

AN EVALUATION OF THE
POPULATION COUNCIL FERTILITY
IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AID awarded a grant to the Population Council in October 1978 to provide support for a program in research on the fertility impacts of development programs in Asia. The estimated completion date is December 31, 1981. The Grant Agreement requires that a mid-project evaluation be conducted jointly by AID and the Population Council. The purpose is to review the accomplishment of specific program objectives and the project's effectiveness in improving development planning. Dr. Thomas W. Merrick of Georgetown University was contracted for the evaluation in July and August 1980.

The basic objective of the Population Council grant is to improve the communication of policy-relevant research on the impact of development programs on fertility to policymakers and program planners in Asia. The Grant Agreement cites growing evidence that suggests that education, labor force participation, income distribution, and other aspects of development affect and are affected by such demographic variables as fertility, but it also notes that there is still a lack of sufficiently precise information about these interactions to provide concrete policy guidelines.

Some perspective on how AID's institutional structure affects response to Section 104(d) and the identification of obstacles to its implementation are needed to assess the Population Council's role. Despite growing recognition of the need to consider interrelations between development and demographic variables, there is still widespread skepticism in AID about the practicality of incorporating these links in specific projects in agriculture, education, and other areas of activity, especially in regard to the goal of maximizing their impact on fertility decline. This skepticism stems from several factors which are discussed in Chapter II of this report.

Overall Assessment

As a tool for implementing 104(d) activities for AID in the Asia region, the Population Council grant has been reasonably effective, particularly in view of the fact that it was one of the very first attempts at 104(d) and that there are constraints to working on that section of the Foreign Assistance Act.

The four activities (studies program, workshops, information dissemination, and technical assistance) specified in the Grant Agreement are appropriate mechanisms for closing these gaps. Because it receives a large share of the project budget and because considerable staff time is needed to administer it, the studies program has to date required a significant amount of effort in the mix of project activities. Technical assistance (leadership and guidance) and workshop activities have also progressed, but information dissemination has lagged.

The Studies Program

The specific objective of the studies program is "to foster or support ongoing research by Asian scholars, and collaborative research by U.S. and Asian scholars on the social, economic and cultural determinants of fertility patterns." At an early stage, the Population Council considered how direct an approach it should take in attracting proposals. The options ranged from an announcement soliciting projects in the range of areas indicated above to commissioned research. For the latter, requests for proposals to conduct research on specific topics or settings which would be specified by the Population Council would be announced. Initially, the Council's approach was less direct. The Council, however, has shifted to a more active approach, particularly through the workshops. The question of commissioned research is being reconsidered.

Comparing obligations during the first 20 months to the amount budgeted for the first two years of the study program, the figure is \$165,000 out of a budgeted \$395,000. The program is not as far behind schedule as it appears to be because it is highly likely that four to six of the projects currently under review will be approved in the next few months. The review/approval process has not been a bottleneck in the case of approved projects. In fact, it is doubtful that the review process could be accelerated without jeopardizing the quality improvements achieved with revisions, unless the requirements for AID and host country clearance are lifted. Comparatively few projects have been approved because the number of high quality, responsive proposals was quite limited during the first year of the program. Since it appears that the Population Council may be able to obligate the major part of its remaining research budget in the next 12 months, careful consideration should be given to feeding back as useful recommendations to planners the findings of projects that have been funded.

Workshops

An important adjunct to the studies program is the project's program of policy roundtables and workshops on fertility determinants research and sector-specific factors that influence the demand for family planning services in Asia. It is one of the grant's mechanisms for translating population-development interactions into action programs. Fewer roundtables and workshops were held in the first 20 months of the project than were scheduled in the Grant Agreement, because the first workshop did not take place until November 1979. Since then there have been three workshops. The project also contributed to participant travel to a fourth meeting the purpose of which was closely related to project goals.

The evidence suggests that the workshop program is an effective instrument for achieving project objectives. In the last year it has been used with increasing success as a means of attracting projects for the study programs. The workshops will be a useful resource as the emphasis shifts from solicitation

of additional projects to the task of ensuring that research findings are fed back to the operational level of development projects. If the case studies derived from research studies and the development projects on which they are based can be articulated, the workshops that use them could be an effective mechanism for transmitting an understanding of and a methodology for translating research findings into concrete program or project recommendations for program and project officers. If participation in such workshops is directed to personnel with direct responsibility for development project planning, as well as to researchers, the workshops could also play an important role in networking.

Leadership and Guidance

The Grant Agreement also requires the Population Council to provide leadership and guidance to program planners and policymakers in Asia and to assist in the development of programs that give explicit attention to the fertility impact of development programs. The effort involves work with Asian investigators to elaborate research on the determinants of fertility, particularly in regard to research design and methodology. The Council is also required to assist AID missions in Asia in evaluating their project portfolios with a view to concerns raised in Section 104(d). The grant stipulates that up to six person-months of consultation with AID missions per year will be provided.

Written and personal communications on the grant were sent early in 1979 to USAID missions in Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka and to the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia. This was done in conjunction with plans to implement the 104(d) review of the missions' project portfolios. The project's quarterly reports indicate that receptivity to grant resources and concepts is generally favorable but subject to variation among missions. Interviews with AID officers in Manila and Bangkok indicated that the missions are highly satisfied with the Population Council's efforts to inform them of the availability of technical services. The main constraint on USAID use, they confirmed, was their own limited staff availability.

The Population Council's sixth quarterly report expresses dissatisfaction with efforts to incorporate an analysis of fertility consequences in development projects financed by AID. Despite a comparatively successful dialogue with three missions, "there is little to demonstrate in the way of modified survey instruments or followup surveys." The Council intends to make additional efforts in Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. It is also exploring links with USAID/Kathmandu and continues to try to open a dialogue with USAID/Jakarta.

Information Dissemination

Information dissemination was the weakest aspect of the fertility in development project during its first 20 months. The lack of a strong information component is serious because the principal purpose of the grant is the communication of policy-relevant research on the impact of development programs on fertility behavior to policymakers and program planners in Asia. During the final months of the project it would be appropriate to increase the emphasis on information dissemination. As efforts in other project areas begin to gain momentum in the studies program, workshops, and technical assistance, outputs should be fed back into the program and development project process.

The Future

The completion date for the fertility and development project is estimated in the Grant Agreement to be December 1981. Since several subgrant proposals are still pending and since there are less than 18 months remaining in the Grant Agreement, it is clear that some grant monitoring responsibilities will carry over to the period following the scheduled grant completion date. Moreover, much of the job of translating research findings into policy recommendations remains to be done, and the task only can be done as research subgrants approach their own completion dates. To the extent that funds in the existing grant permit continuation of these activities, a no-cost extension of the grant is advisable.

A final consideration is that the achievement of the objectives of the grant and the completion of grant activities will not result in one-time products but in a continuing process for which there is likely to be a greater rather than lesser need in the future. This is particularly true of activities other than the studies program, since other Population Council programs and programs of other agencies are contributing to that. The current Population Council grant is building up experience and a network of contacts that need to be maintained and refined. Indeed, the grant is contributing mainly to a process, not to a specific end product. Although the research component has value, its greatest impact on policy will derive from the effective translation of the research findings into useful policy guidelines.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In the remaining 15 months of the grant, the emphasis should be on the workshop, information dissemination, and technical assistance activities to increase the feeding back of research findings from projects supported by the studies program and others into the policy planning and development project design process.
2. The shift toward a more directed approach to solicitation of research should continue. The inclusion of commissioned research on the population impact of specific development projects should be considered.
3. The possibility of developing case studies based on the research grants should be considered further. A portion of the project's resources should be reserved for this purpose.
4. During the last phase of the grant, consideration should be given to workshops based on case studies derived from research on the population impact of development projects. ~~These workshops could be a forum for discussing and sharing methods and understanding population impact assessment. They would be particularly useful for officers with line responsibilities for project planning.~~
5. In selecting workshop participants, special attention should be given to the development of networks involving researchers and persons responsible for development project design. Host country and AID personnel and, if possible, those actually collaborating on development project design should be included.
6. After updating its inventory of AID-financed development projects that have potential for population impact assessment, the Population Council should select two or, at most, three programs for concentrated technical assistance during the remainder of the project. Consideration should be given to AID receptivity and staff capacity.
7. Consideration should be given to commissioned research as an adjunct to these assessments. The development of research protocols should, to the extent possible, involve appropriate AID project staff and host country collaborators.
8. Continued attention should be given to the involvement of AID personnel in other project activities (especially workshops), since this has been an effective way of achieving the leadership and guidance objective.

9. Increased staff time and effort should be allocated to information dissemination in the remaining months of the project. If necessary, individuals with this type of communication experience should be recruited from the Population Council's New York staff or engaged as consultants.
10. The information effort should be tied to other project activities. The emphasis in these activities should be on maximizing the feeding back of outputs into the policy process.
11. Some arrangement should be made for continued monitoring and dissemination of information derived from subgrants in the period after the scheduled completion of the present grant. If necessary, expenditure plans and priorities for the remaining months of the grant should be rescheduled to achieve this objective.
12. Further funding of the technical assistance and information dissemination aspects of the grant should be considered, if potentially productive initiatives in the latter area continue to develop in coming months. However, funds for additional research should be channeled through other Population Council programs or provided through specific project-oriented case studies related to technical assistance and information dissemination goals.

I. INTRODUCTION

AID awarded a grant to the Population Council in October 1978, to provide support for a program in research on the fertility impacts of development programs in Asia. The estimated completion date is December 31, 1981. The Grant Agreement requires that a mid-project evaluation be conducted jointly by AID and the Population Council to review the accomplishment of specific program objectives and the effectiveness of the project in improving development planning. Dr. Thomas W. Merrick of Georgetown University was contracted to carry out the evaluation in July and August, 1980.

Merrick met with AID and Population Council staff in Washington and New York in July and August and traveled in Asia August 4-16. Merrick met with USAID, Population Council, and host country officials and project participants in Manila (August 6-10) and Bangkok (August 11-15). (A list of persons contacted can be found in Appendix A.) A visit to Dacca, Bangladesh, was planned, but the trip was cancelled when the AID mission did not approve the evaluator's travel. (See Appendix B.)

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

The basic objective of the Population Council grant is to improve the communication of policy-relevant research on the impact of development programs on fertility to policymakers and program planners in Asia. The Grant Agreement cites growing evidence that education, labor force participation, income distribution, and other aspects of development affect and are affected by demographic variables such as fertility, but that there is still a lack of sufficiently precise information about these interactions to provide concrete policy guidelines.

The specific objective of the grant is "...to expand support of research activities directed at achieving a better understanding of the critical and policy-relevant population and development interactions described above, and to give attention to ways of translating that understanding into actionable programs."

The project involves the following four activities:

1. A studies program to support research by Asian scholars on the fertility impact of changes in household income, alternative agricultural development strategies, changing patterns of infant and child health and mortality, and increased female education and modern sector employment.
2. A series of workshops to be conducted on country-specific fertility determinants research and important sector-specific factors that influence the demand for family planning services in Asia.
3. Dissemination of information on a regular basis to researchers and policymakers in Asia through a publications program.
4. Provision of leadership and guidance to program planners and policymakers in Asia, including USAID staff, and assistance in the development of programs that give explicit attention to the fertility impact of development programs, particularly with a view to the concerns raised in Section 104(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

AID's rationale for the Population Council grant was to provide a means for implementing Section 104(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act. Section 104(d) requires that U.S. economic assistance be administered in a way that gives particular attention to interrelationships between population growth, economic development, and overall improvement in living standards in developing countries, and to the impact of all programs, projects, and activities

on population growth. AID documents on Section 104(d) stress the need to maximize the impact of development resources to achieve the greatest additional voluntary reduction of fertility in developing countries, on the premise "...that development programs can and do play an important role in encouraging voluntary family planning, particularly by providing women with meaningful alternatives to prolonged childbearing and by reducing the dependence of parents on children for income, unpaid work, and old age support. Development policies and projects in the areas of education, health, rural development, and employment generation clearly affect fertility through their effect on the timing and duration of marriage, changing attitudes about family size and childspacing, and parental aspirations both for themselves and for their children...."*

In the AID circular and other documents, and in interviews with AID staff members in Washington and in the field, the Population Council grant was identified as one of the principal vehicles for "operationalizing" Section 104(d).

Some perspective on how AID's institutional structure affects response to Section 104(d) and the identification of a number of obstacles that have hampered efforts to move toward its implementation are needed to assess the Population Council's role. While there is growing recognition of the need to consider interrelations between development and demographic variables, there is still widespread skepticism in AID about the practicality of incorporating these links in specific projects in agriculture, education, and other areas of activity, and especially in regard to the goal of maximizing their impact on fertility decline. This skepticism stems from several factors, among which the following are important.

1. There is ambiguity within AID on how the population/development activities called for in Section 104(d) should be implemented. One interpretation puts comparatively strong emphasis on the delivery of family planning services and views 104(d) activities as a way of removing obstacles to the effective delivery of these services. Another interpretation views Section 104(d) initiatives as a means of offsetting AID's traditional emphasis on family planning services through a broader "developmental" approach to population activities. While the two are not incompatible, recent disagreement within AID about the emphasis that should be placed on the delivery of family planning services has polarized views on the meaning of 104(d) among AID staff concerned with population. It has also resulted in the communication of mixed and sometimes conflicting signals to contractors and to other non-population units in AID.

* "Population Policy Development and Section 104(d)," AID Circular, September 19, 1979.

2. Partly as a result of this ambiguity and more broadly as a consequence of the way in which population activities have evolved in AID, there is no clear institutional locus for Section 104(d) activities in AID/ Washington or in the field. While the earmarking of foreign assistance funds for population clearly contributed to the strengthening of AID's role in the population field, it also generated a tendency to isolate population from other aspects of the AID program at the operational level. Very limited capacity and experience in population activities have been accumulated outside of population offices. These are offices in which substantive knowledge of the fields of health, nutrition, communication and education, agriculture, and population would be useful for 104(d)-type activities. Since 104(d) comes under the heading of "population," there is a tendency to view it as something that population officers should do. Yet, most of the training and experience of population officers orients them to the delivery of family planning services, and few have the social science background needed to translate social science research findings into concrete program recommendations in agriculture, education, etc. Recent efforts in AID to broaden the responsibility for population activities among regional offices and to build social science staff capacity in population and other offices have helped to remedy this, but considerable effort is still needed.
3. While the problem of translating research findings into concrete program and project recommendations is not unique to the relation between fertility and development, the nature of this particular relation presents a number of special problems. There is convincing historical and contemporary evidence of a high degree of association between levels of education, changes in women's roles and status, improvements in the survival chances of women and children, changing perceptions of the value of children, and declines in birth rates. Yet, the causal links that need to be specified to make this evidence operationally useful are complex, indirect, and specific to particular cultural, temporal, and geographic settings. Developmental variables rarely affect birth rates directly; rather, they operate through intermediate variables that are important proximate determinants of fertility (age of marriage and duration of unions, subfecundity and foetal losses, voluntary limitation of fertility through abortion and contraception, practices such as breastfeeding that temporarily limit conception). They may affect both the timing and spacing of births, as well as reproductive aspirations. A literal interpretation of Section 104(d) would require that these links be established in the particular settings for which AID project activities are being designed, in addition to establishing that the developmental inputs provided by the project in question affect the variable that, in turn, affects the intermediate variables that affect fertility. This task is challenging. It requires expertise and sensitivity both in research and in program and project design. It is also labor-intensive and makes considerable demands on staff time.

An often repeated comment in the field was that if meaningful implementation of Section 104(d) is expected, then USAID project officers need to be provided with fairly simple methodologies to make population input assessments. One problem with this expectation is that the linkages in question between developmental inputs and fertility are complex, and simplified methods may not go very far. A better strategy might be to take a selective approach that uses simplified methods to identify selected projects with greater potential for 104(d) input, and to concentrate resources on such projects.

4. Very heavy pressures on the staff time of both AID/W and field offices in population and other program areas leave little leeway to meet the demands on institutional capacity and staff time required for 104(d) activities. The degree of mission responsiveness is closely related to the willingness of the administration to devote staff time to 104(d) and to the existence of staff capacity to do so. USAID/Manila had directives on 104(d), and its population officer was responsible for population impact assessments. In the best of circumstances, this implementation would involve a paragraph or two, some comment on project documents, and perhaps the inclusion of this comment in the final document, if the opportunity to provide an input is offered early enough in the project development process. Since project documents are the result of a long collaborative effort between host country officials and AID officers in a given program area (e.g., agriculture), it is unlikely that meaningful input on population impact can be incorporated in project designs unless it occurs as a part of the collaborative process. The lack of concrete information on the link between development inputs and fertility at a specific project level and substantial demands on staff time for project development contribute to a general reluctance to invest staff resources in an assessment of the impact of 104(d). Rather, it is viewed as a (bothersome) add-on along with similar requirements related to concerns about energy, the environment, women's roles in development, the development of the private sector, etc.
5. Another constraint in the field is the level of perceived need for and capacity to implement 104(d)-type activities in host country counterpart institutions. Discussions in the field, as well as mission responses to a recent AID/W inquiry (State 101209), indicate that this has a major influence on mission views on 104(d). The USAID/Jakarta response to the inquiry is illustrative:

In the absence of a chronic plateauing or leveling off of contraceptive prevalence rates or of reductions in crude birth rates, the Indonesian Government prefers to spend most of its population/family planning resources, financial and human, on the efforts outlined briefly above [referring to expansion of family planning]. In GOI's considered judgment

significant increases in resources for complementary population activities separate from those outlined above would divert attention from higher priority actions. I agree with this judgment.

This view is echoed in the reply of USAID/Bangkok, but with a recognition that the gap between actual and desired fertility may be closing and that 104(d) concerns could increase in relevance in the future. It was also pointed out that 104(d) activities might be more acceptable in countries such as Sri Lanka, where fertility control is a sensitive issue. Replies from the USAID missions in Bangkok and Manila cited lack of host country interest or capacity as key bottleneck to forward movement on 104(d). As AID mission staff capacity for 104(d) activities continues to increase in the Asia region, the question of capacity among host country counterpart institutions acquires added significance.

These considerations represent very real constraints to what the Population Council grant can be expected to achieve in implementing Section 104(d). Population Council staff are clearly aware of the constraints. The approach that was followed in the first 20 or so months of the grant was appropriate, given the circumstances. This can be demonstrated by considering, in turn, each of the four areas of activity called for in the Grant Agreement.

It should be noted that the evaluation is based on discussions with USAID mission and host country personnel in only two countries in the Asia region, and that these are countries in which the Population Council has been particularly active. This evidence has been supplemented to some extent by conversations with AID staff in Washington and by available AID documents (especially the replies to the 104(d) inquiry mentioned earlier; see Appendix C).

III. AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT

As a tool for implementing 104(d) activities for AID in the Asia region, the Population Council grant has proved itself to be reasonably effective, particularly in view of the facts that it was one of the very first attempts at 104(d) and that staff have confronted and continue to confront constraints on that section of the Foreign Assistance Act. The Population Council has adopted a strategy that recognizes a number of needs and gaps that have to be filled if 104(d) is to move ahead. Among them:

1. Better information on fertility/development linkages that are specific to projects providing development inputs.
2. Increased host country capacity to study these linkages, and an approach to research that enhances the feeding back of research findings into the policy process.
3. Building of networks that involve host country researchers and their outside collaborators, operational people in agencies providing development inputs and their USAID counterparts, and Population Council technical advisors in an exchange of information and methodologies on development/demographic interrelations.
4. Efforts to address the constraints imposed by limitations of USAID mission staff time for and interest in 104(d) as part of an overall country strategy.

The four activities (studies program, workshops, information dissemination, and technical assistance) specified in the Grant Agreement constitute an appropriate means for closing these gaps. By virtue of its large share in the project budget and the amount of staff time needed to administer it, the studies program has required that a significant amount of effort be expended on the mix of project activities. Technical assistance (leadership and guidance) and workshop activities have progressed, but information dissemination has lagged. Each of these activities will be discussed in greater detail in subsequent sections. Some general conclusions are given below.

Approval and obligation of funds for research subgrants have been slower than anticipated because it has been difficult to solicit projects that are technically competent and that at the same time have the requisite policy orientation and potential for building host country capacity and networks to the policy process. A comparatively non-direct approach to project solicitation was adopted initially: the Population Council announced the objectives of the grants and looked to investigators for responsive proposals. The Council has moved toward a more direct approach by using the workshops and personal contacts to interest investigators in projects,

but it has yet to commission research on the fertility impact of specific AID development inputs. The time and effort invested in pursuing grant proposals are paying off: several projects are now fairly well along in the review process.

A key question is how direct should a research program such as this be, given local sensitivities and capacity on the one hand and the need of development assistance agencies for policy-relevant information on the fertility impact of development inputs on the other. With regard to the latter, when large lending agencies assess a project's potential, they invest staff and consultant expertise in a study of the costs and benefits of inputs, and they expect to review information that will guide them in the design and implementation of the project in question. Most research on fertility and development, including the activities funded in this project, will provide useful background information; however, even when the findings are quite "policy relevant," they are not inputs that are directly useful for project assessments.

While it would not be advisable to consider the study program as a means of securing the necessary staff and consultant capacity for the AID and host country offices responsible for designing development inputs, successful implementation of 104(d) objectives requires that such offices be provided with applicable research findings at the project level. If the research program funded by the Population Council grant is not directly used for this purpose, other grant activities must be undertaken so that the program will bear indirectly on this need.

In the remaining months of the project, the workshop, leadership and guidance, and information components of the project should focus increasingly on this objective. It need not be the exclusive focus, but it should have greater emphasis than it did in the earlier stages of the grant, when those components were used to attract and enhance potential research subgrants.

In the first 20 months of the grant, both the workshops and technical assistance contributed substantially to the studies program and the objectives that the Population Council had hoped to achieve. What is being suggested for the remaining 15 or so months is not a shift in the mix of these activities, but a shift in orientation--from development of research to use of research. Such a shift is, in fact, evident in the Population Council's current plans for workshops for the next six months.

Population Council leadership and guidance activities in the Asia region have been quite vigorous under the project, and they are regarded highly by both AID and host country officials who have used the services. These services have related to the development of research projects, institution-building, and direct consultation on 104(d) concerns of AID missions. The main limitation on the latter has been the missions' staff capacity for and interest in using this grant to pursue 104(d) objectives. The Population Council and AID/Washington appear to have done an adequate job in informing missions of the availability of these services.

Persons interviewed during the evaluation had a very high regard for the Population Council staff's technical skills, knowledge, and experience with the policy process. AID officers in both Manila and Bangkok indicated that input to the Philippine mission's Multi-Year Population Strategy and assistance with the Thai Northeastern Resettlement Projects were highly valued.

If there is a gap in the current staffing pattern, it relates to the dissemination of information. The skills that are required to effectively communicate research results through such mechanisms as case studies (see Chapter V) may be more specialized than those of the staff now assigned by the Population Council to the project. The Population Council has considerable experience and expertise in this area, and it should be able to fill this gap.

The Population Council project is not the only resource available to AID for implementation of 104(d) activities in Asia. Other centrally-funded projects (e.g., those of Battelle, RTI, The Futures Group) are also available. Some of the activities may overlap those of the Population Council project. There is so much that needs to be accomplished that the missions will be able to choose from among several projects. This can be useful as long as USAID and host country staff resources are not overloaded (an important concern, given current resource limitations).

The Population Council is a unique resource in several respects. First, it has staff resources based in the region. This has contributed substantially to the Population Council's success in achieving its objectives. Second, the cost of maintaining this presence is only partially supported by the project, thus the marginal cost to AID is lower than it would be if such resources had to be developed at the outset. Third, the project is able to draw on the worldwide capacity and depth of experience of other Population Council resources. For example, it has called on staff members of the Center for Policy Studies to review projects, serve as resource people for workshops, and participate in technical assistance activities. There are few institutions that can offer AID access to such resources at this marginal cost. Fourth, while the other projects that have been mentioned do in some way relate to 104(d) objectives, this project is specifically focused on them. This is both advantageous and problematical. These objectives are not easy to accomplish and the Population Council must try to achieve them within constraints over which it has very little control.

Recommendations

1. In the remaining 15 months of the grant, emphasis should be placed on the workshop, information dissemination, and technical assistance activities to increase the feeding back of research findings from projects supported by the studies program and others into the policy planning and development project design process.

2. The Population Council's staff of consultants skilled in information dissemination should be used to a greater extent during the remaining months of the project.

IV. THE STUDIES PROGRAM

The specific objective of the studies program is "to foster or support on-going research by Asian scholars, and collaborative research by U.S. and Asian scholars on the social, economic and cultural determinants of fertility patterns." The Population Council indicated that in selecting projects, four considerations were being emphasized: the policy relevance of the project, in particular, research relating to the impact of development inputs on fertility through changes in women's roles, income distribution, child survivorship, the value of children, etc.; the potential of a project to build up host country capacity to study population/development interactions and to translate the results into concrete policy recommendations; the involvement of individuals engaged in program and project planning; and the qualifications of the investigators and the quality of the research proposal they submitted.

A figure of \$50,000 is the approximate limit on funding (projects have exceeded this amount), and 18 months the time limit. Given such budget and time limitations, clearly the achievement of fundamental research breakthroughs will receive less emphasis, although several proposals for support in this program are components of larger projects that have such potential.

Several methods of soliciting proposals were used. An initial step was to widely distribute throughout Asia a brochure describing the studies program and the selection criteria (see Appendix C). This method appears to have been particularly successful in attracting the initial wave of proposals. Personal contacts and institutional visits by Population Council staff, and liaisons with AID missions, other donors, and other technical assistance agencies in Asia were also made. Workshops, particularly those which were focused on a specific research topic, such as the recent meeting on proximate determinants of fertility, have become an increasingly important mechanism for attracting proposals.

At an early stage, the Population Council considered how direct an approach it should use to attract proposals; its options ranged from distribution of the announcement soliciting projects in the range of areas indicated above to commissioned research (requests for proposals to conduct research on specific topics/settings specified by the Population Council were submitted). Initially, the Council's approach was less direct; however, it has shifted toward a more active approach, particularly through the workshops. The commissioning of research is being reconsidered.

Research submissions are reviewed in a multi-step process. Proposals are pre-screened initially in the Population Council's Bangkok office. The quality of the proposed project is evaluated and its placement within the scope of the program is determined. About three out of five proposals are rejected at this stage, either because they fall outside the scope of the program or are of poor quality (see Table I). While the pre-screening process requires the Bangkok staff to make a considerable number of discrete judgments, it clearly is the only way to assess the large number of proposals that are submitted in response to the initial solicitation and that appear

Table 1
SUMMARY OF ACTION ON STUDY PROPOSALS
(By Country)

Country	<u>Rejected Immediately</u>	<u>Rejected After Review, or Review Inactive*</u>	<u>Under Active Review</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bangladesh	3	1	1	0	5
India	14	4	0	1	19
Indonesia	4	0	2	0	6
S. Korea	2	1	0	1	4
Nepal	2	0	0	0	2
Philippines	3	0	2	0	5
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	0	1
Taiwan	0	1	1	0	2
Thailand	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	<u>30</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>50</u>

* Projects returned for revision; no response from investigators for six months or more

to have been "pulled off the shelf" rather than prepared in response to this project. A sampling of the rejected proposals suggested that the process is not likely to produce "false negative" outcomes. Except in rare cases, proposals were returned with comments.

If the proposals that pass the pre-screening process are judged to be adequate, they are forwarded to New York for the second step in the review. Otherwise, they are returned to the investigators with suggestions for revision. No further responses are received in many cases, but one of the three projects approved at the time of the evaluation was revised.

In New York the proposals are reviewed by consultants or staff members of the International Division and the Center for Policy Study, depending on the topic and country of the proposed study. If proposals require revisions, comments and suggestions are returned to investigators via the Bangkok Office; otherwise, the proposals are submitted to AID/Washington for approval.

In AID/Washington, proposals are reviewed by the Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination and the Asia Regional Bureau. The Office of Population does not participate in the review. AID/Washington also submits proposals for field approval, which includes clearance by appropriate host country authorities. The exact procedure varies in the latter case, but the entire process can last four to six weeks. It is possible to telescope the review process by distributing copies of proposals to authorities who grant approval before the formal request for clearance is submitted.

After a project is approved, a grant letter is issued. Compared to contract-funded research, projects are able to move forward quickly. The review process appears to be complex, and given the fact that only three projects were approved in the first 20 months of the program, a more expeditious review process might be called for. However, the review/approval process has not been a bottleneck in the case of the projects that have been approved. In fact, it is doubtful that the review process could be accelerated without jeopardizing the quality improvements made by revising the proposals or eliminating the requirements for AID and host country clearance.

The reason that comparatively few projects have been approved is that the number of high quality, responsive proposals was quite limited during the first year of the program. The Population Council chose to adhere to standards set for the program, and it moved toward a more direct approach to project solicitation; this appears to have paid off because there are now eight proposals in various stages of the review process. The number appears to fit program objectives quite well.

For the first 20 months of the study program, \$165,000 of the \$395,000 budgeted for the first two years were obligated. The program is not as far behind schedule as it appears to be; it is highly likely that four to six of the projects being reviewed at this time will be approved in the next few months.

Of the three projects that have been approved to date, the first is a study of rural economic-demographic relations in Korea. While the project has useful research potential, it does not appear to be as sharply focused on the Population Council's implementation of 104(d) objectives as some other proposals currently under consideration. The second project, on the fertility impact of irrigation in Northeast Thailand, and the third, on child labor, schooling, and fertility in rural India, both relate to topics that have project/policy orientations. During interviews with the principal investigator for the Thai irrigation project, the author had an opportunity to learn about the project's conscious policy orientation, the involvement of water project people in the research, and the building of institutional strength in a national-level institute of development administration. Although the activities are not likely to lead to major scientific breakthroughs, they are well grounded technically and appropriate for the strategy that the Population Council has adopted in the studies program.

Among the pending proposals are a study of the demographic impact of rural electrification in Thailand, a study of links between socioeconomic development and family planning in Indonesia, and a study of rural demographic changes in the Philippines. Another Philippine project is being developed by Population Council staff member Leda Layo; this project focuses on the demographic impact of the Bicol River Basin projects. Recent projects, the Bicol project in particular, appear to be more focused on policy variables and specific development impacts.

In terms of financial and human resources, the studies program is the largest component of the Population Council grant. The technical assistance invested in proposal development has been considerable, and part of the workshop effort has been aimed at enhancing the studies program.

There has been considerable progress in attracting policy-relevant and technically competent projects since the early months of the project, and Population Council staff have demonstrated their capacity to learn from experience and to adapt to needs as they become more clearly defined.

A concern with the studies program, and with policy-related research in general, is the extent to which research findings are fed back into the policy process as concrete recommendations for the program. Even when the topic is policy-relevant, there is no guarantee that feedback will occur. The Population Council has been attentive to the need to build networks among recipients of its research awards and at the operational level of development activities. Its shift toward a more direct approach to solicitation of proposals has also contributed to the achievement of greater policy relevance. This experience suggests that one or two commissioned studies related to specific development inputs and their settings might be worth considering when the issue is discussed again. This approach requires a considerable investment of staff time in the identification of research opportunities and the development of research protocols, but the return at this stage could be substantial. Workshops, consultations, and liaisons with AID and other development assistance agencies could be used for this purpose.

Since it appears that the Population Council may be able to obligate the major part of its remaining research budget in the next 12 months, careful consideration should be given to the methods by which the findings of funded projects can be fed back as useful recommendations to planners. Project workshops, publications, and technical assistance are all potential vehicles for achieving this goal. One approach would be to use some of the development projects on which current research is focused to prepare case study packages. These packages could be distributed to operations staff at workshops, etc., and used to inform such staff of the content and methods of population impact analysis. The Population Council is in fact exploring this idea and, if he receives approval, the principal investigator for the Thai irrigation project has specific plans to prepare case studies, using the results of the Thai irrigation and electrification project. (This idea is discussed in more detail in other sections of this report.)

Recommendations

1. The shift toward a more direct approach to project solicitation should be continued. The inclusion of commissioned research on the population impact of specific development projects should be considered.
2. Increased attention should be given in the final 15 months of the project to the development of mechanisms for feeding research findings back into the policy and project planning process.
3. The possibility of developing case studies based on the research grants should be explored; a portion of the project's resources should be reserved for this purpose.

V. WORKSHOPS

An important adjunct to the studies program is the program of policy roundtables and workshops on fertility determinants research and on sector-specific factors that influence the demand for family planning services in Asia. It is one of the mechanisms for translating an understanding of population-development interactions into action programs. Fewer roundtables and workshops were held in the first 20 months of the project than were scheduled in the Grant Agreement; the first workshop did not take place until November 1979. Since then, three such programs have been held. Travel to a fourth meeting, the purpose of which was closely related to project goals, was covered by project funds.

The first workshop, in November 1979, focused on rural development, agricultural practices, and fertility. The initial plan was to have two workshops on this topic, one for participants from East and Southeast Asia and one for participants from South Asia. Because fewer persons than had been expected were conducting research on the topic, the two workshops were combined. Nineteen people participated, including two members of the Population Council and a number of investigators for ongoing or proposed research projects. No one from AID attended. The first part of the workshop, a presentation of papers, was followed by discussions by two working groups of "micro" and "macro" approaches to creating population and rural development linkages.

Comments on this workshop, written and verbal, were not enthusiastic. The Population Council's report on the meeting suggests that it was difficult to focus the topic for useful discussions, and participants suggested that too much time was devoted to the presentation of papers and that debate on "minutiae" rather than policy-relevant issues was counterproductive. It was also suggested that the group's background and specific interests were too diverse. In retrospect, the two separate workshops would probably have been more productive, even if only 10 persons had attended each.

A report summarizing the workshop has been printed, but no one outside of the Population Council had received a copy at the time of their interviews.

The second workshop, held in February 1980, was on population policy and development planning units in Asia. Held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, the workshop was designed to bring together a group of experienced planners, policy-makers, and researchers to exchange information and comparative experiences on the organization of population policy and development planning units, the application of research findings to development planning, and the identification of research priorities. Participants were invited from Bangladesh, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Indonesia. Representatives from the latter two countries were unable to attend, but the Indonesians did submit a paper on their population planning efforts. Representatives of AID, UNFPA, The Ford Foundation, and the Population Council also participated.

The conference proceedings, including background papers and summaries of reports on the participating countries' experiences with population planning, were published in May 1980. The summaries should be particularly useful to persons seeking to understand how to establish such units in a developing country.

The participants found that they shared a number of common concerns: the comparative newness of the effort to integrate population concerns in the planning process; the perception of population only in terms of family planning; the problem of securing an organizational locus for population planning activities without becoming isolated from other sectors in which population should be integrated; the quality of data and access to the research infrastructure; and the limitations of staff capacity and experience in the field. Particular attention was devoted to the question of translating research findings into concrete program recommendations; the participants shared their views on and experiences in using research for planning. A concrete step was the recommendation to prepare a series of country status reports comparable to those that had already been prepared for Korea and the Philippines.

Several workshop participants were interviewed during the evaluation, and most were enthusiastic about their experience. Participants from NIDA in Manila and NESDB in Bangkok found the exchange of information and experience to be very useful and encouraging in their efforts to establish population-development units. The participant from AID also found the meeting useful, and expressed the hope that AID participation in future meetings would continue. This workshop appears to have benefited from the experience of the first one, since there was focus on and room in the format for discussion of policy-related issues.

The workshop program also included a workshop on social indicators in land development schemes. Held in March 1980, the workshop was organized by the Federal Land Development Authority of Malaysia (FELDA). Funds were provided for consultant Richard Sturgis, who presented papers on the use of social indicators in development planning, and for participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. No participants from this meeting were available for comments during the evaluation.

The most recent workshop, held in Bangkok in May 1980, was focused on proximate determinants of fertility. John Bongaarts, of the Population Council's New York Office, presented his intermediate variable model, and applications were discussed with representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand. Draft sections of the report were available at the time of the evaluation, but the complete report was not reviewed.

Three additional workshops are planned for the first half of 1981. The topics for these workshops are as follows:

1. "Education Projects, Educational Attainment, and Fertility Change." This workshop is being developed by Anrudh Jain.
2. "Country-Specific Population and Development Literature Review." This is a follow-up to the population and development planning workshop.
3. "Methodological Issues in Research on Population and Development." This workshop will bring together project research investigators who will share their experiences and discuss methodological problems. John Stoeckel will coordinate this workshop.

The evidence suggests that the workshop program is a very effective instrument for achieving project objectives. In the last year it has been used with increasing success as a means of attracting projects for the study programs. As the emphasis shifts from the solicitation of additional projects to the task of ensuring that research findings are fed back to the operational level of development projects, the workshops will be a useful resource. If case studies on research and development projects are prepared and used in workshops, the workshops can be a very effective way of disseminating information and of demonstrating a methodology for translating research findings into concrete recommendations for program and project officers. If participation in such workshops is directed to personnel with direct responsibility for development project planning as well as to researchers, the workshops could also play an important role in the creation of networks.

Recommendations

1. During the last phase of the grant, consideration should be given to workshops based on case studies derived from research on the population impact of development projects. At such workshops, the methodology for and information on population impact assessments can be provided to officers with line responsibilities for project planning.
2. In selecting workshop participants, special attention should be given to the development of networks of researchers and individuals responsible for designing development projects. Host country and AID personnel and, if possible, those actually collaborating on development project designs should be included.

VI. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE

The Grant Agreement requires that the Population Council provide leadership and guidance to program planners and policymakers in Asia and assist in the development of programs that give explicit attention to the fertility impact of development programs. This includes work with Asian investigators involved in research on determinants of fertility, and, in particular, assistance in research design and methodology. AID missions in Asia also are to be assisted in the evaluation of their project portfolios, with a view to concerns raised in Section 104(d). The grant stipulates that up to six person-months of consultation with AID missions per year will be provided.

Staff of the Population Council have invested considerable time in assisting investigators in the revision of research proposals. Their input has included detailed written comments and suggestions on proposals, as well as personal contacts, which have been made when opportunities to travel arose. In Thailand, where the possibilities for more frequent contacts are greatest, staff have been most effective. The few investigators contacted during the evaluation gave very positive assessments of the technical input that the Population Council had provided. The workshops also have been a medium for this kind of technical assistance, and the planned methodology workshop is being designed specifically with this purpose in mind. The workshop approach constitutes a more efficient use of limited staff resources.

Written and personal communications on the grant were sent early in 1979 to USAID missions in Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka, in addition to the U.S. Embassy in Malaysia. This was done in conjunction with plans to implement the 104(d) review of the missions' project portfolios. The quarterly reports on the project indicate that receptivity to grant resources and concepts was generally favorable but subject to variation among missions. Receptivity was better in Thailand, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. By contrast, the mission in Jakarta was and apparently still is skeptical about 104(d) and the Population Council's chances to contribute to its implementation in Indonesia. This observation reinforces a point made earlier--that USAID mission philosophy and staff capacity are important determinants of the Population Council's ability to contribute to 104(d) implementation. AID officers in Manila and Bangkok indicated that they were satisfied with the Population Council's efforts to inform them of the availability of their technical services. The main constraint on use of USAID resources, they confirmed, was their own limited staff availability.

At the invitation of USAID/Philippines, John Stoeckel visited Manila for one week to assist in the review of potential 104(d) activity. Discussions were held with staff of Philippine research agencies as well. Later, Jarrett Clinton visited Manila to help the mission prepare its Multi-Year Population Strategy (MYPS), which involves a consideration of population and development analyses of a USAID-financed project and of a population unit in the Philippines National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Review of the MYPS document during the evaluation visit showed that 104(d) considerations were prominent

in the recommendations. Research on the demographic impact of the Bicol River project is also viewed as an important Population Council contribution to USAID/Manila's 104(d) effort. AID officers gave very high marks to Population Council advisors' technical and policy inputs in the Philippines.

In Thailand, the physical proximity of the Population Council and USAID offices has contributed to the close working relationship that was visible during the evaluator's visit and confirmed by AID officers. Population Council staff reviewed the 1980 Annual Budget Submission for Thailand with a view to identifying potential 104(d) activities, particularly in the area of rural development. John Stoeckel provided comments on 104(d) options in a land resettlement project being planned for Northeast Thailand and advised AID on a baseline survey associated with the project.

At the request of USAID/Dacca, John Stoeckel provided assistance in the development of a project which established clubs for young women and helped design a baseline survey to assess its 104(d) impact. The mission did not approve the evaluator's visit, thus precluding direct assessment of Population Council services in Dacca. The mission's comments about the project are puzzling, but they suggest that the availability of mission staff to maintain the Population Council contact is a key constraint on the latter's capacity to be of service to USAID missions. USAID/Dacca's reply to the general inquiry on 104(d) indicated that the mission was skeptical about using resources for population/development instead of concentrating on "programs that directly motivate people to accept family planning methods."

Leda Layo was added to the Population Council's Bangkok staff. In addition to working on the Bicol project in the Philippines, Ms. Layo has contributed information on the effects of changing the role of women in the development process. She has been a short-term consultant to the Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics on this activity. New York staff and consultants also have provided short-term technical assistance.

In its sixth quarterly report, the Population Council expressed its dissatisfaction with efforts to incorporate the analysis of fertility consequences in AID-financed development projects. Even given the comparatively successful dialogue with three missions, "there is little to demonstrate in the way of modified survey instruments or follow-up sources." Further efforts in Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Philippines are planned. The Population Council also is exploring links with USAID/Kathmandu, and it continues to try to open a dialogue with USAID/Jakarta.

The kind of technical assistance required for the leadership and guidance activities outlined in the Grant Agreement is labor-intensive and requires a considerable investment of staff time from both the Population Council and mission or government agency receiving assistance. These conditions have, in fact, limited the extent to which the Population Council has been able to contribute to the operationalization of 104(d) in Asia. The Population Council's dissatisfaction with 104(d) efforts echoes the sentiment of USAID which, it has been suggested, may stem from an unrealistic expectation that population impact assessment can be applied to a mission's "entire project portfolio." Here again

it would seem that selectivity is needed, and it would be useful for the Population Council to concentrate its efforts on two or three cases and to show what really can be done.

Also relevant to the time constraint is the question of investing staff time in one project area (e.g., workshops, the studies program) to yield "by-products" that enhance another area (e.g., leadership and guidance). In the first 20 months this "joint production" appears to have had a higher yield for non-AID technical assistance recipients through research networking, workshop participation, and capacity-building. Consideration should be given to ways of increasing AID involvement in this process, recognizing, of course, that it "takes two to tango."

Recommendations

1. After updating its inventory of AID-financed development projects that have potential for population impact assessment, the Population Council should select two or at most three projects for concentrated technical assistance input during the remainder of the project. Consideration should be given to AID receptivity and staff capacity.
2. Consideration should be given to commissioned research as an adjunct to these assessments. The development of research protocols should, to the extent possible, involve appropriate AID project staff and host country collaborators.
3. The involvement of AID personnel in other project activities (especially workshops) should continue to receive attention, since this has been an effective way of achieving the leadership and guidance objective.

VII. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Information dissemination was the weakest aspect of the fertility in development project during its first 20 months. The lack of a strong information component is serious, because the principal purpose of the grant is the communication of policy-relevant research on the impact of development programs on fertility behavior to policymakers and program planners in Asia.

Mechanisms mentioned for the information program in the Grant Agreement include a newsletter for the region, a monograph/occasional papers series, and a campaign to include fertility determinants research findings in existing publications oriented toward Asian countries. An implementation strategy was to have been submitted no later than 12 months after the project began.

The project's first quarterly report includes a work plan that outlines the elements of an information program, including a newsletter and a brochure describing the Population Council's and other agencies' regional funding sources for population and development research in Asia. Later quarterly reports briefly mention information dissemination. The last one indicated that "energies are best directed to improve distribution of existing information." No formal implementation plan for the information plan has been prepared.

The brochure on funding sources was prepared and has been distributed. The research investigators who were interviewed indicated that the brochure is useful, but most said they also had had personal contact with most of the funding agencies mentioned. The evaluator did not have an opportunity to visit those persons outside of Manila and Bangkok who probably would have found this source of information most useful.

Reports on the first two workshops on rural development and development planning have been published and are being distributed. While these reports provide useful information on what was accomplished at the workshops, they do not go very far toward achieving the broader goals for which the information program was intended.

Several factors account for the slow progress of the information program. It is still too early to communicate research findings from the studies program, since most projects are just getting under way or are still in the approval process. After further consideration of alternative approaches to the newsletter as a mechanism for disseminating information on research findings to policymakers, there is still no consensus on the appropriate information to be provided in a series of mailings. There is concern to avoid duplicating existing literature reviews and review papers commissioned by AID/Washington's Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination (PPC). Papers such as Ruth Dixon's paper on women in development emphasize the impact of development inputs and provide an attractive model that the Population Council might consider using for other fertility in development subtopics. Pressures on Population Council staff time in other project activities have detracted from efforts on this front.

Information dissemination is a key element in the ultimate success of the project, and greater emphasis should be given to it in the remaining months of the grant. The Population Council is aware of this, and is considering how best to move forward. The New York office has considerable experience and expertise in information dissemination, and it would seem appropriate to bring some of these resources to bear on the Asia project.

The final months of the project are an appropriate time to increase the emphasis on information dissemination. As efforts in other project areas (e.g., the studies program, workshops, technical assistance) begin to pay off in terms of momentum achieved, ways to feed outputs back into the program and development project process should be sought. For example, commissioned studies on specific development inputs for the studies program and case study-oriented workshops could be tied to the information effort. The plans for workshops on the Thai irrigation study might be a useful model. Special attention should be given to stimulating this initiative and to replicating it in other study projects. Special technical skills beyond those of Asian researchers who have previously applied for support may be required. Consideration ought to be given to the inclusion of staff of the Population Council or experienced consultants in the process of preparing and packaging case studies and in translating research results into policy recommendations.

Recommendations

1. Increased staff time and effort should be allocated to information dissemination in the remaining months of the project. If necessary, staff members of the Population Council or consultants with this type of communications experience should be engaged.
2. The information effort should be tied to other project activities, and the emphasis in these activities should be shifted to efforts to maximize the feeding back of outputs into the policy process.

VIII. THE FUTURE

The completion date for the fertility and development project is targeted December 1981. Several issues relate to the completion of activities before or after the completion date and to the possible renewal of the grant.

Since several subgrant proposals are still pending and fewer than 18 months of the grant remain, it is clear that some grant monitoring responsibilities will carry over to the period after the scheduled completion date. Moreover, much of the job of translating research findings into policy recommendations remains to be done, and can be done only as research subgrants approach their own completion dates. To the extent that funds in the existing grant permit continuation of these activities, a no-cost extension of the grant is advisable. It is difficult to determine the financial feasibility of this recommendation, since only grant expenditures covering the period to December 3, 1979 are available for comparison with budgeted figures. Salaries and fringe benefits, travel, and supplies are the only expenditures that have approximated budgeted spending plans, and no expenditures have been reported under small grants. Since then, \$165,000 have been obligated; if expenditures for another six or seven projects at \$50,000 each are added, that category could come close to the budgeted \$525,000. Still, the largest portion of the grant funds, other than salaries and travel, will be expended between now and the scheduled completion date, and it would be advisable to re-examine the expenditure schedule and expenditure priorities to determine how to ensure the requisite monitoring and dissemination of findings from the studies program in the period before and after the scheduled completion date.

Another major consideration is that one-time products will not be the result of achieving grant objectives; grant activity involves a continuing process for which there is likely to be greater rather than lesser need in the future. This is particularly true of activities other than the studies program, since other Population Council programs and programs of other agencies are contributing to that. The current Population Council grant is building up experience and a network of contacts that need to be maintained and refined. Indeed, the grant is contributing primarily to a process rather than a specific end product. While the research component has value, the greatest impact on policy will derive from the effective translation of the research finding into useful policy guidelines.

The Population Council has yet to prove its complete effectiveness in this area because of delays in initiating the information dissemination component of the project. Yet, it has made steady and promising headway in other areas, including the initiative being discussed with NIDA, the Thai irrigation projects, and the work with Bicol River basin data in the Philippines. It becomes apparent that if such initiatives will last until mid- or late 1981, it would be unwise to terminate funding when the present grant period ends. If further funding is contemplated, it should be focused on the information dissemination process, and possibly on some contingency plans for commissioned project-specific research, if such research is needed to enhance the preparation of case studies or the development of other useful modes of communicating the method and substance of population/development impact assessments to planners.

Recommendations

1. Some arrangement should be made for continued monitoring and dissemination of information deriving from subgrants in the period after the scheduled completion of the present grant. If necessary, expenditure plans and priorities for the remaining months of the grant should be rescheduled.
2. Future funding of the technical assistance and information dissemination aspects of the grant should be considered if potentially productive initiatives in the latter area continue to develop in coming months. Funding of further research should be channeled through other Population Council programs or provided through specific project-oriented case studies related to technical assistance and information dissemination goals.

Appendix A

LIST OF CONTACTS

Manila, August 6-10

Ms. Erlinda Morales
National Economic and Development Authority

Dr. Filologo L. Pante, Jr.
President, Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Dr. Jean Miralao
Institute of Philippine Culture

Dr. Alejandro Herrin
Institute of Economic Development and Research
School of Economics
University of the Philippines

Dr. Rolando A. Danao
Institute of Economics Development and Research
School of Economics
University of the Philippines

Dr. John Cook
The Ford Foundation

Dr. Mercedes Concepcion
Dean, University of the Philippines. Population Institute

Mr. William Goldman
Population Advisor

Mr. Harold Haight, Chief
Population Office, USAID

Mr. George Carner
Planning Officer, USAID

Mr. Edward Ploch
Deputy Program Officer, USAID

Dr. Steven Sinding
Health and Nutrition Office, USAID

Ms. Charlotte Cromer
Population Advisor, USAID

Bangkok, August 11-14

Dr. Twatchai Yongkittikul
Associate Dean, School of Economics
National Institute of Development Administration

Dr. Suwanlee Piampiti
Associate Dean, School of Economics
National Institute of Development Administration

Bangkok, August 11-14 (cont.)

Dr. Nibhon Debavalya
Director, Institute of Population Studies
Chulalonghorn University

Dr. Penporn Tirasawat
Institute of Population Studies
Chulalonghorn University

Ms. Chupensri Wongbuddha
Population and Manpower Planning Division
National Economic and Social Development Board

Dr. Suchart Prasith-rathsint
Department of Demography
National Institute of Development Administration

Mr. Donald D. Cohen
Director, USAID

Mr. David Oot
Population Advisor, USAID

Mr. Chet Boonporatuang
Population and Manpower Division
National Economic and Social Development Board

Dr. Peter Weldon
The Ford Foundation

Dr. John Stoeckel
The Population Council

Dr. Leda Layo
The Population Council

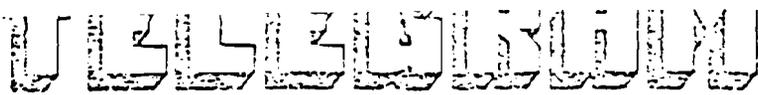
Persons Present at Washington Briefing, July 29

Michael Jordan, ASIA/TR
Ann Van Dusen, PPC/PDPR
Richard Metcalfe, DS/POP
Jenny Sewell, ASIA/TR
Suzanne Olds, APHA
Wendy Krupnick, APHA

Meetings with Population Council

Jarrett Clinton, Washington, June 30
John Stoeckel, New York, July 22
Anrudh Jain, New York, July 22, August 4
Barnett Baron, New York, August 4

Appendix B
USAID/DACCA CABLE



ACTION:

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

AID - 10

- INFO:
- AMB
- DCM
- POL
- POLR
- CONS
- DAO
- ECON
- LGAT
- LO
- ADM
- USIS
- STRP
- JMAG
- CEBU
- AID
- ADB
- AGR
- B&F
- RNO
- CSO
- TRU
- DEA
- PER
- RSO
- RSC
- ATO
- RCO
- CRO
- TSO
- CRU
- CY/INET

NNNNVV NJA 0430 KA526
 PP RUMVC
 DE RUMJOK #4427 2150515
 ZNR UUUUU ZZH
 P R 030324Z AUG 80
 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8337
 INFO RUMVC/AMEMBASSY MANILA 1527
 RUEHOK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4492
 ST
 UNCLAS DACCA 4427

ACTION COPY

Action: _____
 No action indicated
 Date: _____ 2-53

DATE ANSWER 8-13-80

ADM AID
 FOR: M. EDWARDS, PPC/PDPR/HR

E.O. 12065: N/A
 SUBJECT : POPULATION: GRANT TO POPULATION COUNCIL ON FERTI-
 LITY IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN ASIA,
 (AID/OTR-G-1702)

REF: STATE 202287

1. USAID SEES NO VALUE IN DR. MERRICK VISITING BANGLADESH AS PART OF HIS EVALUATION OF SUBJECT PROJECT, SINCE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, VERY LITTLE ACTIVITY HAS OCCURRED HERE UNDER THIS PROJECT.

2. TO DATE, USAID HAS ONLY CALLED UPON POP COUNCIL ONCE TO ASSIST THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT DEVELOP A SURVEY INSTRUMENT AS PART OF A POSSIBLE USAID FUNDED NON-FORMAL EDUCATION PROJECT FOR YOUNG WOMEN. THE USAID STAFF WHO WORKED WITH POP COUNCIL STAFF ON THIS ASSIGNMENT ARE NO LONGER IN BANGLADESH. WHILE WE KNOW POP COUNCIL STAFF HAS VISITED BANGLADESH ON OTHER OCCASIONS TO ASSIST BANGLADESHI RESEARCHERS DEVELOP RESEARCH PROPOSALS, PRESUMABLY FOR FINANCING UNDER SUBJECT GRANT, WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ACTIVITY AND HENCE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMMENT ON IT.

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LOG	
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Best Available Document

Appendix C
ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESEARCH PROGRAM
ON FERTILITY IMPACTS

ON FERTILITY IMPACTS
OF DEVELOPMENT IN
SOUTH AND EAST ASIA

The Population Council South and East Asia regional office in Bangkok announces a research program on the fertility impacts of development processes and projects. Suggested areas of investigation are the impacts upon fertility behavior and related attitudes of such factors as:

- rural development: electrification, irrigation, mechanization, land tenure and multiple cropping
- household and family income
- infant and child health and mortality
- urbanization
- education: enrollment, attrition and attainment
- women's roles and status: education; employment patterns; legal provisions affecting age at marriage, divorce, inheritance and property rights; and, access to credit.

Eligibility

Proposals will only be accepted from researchers and

in the Asian region. In instances where the Asian researcher wishes to collaborate with a non-Asian researcher, proposals will be accepted if the Asian researcher is the principal investigator.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of scholars and policy makers. Among the most important criteria for approval will be (1) the potential usefulness of the research for policy makers in population and development planning, and (2) the appropriateness of the research design and methodology for the problem under investigation. The Population Council particularly encourages interdisciplinary research and projects that employ innovative methodological approaches, including quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Applicants are also encouraged to utilize secondary data to the extent feasible.

Duration and Budget

The proposed research should be fully completed within 18 months. Grants will not exceed US \$ 50,000. Preference will be given to proposals seeking a relatively modest amount of funding, i.e., approximately \$ 10,000. Funds may be requested

for collection and analysis, salaries or stipends, supplies, equipment and travel.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit brief preliminary proposals for consideration. They should contain a one-page abstract, not exceed a total length of ten typewritten pages (double-spaced) and include a brief discussion of the following:

1. The problem, objectives, hypotheses and their relevance to population policy; a literature review which demonstrates how the proposed research differs from past research in the problem area.
2. Research design including how the data will be collected (if the data are already available indicate their sources and method of collection).
3. Methodology to be employed, for example, a listing of the independent, control and dependent variables, how they will be measured, and the analytical techniques utilized to test hypotheses.
4. Itemized budget showing all costs in both U.S. dollars and local currency and justification of the level of any salary or stipends requested.

of all principle investigators and their past work experience relevant to the proposed research should be included with the preliminary proposal.

Where to Apply

Inquiries and a copy of the preliminary proposal should be sent to:

Fertility Impacts of
Development Project
The Population Council
P.O. Box 11-1213
Bangkok 11, Thailand.

This program is one component of a larger program (funded by the Agency for International Development) designed to improve the communication of policy-relevant research on the impact of development programs on fertility behavior to policy makers and program planners in Asia. Additional activities under the program include seminars and workshops on country-specific fertility determinants research; and the dissemination of information on workshop and research findings.

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