government officials and others in Zimbabwe and collect necessary data, policy statements concerning social and economic development targets, demographic data, etc.

The work conducted as part of the APHA consultancy and defined, for purposes of this report, as the Scope of Work was limited to the following:

- Interviews with Government officials in Harare.
- Interviews with program personnel from international organizations with offices in Harare.
- Interviews with persons from the University of Zimbabwe, the Child Spacing and Fertility Association and other important sources of data and information.
- Collection of policy statements, social and economic development data and other information relevant to the task.

All collation, analysis and report writing is covered by the Whitsun Foundation and is outside the scope of this consultancy.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The following is a comprehensive list of persons along with title and/or position whom we contacted and with whom we met. Most of those shown, including all Government personnel, provided data and information in addition to responding to specific agenda items developed for each meeting.

The Whitsun Foundation

Col. D.H. Grainger, Director
The Whitsun Foundation Board of Directors

USAID/Zimbabwe

Roy Stacey, Mission Director
John Hicks, Deputy Mission Director and Population Officer
Dr. Richard Shortlidge, Jr., Programme Officer for Employment and Education.

Government of Zimbabwe

Deputy Prime Minister Simon Muzenda
Dr. G. M. Mandishona, Director, Central Statistical Office
Mr. G. Muziti, Acting Deputy Director, Central Statistical Office
Dr. O. S. Chidede, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health
Dr. Ester S. Boohene, Ministry of Health
Dr. T. Chimbera, Director, Child Spacing & Fertility Association
Seven Senior Staff of Child Spacing & Fertility Association
Miss A. L. Makwavarara, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Community
Development and Women's Affairs
Dr. Ibbo Mandaza, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower
Planning & Development
Dr. M. Sibanda, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Manpower Planning
& Development
Dr. Murewa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Social Welfare
Mr. Vickerstaff, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education
Mr. N. Thompson, Deputy Chief Education Officer (Planning)
Mr. D. Witt, Chief, Adult Literacy Program
Mr. Peter Mahlangu, Deputy Secretary of Education (Schools Division)
Mr. Felix Matina, Acting Chief Education Officer (Primary Education)
Mr. Gumiro, Assistant Secretary for Finance, Ministry of Education
Senator Denis R. Norman, Minister of Agriculture
Mr. J. W. Hayward, Director of AGRITEX (Agricultural, Technical &
Extension Services)
Mr. H. G. Howden, Chief of Crop Production (AGRITEX) Ministry of
Agriculture
Mr. Melliar, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

University of Zimbabwe

Professor Fraser Ross, Chief of Community Medicine, Faculty of
Medicine
Professor (Emeritus) M. Gelfand
Miss Rene Lowenson, Medical Demographer
Professor Gordon Chavanduka, Head Department of Sociology
Associate Professor Diana Patel, Department of Sociology
Professor Marshall W. Murphree, Director, Centre for Applied Social
Sciences

International Organizations

Dr. Brian Dando, Epidemiologist, World Health Organization
Dr. Danielle Bazin-Tardieu, UN Economic Commission for Africa
(ATRCW)
Mr. S. J. Woodhouse, Program Officer, UNICEF
Dr. A. Arkutu Resident Representative, UNFPA
Mr. Jensen, Program Officer, UNDP
Dr. Letitia E. Obeng, Director & Regional Representative, UN
Environment Programme, Regional Office for Africa (Nairobi)
Mr. Paul-Walter Bouda, Coordinator, Africa, West Asia & Europe;
Technical Cooperation Division, UN Center for Human Settlement
(Nairobi)

CONSTRAINTS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

The following represent constraints and special issues encountered by this consultant in the fulfillment of the APHA portion of the assignment as shown (above) in the Scope of Work.

- Data from the National Census due for release December 1982 will not be available until 1984 according to what we were told by the Director of the Central Statistics Office.
- Differing demographic estimates published by various and authoritative international agency sources.
- Absence of National Census data creates problems for the Ministries in relation to establishing specific targets and goals and developing appropriate policies.

GENERAL OUTLINE AND METHODOLOGY FOR FULL STUDY

For purposes of this analysis, we will utilize official population estimates and projected growth rates, and will also make use of other estimates of the population and growth rates published by authoritative sources. Taken together, this analysis and the data on which it is based should enable us to be in a reasonable position to provide some indication of what the Government of Zimbabwe will be facing by way of increasing demands for service and their concomitant costs in the years ahead.

To the extent possible, an analysis will be made of the policies, targets and priorities of Ministries concerned with the key areas of Health, Education, and Employment in relation to known or estimated demographic factors. Given the very high priority which Government has placed upon these issues and the high visibility of these activities within Zimbabwe, they are natural targets for our study. Both Health and Education are taking increasingly large proportions of the budget and requiring vast numbers of trained personnel already in short supply. The area of Employment or labour absorption, too, is considered a critical issue in political, economic as well as social spheres. Given the current estimated growth rate of the population, 52% of which is under 15 years of age, and a history of structural under-employment and unemployment in Zimbabwe, the issue of job development and expansion of employment opportunities is a vital Government concern.

It is our further intention to factor in environmental issues, broadly speaking, in order to provide the proper backdrop against which population expansion and its consequences might best be seen.

This relationship may be illustrated, for example, in the following. About 70% of the population now reside in the rural areas on what are called communal lands. This is the group with the highest rate of population increase and the one whose interests have been the primary focus of most of the Government's development plans. The issue of land for small-holding farming and for cattle grazing is fundamental and highly charged in social and political terms.

Closely bound up with the issue of land is that of water which is necessary for human settlements, their animals and the development and expansion of viable commercial and peasant agriculture. In some instances, the Government's plans for land redistribution have already been overtaken by events of a social, demographic and political nature. Finally, there is the issue of land use and the environment in relation to the commercial agricultural sector. Commercial agriculture in Zimbabwe produces highly valuable cash crops which attract considerable foreign currency earnings. In addition, the commercial farms serve as a firm basis for the production of grains, beef and dairy products for the domestic market. In that the commercial farms occupy a considerable amount of the nation's prime land, are almost entirely white owned and are labour non-intensive, important social, economic and political issues are clearly at stake.

Once the population and related environmental concerns are identified, they will be incorporated into a detailed discussion, analysis and interpretation of the data base we have developed in relation to Government development plans. It is also anticipated that we would provide relevant examples of how other developing countries, both socialist and non-socialist, in Africa and elsewhere, have viewed their development plans in relation to demographic realities in an effort to highlight some possible policy options. Finally, we shall discuss some of these policy options and their various implications for the development goals of the Zimbabwe Government.

CURRENT STATUS AND NEXT STEPS

At the present time data are being collated and analysed and report writing is underway. After completion of a draft it will be sent to the Whitsun Foundation for review and comment by the Foundation and the Population Policy Study Team. The Whitsun Foundation has requested that this Consultant return to Zimbabwe when the study has been approved in order to make a series of presentations to, among others, The Whitsun Foundation Board and Government officials. This is likely to be in August 1983.

All costs in connection with this follow-up trip to Zimbabwe will be paid for by The Whitsun Foundation.