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PROGRESS TOWARD AN AID
DATA BASE ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

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DATA BASE

INTRODUCTION

1. Congressional Intent

SECTION 108 DATA BASE REQUIREMENT

Section 108 of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1977 directs AID to evaluate progress toward establishing a data base on the role of women in national economies of recipient countries. The requirement recognizes that AID and decision makers in recipient countries need quantitative information to plan as well as evaluate the effect of policies and programs on the integration of women into developing economies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Until recently, the emphasis of AID and predecessor agencies has been on demonstration of economic growth. Because of this, AID assistance has frequently taken the form of large scale projects designed to accelerate the development of economic systems of recipient countries. Accompanying this emphasis was an attempt to quantitatively evaluate progress toward development goals through the monitoring of a number of nationwide economic indicators. These indicators were designed in accordance with the concepts of developed country economic systems and have frequently proved inadequate for measuring developing country economic systems. In particular, they exclude consideration of many of the activities normally engaged in by women, activities which contribute significantly to the economic well-being of society, especially in rural and poorer households.

BROADENED DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

The Foreign Assistance Act amendments of 1969 give political and social development a priority equal to that of economic development. Section 113 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973 provides a clear mandate for broadening the scope of economic and social development concepts by requiring particular attention to the integration of women into national economies. The broadened concept of development, particularly in areas concerning women's status and economic contributions, is not accompanied by universally accepted indicators to guide the development of policy, programs and projects or to evaluate their effects. This report will present the status and progress of AID activities to develop an information base and quantitative indicators useful for women in development planning.

2. Objectives and Direction

DATA ON SOCIAL ROLES

While the development of a quantitative data base is essential to planning and management of AID's women in development program, the women in development mandate is more than a requirement to change national statistics on women's participation in various sectors of the economy and society. To be effective, it must be viewed as a mandate to investigate historical patterns of social and cultural factors which lead to those statistics, and to review the very nature of the measures used to evaluate women's current participation. Programs must be based on adequate knowledge and understanding of the existing roles, contributions and constraints of various groups of people. The comparative roles and status of men and women, members of different cultural groups, tribes and more recently, of urban and rural populations of developing countries are important considerations. Differentiation between the roles of men and women is one of the chief factors that contribute to holding back women's participation in development, restricting them as members of society and reducing the human resources available for development. To achieve any overall development objective, women's roles, opportunities and constraints must be known. A quantitative and qualitative data base must not only be available, but used by AID planners and program managers.

AID POLICY DETERMINATION

AID Policy Determination PD-60 dated September 16, 1974, gives specific guidance:

"Bureaus and field missions will take steps to collect information which may be used to illuminate the role, status, and contributions of women in developing countries. This involves three distinct responsibilities. First, substantial improvement is required in the collection of basic national data on the role and status of women in developing countries. Although encouraging and assisting developing countries in this major undertaking is primarily the responsibility of international organizations, AID should stress the need for improvement of

such data through the international channels. Second, better data on women are required for designing and evaluating AID projects. Where this is not available from national or international efforts, AID central or region-supported studies and data gathering may be required. For example, specific information on the activities of women in rural areas may be needed to assist in the design and implementation of a rural development strategy. Three, reasonable reporting requirements must be designed to keep AID/W informed about effective projects and general progress of integrating women in the development process by improving the utilization of and equality of opportunity for women in LDCs. This information will be shared within AID and with Congress and other organizations outside AID concerned with the implementation of the Percy Amendment."

**DATA SYSTEMS
REQUIRED**

To implement this policy, two types of data systems are required. The first is a system of socio-economic indicators to provide gross national statistics on an internationally comparable basis which describe the participation of women in important aspects of national life. The second is detailed sociological and antropological descriptive information on the position and status of women within a particular region or cultural subsection of a country. This information must detail the legal, cultural, health or time related opportunities and constraints to equal participation of women in the economic, educational, political, health, employment, managerial, financial and social life of the communities and nation. This second "data" system is necessary as a basis for developing meaningful programs and projects in host countries of differing cultural values.

**B. SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INDICATORS**

1. General Discussion

**"BELIEF ABOUT
FACTS"**

The need for basic socio-economic indicators in elucidating the status of integrating women into

national economics is paramount. Important decisions are now being made, and are going to be made in the next decade, which will affect international development programs designed to improve various sub-systems of the social and economic environment of less developed countries. Too often these decisions are based on "beliefs about facts." To the extent that these beliefs are distorted or erroneous, errors are made in social strategies that cost large amounts of money, create economic instability, disrupt cultural systems, or disenfranchise portions of the population.

CULTURAL BIASES

Cultural values in developed countries and beliefs about women's roles have worked against equal participation of women in many aspects of education and training, ownership, management, social and political participation, decision making, and legal rights. These cultural biases are carried over into international development programs by impositions of value systems and a "belief about facts" in the developing countries.

Special mandates, such as the "Percy Amendment", provide direction and guidance for development policy, programs and projects. Their implementation, however, is enhanced by a quantitative means of measuring progress toward achieving AID policy.

QUANTITATIVE OBJECTIVES

Program success and accomplishment of management functions are evaluated by progress made toward a specified objective. When faced with a management choice of devoting resources toward unquantified goals, such as integration of women into national economies, or quantified goals such as increased agricultural production, per capita gross national product or reduction in gross fertility rates, the managers tendency is to concentrate on the quantified goals. Quantification of all aspects of socially oriented goals is neither possible nor desirable. Those aspects that can be quantified in the form of social indicators must be elucidated by qualitative descriptions interpreting what they mean and how various indicators interrelate.

It is clear, however, that achieving progress in integrating women into national economics requires special efforts to develop and incorporate social indicators into on-going data systems.

NEED FOR
DATA BASE

It is not the intent of this report to reestablish the need for AID to develop a data base which addresses the role of women in LDC's. Congress, in its requirement to report on progress toward development of such information, makes clear its intent. AID's efforts to establish an economic and social data bank has shown its acceptance of the concept of using social indicators in program design and evaluation. This report will, therefore, concentrate on presenting and evaluating the progress of AID efforts in establishing a valid data base useful in carrying out the policy set forth in the Percy Amendment. In this section, the quantifiable aspects will be discussed.

COMPARISON WITH
ECONOMIC
INDICATORS

Reviewing the history of the development of a system of national income and products accounts leading to measures of gross national product is valuable as a guide to the development of indicators or measurements of people oriented or social progress. In the early 1920's efforts (by Wesley Mitchell) were directed toward observation and quantification of what happens during a business cycle. It took approximately fifteen years until in 1936, John Maynard Keynes published "The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money", identifying the makeup of national income and national product. Eight years later the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom moved toward the creation of a unified system of national accounts divided into economic sectors.

GNP

The great achievement of national income and products accounts is that they enable us to sum up the incredible diversity of economic transactions into a manageable set of meaningful numbers indicating how much an economy has grown or declined over a specified period.

A single unified indicator of social status and progress for women has not been developed or universally accepted. As with economic measures, social measurements are routinely taken in a number of separate and meaningful "accounts". Some of these, such as enrollment in the formal educational system are measured with relatively high accuracy and frequency. Others, such as employment by sector, status and unemployment, may be measured periodically but with less accuracy. Still others are measured only infrequently in association with national censuses or large surveys.

SECTION 102 (d)
REPORT

In February 1977, AID published a report to congress, pursuant to Section 102(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act, entitled "Socio-Economic Performance Criteria for Development." In that report the status, progress and problems associated with international data collection, analyses and use of meaningful indicators in program decision making is presented. The report stresses the lack of an internationally comparable data base for most meaningful social indicators. It also points out problems associated with data collection in LDC's. Some of these problems are the result of lack of uniformity in survey design, methodology, and quality control. Others are caused by small sample size and infrequency of measurement. These problems lead to statistics or data with large variations. The report does, however, present some of the work under way to encourage research and development of socio-economic indicators that can be useful to development decision makers.

The reader is commended to the above referenced report. We would include it by reference in the discussion, rather than repeat the detailed discussion presented therein. The reader is especially commended to the paper by William Paul McGreevey, entitled "Issues in Measuring Development Performance", included as an appendix. His recommendations deal with what can be done with present data files and modifications of present data collection systems. They are particularly pertinent in view of the current need for sex differentiated data to meet the goals of the women in development mandate.

MEASURES OF
WOMEN'S
PARTICIPATION

The lack of a universally accepted general index of social status of progress for women in developing countries should not preclude the use of individual measures of women's participation in education, organizations, decision making functions, employment, or their health levels and economic status. Many countries receiving AID support are collecting data on these factors with sex differentiation intact. Others are not, or aggregate the data before they are released.

DATA
AGGREGATION

Herein, lies one of the vexing problems of current socio-economic data reporting. Because of the lack of uniformity in data collection systems in host countries, much of the useful information that would describe the role of women is not presented. International organizations presenting national socio-economic statistics aggregate data to the exclusion of both sex and geographical specificity. A review of primary data sources in developing countries discloses that some of the data relevant to women's role or status definition are collected on a routine or periodic basis. In these instances emphasis must be placed on analyzing or reporting the data in a form useful to national and international planners. In other instances, the mechanism for national data collection is in place but requires the inclusion of sex differentiating data collection, analysis and reporting.

2. Indicators Within the Context
of WID Objectives

WORLD PLAN
OF ACTION

Congress stresses evaluation of the impact of AID programs on the:

*"incomes, productivity and literacy of women,
and the level or extent of their participation
in the development process."*

This emphasis, although not as inclusive as that of the UN World Plan of Action, bears similarity in its recognition of the important role women play in the development process. In terms of

economic activity, the World Plan of Action has specific recommendations for 1975-1980 achievement goals. These include:

- Increased employment opportunities for women, reduction of unemployment and greater efforts to eliminate discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment.

- Recognition of the economic value of women's work in the home, in domestic food production and marketing and voluntary activities not traditionally remunerated.

EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY

In order to design and evaluate AID programs and projects directed toward the Section 113 mandate, measures of the level of integration of women into national economics must be obtained. These measures must include paid economic activity and remuneration for both women and men, and must be expanded to include other types of activity which contribute to overall production and economic well-being.

Herein, is another major problem associated with measuring women's participation levels in the development process. Economic contribution is traditionally measured by work force participation indicators. The flaws of these indicators, in terms of underaccounting for female economic contribution, are discussed in detail in recent literature. For example, a rural woman may not think of time she spends in subsistence farming as economic activity and thus fail to report what may be a significant contribution to the family's production. This is of little concern to many economists for whom the household is the production and consumption unit of interest. However, when capacity of the household to improve true income status is of concern, or when projects are being designed to improve agricultural production, it is imperative that the traditional view of economic activity or "work" be expanded to include nonpaid production. It should be noted that underrepresentation may also occur for segments of the male population because the system of identification and evaluation of economic activities is based on developed and industrialized country concepts.

As previously discussed in this report, whenever routinely collected data are available they should be utilized and, wherever possible, presented for both male and female components. A number of socio-economic indicators are currently being collected in many developing countries. AID's efforts should be expanded to obtain these indicators for both male and female participation. It must be borne in mind, however, that for certain employment categories, especially agricultural workers, current indicators of women's activity levels are not usable. The following indicators, however, are relatively widely available and generally accepted by the economic and governmental communities:

1. Economic Activity
 - a. Participation rate, general
 - b. Occupational classes
 - c. Occupation in agricultural/non-agricultural groups
 - d. Industry
 - e. Status (employer, employee, self-employed)
2. Wages, salary or other remuneration for economic activity
3. Responsibility as the principal provider of food, clothing and shelter, traditionally defined as "head of household"

"ACTIVITIES
WHICH COUNT"

To realistically evaluate a nation's economy, and to provide a sound basis for achieving the integration of women's goals, a thorough examination of existing conditions must be made. Values for the above parameters for the economic and production activities of both women and men are needed. Furthermore, a redefinition or refinement of terms traditionally used to define economic activities must occur. Definitions of activities which "count" in an economic sense must include time spent as unpaid family workers, a concept which is being introduced in some of the more recent censuses and surveys. In addition, part time involvement in small businesses, industries, and trading or marketing must be included among economic activities. Increased efforts must be made to elicit information concerning such activities from respondents to surveys or censuses. There must also be considerable effort expended to impress upon those

responsible for data tabulation, analysis and reporting, the necessity and advantages of providing separate and comparable indicators of levels and types of economic activities of women and men. Where these activities differ in level or kind in different geographic parts of the country, or from urban to rural areas, the same type of information must be available regionally also. Personnel responsible for project design and evaluation usually recognize the importance of having data in disaggregated form for various target populations. Too often, those responsible for producing indicators and statistics concerning economic activities are directing their efforts toward providing one, national level, aggregated number and do not maintain the data in their disaggregated forms.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

The concept of "Head of Household" is presenting major problems in efforts to evaluate women's roles in developing economies. It is usually assigned to adult males, and only assigned to a woman when no adult males are present in the household. In developed countries, it has historically been associated with earning outside income or financial responsibility for food, clothing and shelter. This concept is obviously inappropriate for many countries receiving AID funds, and needs to be replaced by a true measure of the food/clothing/shelter responsibility. This responsibility may result directly from paid labor, from unpaid domestic food and fiber production, or indirectly as the responsibility for ensuring that the necessities are provided through the efforts of other family members including children. By no means is this primary responsibility limited to adult males in many AID countries. Identification of where the responsibility lies is important for many projects where family decision makers are the target group. It is also clearly necessary to aid in the evaluation of the roles and status of women.

EDUCATION

The World Plan of Action recommendations stress improvement of educational opportunities for women and recognize the importance of improved training in economic activities traditionally done by women as well as increasing their abilities to compete in sectors frequently reserved for men. These recommendations are:

- Coeducational technical and vocational training extended to women and men in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

- Equal access to education at every level, compulsory primary education for all, and action taken to prevent school dropouts.

- A marked increase in literacy and civic education of women, especially in rural areas.

The concept of participation in formal educational levels may differ from country to country making a careful analysis necessary. Enrollment data, summarized primarily from administrative records, are generally reported separately for males and females although they may be aggregated for comparisons among countries.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The highest level of educational attainment is usually obtained from surveys and censuses, and it too is initially reported by sex and age. These data may not reveal an accurate perspective of educational attainment of various target populations (e.g. men and women, urban and rural) unless presented on the basis of highest grade completed rather than highest level completed. Level of education refers to primary, secondary, etc., and highest level completed, clearly understates the degree of educational attainment, particularly for women, who may participate but drop out before completion of a level. Grade completion data are, however, more difficult to obtain, although frequently gathered on that basis in the original surveys.

LITERACY

Educational achievement as measured by the ability to read is a widely used indicator. Although the definitions differ from country to country, and indeed sometimes from survey to survey within a country, comparisons of female and male literacy rates are fairly accurate when obtained from the same source. As with the measures of literacy among the total population, standardization of definitions must occur before complete comparability of literacy rates for women of different countries and over time will be achieved. This should not, however, be construed as an argument in any form against recording and publishing available literacy data, with sex differentiation, for AID countries.

Reviews of various data bases, show that the most widely available measures of comparative educational participation by women and men in developing countries are:

1. Enrollment (level)
2. Attainment (level)
3. Literacy (adult)

NONFORMAL EDUCATION

Nonformal education, defined as structured learning in a nontraditional or nonformal setting is an essential activity aimed at enabling those women and men who are denied the opportunity of a formal education to participate in the development process. Since centralized administrative records are not available for this type of education, and the subject is not normally explored in censuses or demographic surveys, special purpose studies and surveys are required to accumulate and report on the availability of nonformal educational programs and participation by women in developing countries. The resulting information has not normally been reported in a format allowing quantitative comparisons among countries but where available, is a valuable addition to an "information base" concerning women.

CONSTRAINTS ON WOMEN

As with any data base, certain characteristics of the target population must be reported because of their relationship to, and potential impact on the direct indicators of interest. Women's participation in economic activities is influenced by time, health, social and legal constraints in addition to the educational requirements.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Time constraints to full economic activity include household labor, child care, provision of water, food, fuel and clothing, subsistence farming and provision of care to the sick and aged. Studies of the allocation of time among various activities is one of the few methods available for determining time constraints to full participation in the development process. These data, expensive and themselves time consuming to obtain, are scarce and seldom appear in nationwide data bases concerning developing countries.

CHILD CARE

Child care is one major factor affecting both the amount of time a woman can devote to economic activities and the type of activity in which she can participate. Thus, lacking specific time allocation studies, measures of fertility can provide some insight into constraints to participation in the development process. Age specific fertility rates, the total number of children born to a woman, together with marital or union status, and age at first union supply information concerning some of

the factors affecting women's responsibilities. As such, they provide indirect measures of time constraints on participation in traditional educational programs and the pursuit of economic activities outside the home. These indirect measures have the advantage of being components of most ongoing data collection systems. They should, however, be looked upon as only a small part of the ideal data base, and as supplementary to the invaluable, but currently unavailable, time allocation information. Until time budget data are available, the AID/WID data base should contain at least the following information concerning women in developing countries:

1. Marital status (including consensual union category)
2. Age at first union
3. Age specific fertility rates
4. Children ever born

As with the more direct economic and educational indicators, if significant differences exist between urban and rural women and among women in various parts of the country, these differences should be available for the use of project design teams and project evaluators.

HEALTH CONSTRAINTS

Health oriented constraints to participation by women include general nutrition and health status, especially during pregnancy and lactation. These are in addition to time constraints imposed by the role of the deliverer of health care to family members. General health status is seldom known. Its most frequent surrogate occurs in the form of life tables and life expectancy, i.e., measures of the ultimate results of various levels of health conditions. Nutritional surveys, usually reported on a household basis, could also provide an indirect measure of some aspects of general health if available for individuals rather than households. It is often stated that women in many developing countries have poorer diets than men, even though during pregnancy and lactation their requirements are critical. However, little data are available to either prove or disprove these statements. Visits to health care facilities cannot be used as an indication of health status since lack of such visits may reflect neglected health rather than good health. Thus, other than micro studies aimed specifically at providing health status information,

life expectancy, life tables and related statistics, such as maternal death rates, are the only type of nationwide data generally available which hint at the relative health status of men and women. Further insight to health constraints must come from in-depth micro studies of the health status of women in developing countries and how it affects their activities. It will take many years before enough information can be compiled on a nationwide basis to produce a comprehensive "data base." Where available, results of pertinent studies should be included as a part of the profile of women in areas or countries.

Currently collected data, as mentioned above, which can provide some insight include:

1. Life expectancy, life tables
2. Maternal deaths

EXISTING
INDICATORS

The primary emphasis of the congressional mandate to AID is upon the integration of women into national economies. The various indicators described above constitute a collection of the most widely available data having some relationship to women's economic activity. However, two points should be stressed. First, these parameters are more widely available than others because they have been generally accepted as necessary for social planning by national governments and international organizations. Their usefulness lies in the likelihood of continued efforts to improve their accuracy and comparability, even in the absence of universally accepted goals for women. Their collective weakness lies both in their inadequate conceptualization and measurement of women's needs and participation levels, and in the difficulty of instituting needed refinements because of long-standing acceptance of current definitions. In addition, changes in definition, if not carefully handled, erase the possibility of longitudinal comparisons.

The second point is that some information relating to the constraints to women's participation, such as legal restrictions and social attitudes, cannot be effectively formulated in terms of internationally comparable data. And yet, these are important factors affecting the role played by women, and their desire and ability to be integrated into the economic system of their nation. These subjects must be explored and included in a general descriptive profile of women before AID projects can be designed to meet the "women in development" goals.

C. THE AID DATA BASE

1. Country Comparable Data - International Organizations

DATA ON LDCs

There are a number of international organizations involved in various aspects of data collection, accumulation, analysis and reporting activities. Considerable effort is required to accumulate information from the large number of countries recipient of AID funds. Because the AID mandate directs program emphasis with LDCs, recipients are frequently among those countries with the least sophisticated data collection and analysis systems. For these countries, the resource requirement to analyze data for consistency and accuracy, and develop a data base that can be used for comparison of information among the various countries is often difficult to obtain. Because of the difficulty and large expenditure of resources to achieve the data comparability status, AID has, in the past, relied heavily upon information received from these generally accepted international sources of country comparable data. For this reason, it is important to examine those data bases and their sources to determine the type of information concerning women in the developing countries that is available to AID.

UN AGENCIES

The United Nations has several organizations with responsibility for accumulating and reporting data within specific areas of investigation. Statistical publications issued by the United Nations and the specialized agencies include the "Demographic Yearbook" published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Statistical Office, the "World Health Statistics Annual" published by the World Health Organization, the "Statistical Yearbook" compiled by UNESCO, the "Yearbook of Labour Statistics" from the ILO and "Production Yearbook" supplied by the FAO.

The data contained in these yearbooks and other periodical publications are obtained through the cooperation of national statistical services and, in general, represent the official statistics for those countries where data are available. These

data have been subjected to some analysis and summarization. The UN includes remarks concerning the reliability of the data and the limitations connected with its use. In some instances, estimates prepared by the United Nations have been used to supplement official statistics.

DATA PROBLEMS

Demographic information and data relating to individuals within the population, such as educational attainment and economic activity, are normally defined in terms of the male and female components of the population in UN publications. The most frequently mentioned problems associated with using this information center around the fact that the "official" statistics which are received from national statistical offices may be influenced by country policies. Thus, statistics may represent the state of affairs which a national government wishes the remainder of the world to believe, rather than the best available representation of existing conditions. This argument is over and above the multitude of problems associated with collecting accurate and comparable data from a group of independent nations, many of whom are only now realizing the value of developing good data systems. An additional problem associated with the UN publications is that frequently information is restricted to national level statistics, and does not provide information for regions of a country which may be necessary for AID project design and evaluation processes. In spite of these limitations, the UN publications do represent a valuable source of information concerning women in developing countries.

UN DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK

The most recent UN Demographic Yearbook was published in 1976 and represents information through the year 1975. Information in the yearbook relates to over 220 nations throughout the world. Specific information, however, is presented only for those nations for which data are considered valid. The following tables, with a sex breakdown, appear in the "Demographic Yearbook."

<u>Title of the Table</u>	<u>Urban/Rural Breakdown</u>	<u>Number of Countries</u>
1. Population by Age	x	160
2. Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates by Age	x	137

<u>Title of the Table</u>	<u>Urban/Rural Breakdown</u>	<u>Number of Countries</u>
3. Death by Age	x	155
4. Death Rates Specific for Age	x	98
5. Expectation of Life Specified Ages		164
6. Marriages by Age of Bridegroom and by Age of Bride		84
7. Live Births	x	182
8. Live Births by Age of Mother	x	84
9. Death Rates Specific for Marital Status, Age		—

In addition to the tables which provide a sex breakdown, several tables are included in the Demographic Yearbook which are specific to women and in general are concerned with natality and fetal mortality as a function of the age of the mother.

ILO YEARBOOK

The ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics includes tables of the total and economically active population by sex and age groups. As discussed under the section on Social Indicators, the information contained in this yearbook is subject to the definitions of economic activity imposed from the developing countries. Nevertheless, with respect to the occupations and industries considered to be "modern," especially those in the nonagricultural sectors, some comparative information can be obtained concerning the economic activities of the male and female populations of a country.

UNESCO STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

The UNESCO Statistical Yearbook contains several tables which provide educational parameters for total population and for females. These include educational attainment, by the level of formal education attained and educational enrollment in the various levels of the formal education system. The levels of formal education include the primary level (which may vary from four to eight years in various countries), secondary level which includes

general secondary education, teacher training and vocational education aimed at preparing a pupil directly for a trade or occupation other than teaching. The 1974 Statistical Yearbook provides a breakdown of the total and female enrollment at the first level by grades. This information is important for distinguishing among those countries wherein the female population is more active in the first few primary grades but diminishes in activity and attendance substantially in the latter years of the first level. This Yearbook does not provide information specific to the urban and rural segments of populations nor does it provide data concerning the enrollment of both the male and female components of population in the various regions of a country.

UNRISD
DEVELOPMENT
INDICATORS

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development was established to:

"conduct research into problems and policies of social development and relationships between various types of social development and economic development during different phases of economic growth."

As a part of its function, this Institute has compiled a data bank of measures of social and economic development. The compilation of indicators for 1970 was published in 1976 in a three-volume report entitled "Research Data Bank of Development Indicators." In that report, the availability of economic versus social indicators is discussed.

"Data are quite widely reported for economic indicators.....coverage is also relatively extensive for certain social indicators for which data are obtained as a by-product of registered administrative or economic activity.....other social and demographic data are less widely available. Particularly in the least developed countries, information about the household sector is still one of the major gaps in statistics.....the 1970 data bank contains in addition to a more conventional set of social and economic development indicators, a group of indicators giving male and female figures and a group of background indicators."

PROBLEMS WITH
NATIONWIDE
AVERAGES

This quotation addresses one of the major problems associated with accumulating a data base which includes a female component. In general, the economic and social indicators which have been given

the most emphasis and the most careful analysis do not include sex classification or the characterization of the regions within a country. The reason is obvious; the data bases are aimed at providing a quick comparative picture for a set of countries. Information concerning various subgroups can blur rather than sharpen the focus when a brief overview is the emphasis. In addition, the considerable amount of time and effort required to provide comparable data from the world's countries is doubled each time a male-female component is produced or each time a urban versus rural characterization is required. Furthermore, the flaws discussed under the Social Indicator section become more apparent and more troubling when the attempt is made to provide the sex breakdown information.

UNRISD
INDICATORS

The statistical unit of the UN Research Institute for Social Development does, however, utilize the following indicators with sex breakdown. They are believed to be of significance and available for sufficiently large proportion of the countries and are comparable or could be made comparable both laterally across countries and longitudinally across time:

1. Expectation of life at birth, available for 76 of the 120 countries included in the data bank.
2. Female as percent of total primary enrollment, available for 101 of the 120 countries.
3. Combined primary and secondary education enrollment as percent of population 5-19, available for 78 of the countries.
4. Vocational education enrollment as percent of population 15-19, available for 59 of the countries.
5. Higher education enrollment per 1,000 population 20-29, available for 83 countries.
6. Economically active population in manufacturing industries (ISIC DIC. 3) as percent of population 15-59, available for 49 countries.

7. Professional, technical and related workers (ISCO DIV. 0-1) as percent of population 15-59, available for 47 countries.

UN GUIDELINES
FOR SOCIAL
INDICATORS

The United Nations, in addition to compiling a data bank from existing data, is making attempts to influence the type and quality of information which is gathered in various countries of the world. Towards this end, the UN Economic and Social Council, through a statistical commission, is preparing guidelines on social indicators within the framework of a system of social and demographic statistics. The purpose of these guidelines is to aid countries and interested international agencies in considering how to proceed with their work on social indicators, within the context of their own statistical priorities and interests. The social indicators suggested in a report by the Statistical Commission in 1976 ("Social and Demographic Statistics; Draft Guidelines on Social Indicators") include eleven general subjects for which statistics should be gathered. Explicit suggestions are made for indicators for each subject. The eleven general categories are as follows:

1. Population
2. Family formation
3. Learning and educational services
4. Earning activities and the inactive
5. Distribution of income, consumption and accumulation
6. Social security and the welfare services
7. Health and health services
8. Housing and its environment
9. Public order and safety
10. Allocation of time and use of leisure
11. Social stratification and mobility

Where appropriate, the Statistical Commission has included the sex breakdown of the various indicators. It also recommends age, urban/rural and geographic area characterizations. The list includes many indicators commonly included in census and survey reports, such as population age-sex pyramids, educational achievement, family size and labor force participation. It also includes information generally unavailable at present, such as health indicators relating to the prevalence and severity of injuries, the incidence of communicable diseases and the per capita energy and protein intake of both males and females. Other nontraditional suggestions include time allocation studies.

If adopted in their entirety by each nation, the set of social indicators suggested in the draft guidelines would provide important information concerning women in developing countries. It is highly unlikely that this will occur in the foreseeable future. If it did, the information obtained concerning women in developing countries would still be incomplete, if the concepts, categories, and definitions in use remain tied to developed country concepts.

"BUILT-IN"
INACCURACIES

Data collection systems in use frequently provide inaccurate information about the females of the population. For example, vital registration systems in some countries do not accurately report the births of females, particularly if the baby dies at an early age. Secondly, many developing countries use only males as census enumerators or survey workers. This encourages the interview to take place between the male interviewer and the male "head of household." It inadvertently contributes to an underenumeration of the female population and to less accurate reporting of information concerning the female members of households.

UN ASSISTANCE
PLAN REDUCED

In recognition of these problems, the United Nations is investigating ways that developing countries can, with minor modifications to their data collecting systems, improve the quality of the information concerning women. Originally a year-long effort was planned to improve the quality of the data being collected concerning women in developing countries. Unfortunately, this effort has been reduced to a three month investigation. Efforts along these lines are critical at this particular time when the 1980 round of censuses is getting underway. Continuance of this program should be considered by AID.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank accumulates a set of social indicators for the approximately 150 countries which are members of the World Bank system. These indicators are published in the "World Tables." The World Bank also makes their data available in the form of computer tapes and are used directly by AID. Until recently, the World Bank social indicators did not include any breakdown by sex. However, an expanded system of social indicators has recently been adopted and does include the following information relating to women:

1. Education
 - a. Adjusted enrollment ratios, primary (total and female)
 - b. Adjusted enrollment ratios, secondary (total and female)
2. Employment
 - a. Female labor force (percent of total)
 - b. Female participation rate (percent)
3. Family planning, users (percent of married women)

Although some review and analysis of the data in their expanded data base is contemplated by World Bank personnel, much of the information used is obtained directly from the published reports of the various UN organizations or from specific computer printouts requests. Additional information, if required, is supplied by the country desks of the World Bank organization. That additional information is also usually of a secondary nature.

SPECIAL STUDIES

An increasing awareness of the importance of obtaining information on women in developing countries has resulted in a number of special studies focusing specifically on women and their roles. Almost universally, the studies and reports contain caveats indicating the lack of information, the questionable quality of the information that is used and the cry for an expanded look at the development of a data base concerning women. The "Handbook of International Data on Women" is a reference book in which information extracted from the United Nations publications and other sources

is brought together to form a data base. As with the "World Tables" produced by the World Bank, the woman specific data found in the "Handbook of International Data on Women" has been compiled on computer tape and are available from the Boulding Global Data Bank in Colorado.

"WOMEN ONLY"
DATA

Many other organizations throughout the United States and the world have data banks or sets of information concerning social indicators. Still others are working specifically in the area of data on women in various geographical regions or various aspects of their lives. One major problem is that data dealing exclusively with women are restricted in use to projects specifically concerned with women. They are seldom incorporated into those general data bases supplied to decision makers and project designers in various agencies. Therefore, unless a project is being developed specifically for women, use of the information obtained for the women-only data bases is not widespread. Nevertheless, it appears that the establishment of such data bases may be the best vehicle for the introduction of new concepts relating to the measure of a woman's economic activities and the factors which constrain choices regarding the level and type of activities in which she engages.

INTER-AMERICA
COMMISSION OF
WOMEN

A report by a special committee of the Inter-America Commission of Women for the World Conference of International Women's Year (CIM) include data on female participation in economic activities and on factors thought to influence the participation levels. Because of reliance on census information, these data are more reflective of participation in "modern" activities involving direct monetary remuneration than of total economic participation. However, the report does represent an effort to bring together statistics on women in a country comparable format. Literacy rates, educational achievement and legislative conditions in various countries are also reported. Recognizing the problems that exist with current data, the report outlines programs designed to define data needs, to expend efforts to influence the types of data being generated (including the 1980 round of censuses) and to accumulate and analyze data concerning women on an ongoing basis.

UN ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America has recognized the need for obtaining and reporting statistics on women. In a draft report dated June 1977, the commission lists twenty action proposals concerning the collection and analysis of information on the status of women. Included among these action items are proposals to improve criteria for describing the participation of women in "productive activities", to improve the registers and information concerning personal and family events and to improve criteria used for collecting statistics on women heads of families.

UN ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR
AFRICA

The UN Economic Commission for Africa compiled a data base for African women in a report prepared in 1974. This report includes the results of micro studies concerning women's economic activities, in addition to the usual statistics derived from censuses, national surveys and administrative records. Because the micro studies were directed to compiling as much relevant data as possible about women's economic activities, they used more expansive definitions of what "counts", or what is included in the definition of economic activities. A comparison of the results of these micro studies, with results reported by organizations such as ILO are used to point out the data discrepancies that exist because of different criteria used to determine what "counts".

Many additional data gathering activities, relating specifically to women, could be cited. The point to be made, however, is that some progress toward developing a data base for women, however slow, is being made within the network of international organizations. AID, with its heavy reliance upon external data sources, can expect to find ever expanding sources to fill its requirements for data concerning women's integration into national economies.

2. Country Comparable Data - AID

SOCIAL INDICATORS

AID is placing increasing efforts in the establishment of a data base that includes both social and economic indicators of conditions existing in recipient countries. To explore the range of available indicators and determine their applicability to LDCs, AID funded Iowa State University to conduct a special study. The final report of that study, dated April 1977, summarizes the history of the development of social indicators and various methods used to design indicators for LDC planning. Measurements or indicators that have been proposed for planning in health, nutrition, education, demography and agriculture are discussed in supplemental reports. The report contains a bibliography of several hundred documents addressing development and social indicators.

"DUALISM"

Although this report does not specifically address the issue of measuring participation of women in development, it does stress the problems associated with "dualism" (the fragmentation of national populations into those engaged in "modern" economic activities and those in "traditional" activities) as related to ethnic subgroups. The report further stresses that nationally aggregated indicators are not adequate because of population fragmentation. The analogy to arguments against aggregating participation indicators for men and women, is clear.

HEAD OF
HOUSEHOLD

Another effort to improve methodology used to establish women's participation in development, is an interregional project funded by AID to explore the subject of female headed or female based households. In conjunction with a related effort on measuring development goals, this project addresses the implications of the female-based household and the design of methods for measuring their comparative participation in society and the economy.

PRIORITY

The activities described above are crucial to determining progress in involving women in economic development. Yet, these efforts represent only a small portion of the resources available to AID for the overall collection and analysis of information needed for effective project planning and evaluation. Development of baseline data specifically directed toward that necessary to implement the Percy Amendment, receives low priority within AID.

DATA FROM
OTHER PROJECTS

It must, however, be noted that many AID sponsored projects involving data collection make important contributions to the general level of knowledge about women. These efforts, stressing country and longitudinal comparability, contribute to the data base for women by virtue of the following two factors:

1. Women are people. Demographic data and administrative records are normally collected by sex. Therefore, AID efforts to improve the quality of these kinds of data and to make the results country comparable, generally improve the quality of the data base for women.
2. Women are viewed as the keystone in population control. Target populations are usually defined as the married females under the age of 50. Family planning programs emphasize the role of women in the fertility cycle. They frequently stress the importance of collecting information concerning the education, economic activities and other characteristics which potentially affect the fertility level of the target population.

OTHER
INTERREGIONAL
DATA PROJECTS

Several interregional programs receiving population planning funds are related directly to the collection, compilation and analysis of demographic and population information in the LDCs. For example, the 1978 fiscal year submission to congress included the following programs:

1. Demographic Data Collection and Analysis.

PURPOSE: To develop a comprehensive program for the Sahel in order to build an indigenous capability in demographic planning, research and analysis and family planning.

2. World Fertility Survey.

PURPOSE: To assist a large number of interested countries, particularly developing countries, in carrying out nationally representative, internationally comparable, scientifically designed and conducted surveys of human fertility and fertility regulating behavior.

3. Evaluation of Family Planning Program Effectiveness.

PURPOSE: To assess the demographic impact of family planning in less-developed countries and to train personnel in LDCs in techniques of family planning evaluation.

4. Measurement of Demographic Changes.

PURPOSE: To improve systems for recording vital events; to implement sample registration systems; and to utilize the data generated by these and other systems to measure the demographic impact of family planning programs.

5. 1980 Round of Censuses.

PURPOSE: To provide training, methodological and technical assistance to developing countries in support of their census operations in the 1980 period.

6. Birth and Death Data Collection Systems.

PURPOSE: To design and implement in-country surveys, or add on to existing surveys (as opposed to building new registration systems or censuses), to obtain and analyze fertility and mortality levels and trends in countries which have inadequate data collection systems for generating continued, timely, and reliable demographic data.

7. Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys.

PURPOSE: To carry out repetitive sample surveys of contraceptive prevalence in several less-developed countries (LDCs) with active public and/or private sector family planning programs.

8. Demographic Data Collection in Asia.

PURPOSE: To utilize the institutional capabilities of the East-West Population Institute (EWPI), established with AID support, where Asians and Americans can work together to expand their knowledge and capabilities in seeking solutions to Asian/Pacific populations problems.

9. Compilation and Analysis of Population Data.

PURPOSE: To improve the quality, timeliness, and availability of demographic data from censuses, surveys, and vital registration systems pertinent to the population activities of AID.

10. International Fertility Research Program.

PURPOSE: To establish a program to carry out the following activities: (1) Develop study designs and data collection instruments for the gathering of comparative data on various means of fertility control. (2) Enter into study agreements for the collection of comparative data on various means of fertility control with local clinicians doing the testing. (3) Train overseas clinicians in use of new fertility control techniques as aid in their data collection activities. (4) Analyze test data findings on fertility control.

11. Evaluation Initiative.

PURPOSE: To conduct broad scale evaluations of population/family planning situations (policies, strategies, administration, services, etc.) in less-developed countries.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC
PERFORMANCE
CRITERIA FOR
DEVELOPMENT

Many other examples of this type of effort could be given. The previously referenced AID document, "Socio-Economic Performance Criteria for Development" and its appendices address indicators used to measure progress in the social field, particularly as they relate to the issues of agricultural productivity, infant mortality, population growth, income distribution, and unemployment and underemployment. In that document, the problems of data collection, analysis and applicability are discussed at length. Also, the efforts of AID to assist in improving the ability of LDCs to design effective data systems are documented.

The International Statistical Program Center of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, supported primarily through AID funds, has supplied considerable technical assistance to improving current survey activities for collection of demographic data. Resident technical advisors and short-term advisors have been assigned to a number of countries for demographic surveys, statistical sampling, and data processing. These and other AID supported efforts to increase the capability of AID assisted countries in collecting and analyzing demographic data will improve the accuracy of knowledge about certain aspects of women's lives.

COUNTRY
PROFILES

A series of country specific demographic profiles is planned by the Bureau of the Census with AID support. To date, reports have been completed for Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, Panama, and Sri Lanka. Others are planned, or underway, in Jamaica, Honduras, Kenya, Republic of China, Chile, Mexico, Thailand, India, Republic of Korea, Indonesia and Brazil. To prepare these reports, analysts at the International Statistical Programs Center have drawn together a variety of demographic data from censuses, demographic surveys, reports from national statistical offices, AID and various UN organizations. Although reports have been completed for only a few countries, this effort represents a major attempt to provide country comparable demographic information. These reports include the following basic information on women;

1. Age distribution by sex;
2. Life tables and life expectancy by sex;
3. Marital status of women, ages 15 to 49 years, including the category of consensually married;

4. Measures of age at marriage for women;
5. Age-specific fertility rates;
6. Number of children ever born to women ages 15 to 49 years;
7. Percent of population, ages 6 to 19 years, enrolled in school, by sex;
8. Percent of population, ages 15 years and over who have completed school, by level and sex;
9. Percent literate, ages 15 years and over, by sex;
10. Percent of population economically active, by sex;
11. Distribution of labor force, by sex and industry;
12. Distribution of labor force, by sex and occupation;
13. Distribution of agricultural and non-agricultural workers, by sex and status.

Much of the information concerning women in the country profiles is directed toward an evaluation of their role in reproduction and population planning. Preparation of these country profiles is funded by the AID/Office of Population and reflects the basic data requirement of that office.

CENSUS BUREAU
MICROFILM FILE

Other international data accumulation activities of the Census Bureau are of considerable importance. A nearly completed effort is underway to microfilm for storage and computer access, the tabulations from major statistical reports of countries throughout the world. Both the index and data tables of each report is coded and can be accessed by the computer. To find the census information that may exist concerning the economic activity of women in a particular country, a computer search of the index is initiated and the resulting information used to access the accompanying microfiled tables. These services were used extensively in the preparation of this report to determine the type of information concerning women that are normally compiled and presented by national statistic offices.

If funds are available, the International Statistical Center of the Bureau of the Census should be engaged to use their existing information to prepare and publish a synthesis (in country comparable form) of the information concerning women which is available in country specific census and demographic survey reports.

WORLD
FERTILITY
SURVEY

As indicated above, the AID/Office of Population provides support to the World Fertility Survey by the International Statistical Institute. This survey is a carefully coordinated research program to assess the current state of human fertility throughout the world. Because women are viewed as the keystone to successful population control efforts, this survey stresses the collection of information about women between the ages of 15 and 49 who are or ever have been "exposed to the risk of child-bearing." By the time the project ends in 1982, an anticipated 50 developing countries will have completed fertility surveys under the World Fertility Survey Program.

The survey questionnaire consists of a basic household schedule and an individual core questionnaire. The household schedule can be used to determine household size and certain demographic information about each member. The individual core questionnaire is designed to provide demographic data on each female respondent. In addition, education, literacy, marriage, maternity histories, work history and other background information is provided. The work history information attempts to determine employment status, including activities in marketing, small businesses such as cottage industries, and family farming. Additional questionnaire modules investigate abortion, factors other than contraception which may affect fertility, family planning and general mortality. This survey, encompassing a nationwide sample, stresses data comparability and represents potentially valuable sources of information concerning certain aspects of women's lives, provided the effort is made to tabulate and analyze these data in a context broader than that associated with fertility determination.

The AID/Office of Population prepared a current (November 1977) compilation of world fertility patterns including age-specific and total fertility rates for 142 countries throughout the world. This represents a major effort at obtaining, evaluating and maintaining one element of the social indicator system.

SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC
DATA BANK

The AID/Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination had responsibility for developing a computerized system for storage, analysis and dissemination of social and economic data. Data stored in this system are intended to support the Agency's design, evaluation and monitoring activities. The economic and social data bank (ESDB) is the single agency-wide automated sources of such data.

AID DATA
SOURCES

In the past, the agency has relied on data sets obtained from the UN, the World Bank and the IMF. Information was extracted by hand from these reports and compiled into various sectors or regional reports. In transferring the data processing procedures to the computer file, the same types of information from the same agencies. This information with emphasis on national level, sex aggregated data has been transmitted to the AID computer. The data elements currently in the AID official computer file, do not contain much information of the comparative social characteristics of males and females.

NEED FOR
SEX SPECIFIC
DATA

Reviewing the official sources of AID social statistics as an indication of factors AID considers important, can cause some concern. The lack of data on women in official AID files may be interpreted to mean a similar lack of women in development concern. It is recognized that there are differences in the participation and benefit levels of men and women in AID programs in LDCs. One of the specific AID mandates, however, is to integrate women into developing economies. It is apparent, therefore, that the official AID data files should provide a sex breakdown of its social indicators. Similar breakdowns of data must occur for other segments of the population, such as the rural poor, who are the subject of another AID Congressional mandate. National level statistics on women do not provide, and are not the sole source of, information for specific project design. The AID official data sets are, however, used in preparing reports to Congress and other agencies. If for no other reason, fulfilling the requirements of the Percy Amendment, requires that AID Social and Economic Data files contain information, wherever practical, on a sex differentiated basis.

ADDITIONAL
COSTS

AID is considering expansion of the computer files to include sex breakdown of key social indicators. However, the costs associated with such an expansion of computer filing systems would require additional funding or readjustment of financial priorities.

INITIAL ARRAY
OF SOCIAL
INDICATORS IN
AID DATA FILE

AID Women in Development Office, recognizing the need for incorporating information concerning women into the AID official data file has initiated meetings with agency and interagency participation. The meetings have featured discussions led by representatives from the UN, Population Council, and various AID offices responsible for data collection. Progress is being made on selecting an initial array of important social indicators with male/female specificity for inclusion in the official AID Data file.

3. Country-Specific AID Studies

NONCOMPARABLE INFORMATION

As indicated above much of the information describing women's social and economic roles is unavailable or does not lend itself to the country comparable data format. With the exception of the World Fertility Survey, studies designed specifically to provide information about women are seldom conducted on a nationwide basis. However, in addition to the country comparable data resulting from censuses and large demographic surveys, there exists a much broader set of information about women in many AID countries.

WOMEN'S PROFILES

The requirements of the Percy Amendment have resulted in several AID sponsored efforts to assemble available information into a series of profiles of women. Some of these efforts have been formal AID projects resulting in the preparation of extensive reports on the roles and status of women. This approach was taken in El Salvador, the Philippines and Ghana. In others, the process is less formal with resources supplied by mission personnel. Reports on women in Nicaragua and Bolivia were done this way. The Asia Bureau has funded preparation of a women's profile for each AID assisted country in its region. Some of these profiles e.g. Philippines, are literature surveys of existing materials. The Thailand report, however, is based in part on the results of a survey designed specifically for the project.

COMPARABILITY

The women's profiles are not intended to generate or be used as a source of country comparable data. Early efforts were directed to obtaining a standard set of information from each country. The Asia Bureau reported a draft questionnaire and survey in Annex I of the 1976 "Progress Report to Members of the Senior Operations Group." In Korea, this model survey was completed by the Research Center for Asian Women at Sookmyung Women's University. It served to raise many questions. It has since been recognized that freedom to explore and report on the type of information most valuable for an understanding of women in each specific country is a necessary ingredient of a successful women's profile. Further follow-up, or use of the questionnaire or model survey in other countries, is not anticipated.

PHILIPPINE
STUDIES

A current study in the Philippines is directed toward determining indicators needed to monitor the level and changes in women's participation in development. The study has four components relating to methods for measuring and monitoring progress toward development goals, one of these relates specifically to women. In this study, experimental indicators of the degree of women's participation, both as contributors to development and as beneficiaries of the development process are proposed. The measures of contributions include allocation of time to various household and market productivity activities and degree of participation in the decision making process. Benefits are measured in terms of degree of access to and use of community services. The project plan calls for obtaining values for these parameters for both women and men so that comparisons between the sexes can be made.

VALUE OF
PROFILES

Section IV of this Report discusses specific projects and activities resulting in the women's profiles. These AID projects have a number of very valuable products.

1. They provide a central source of women specific information for the subject country.
2. They provide a compendium of information that also serves to focus on areas where information is not available.
3. They should sensitize both AID/mission and local officials to the current role and constraints on women in the subject country, and to suggest worthwhile projects.
4. They enhance the capabilities of local researchers and sensitize them also to women in development goals.

RECOMMENDED
PROFILE
EFFORTS

It is recommended that programs to develop women's profiles in all countries receiving AID support be continued, and the network necessary to maintain them in a current form be established. This latter factor is a requirement for sound project evaluation. The Percy Amendment requirements is more than just a fad or a project planning hurdle and the process of evaluating women's roles and status should be continued and expanded. An ongoing effort must be

made to update the women's profiles, if the information contained in them is to remain pertinent and useful. Ongoing analyses, if conducted in cooperation with women's organization or research centers in the host country, will also encourage the national statistical offices to report census, survey results and administrative records with sex breakdowns, and other appropriate classifications necessary to evaluate the integration of women into the economy.

SOCIAL
SOUNDNESS
ANALYSIS

AID has initiated a program of social soundness analysis. Guidelines were prepared in 1975 to provide the framework for the analysis of the social implications of proposed projects. The social soundness analysis is the result of an increased awareness that social factors and the knowledge of them are significant ingredients in the development of sound projects. The Near East Bureau, in implementing the social soundness analysis, is developing plans to send sociologists or anthropologists to areas where AID projects are proposed to analyze local conditions and the potential social impact of the project. To the extent that social soundness analysis recognizes that women and men, as well as people of different economic, social, age, ethnic, religious, and occupational groups can receive different levels of benefits or disbenefits from AID projects, it provides a useful information base to ensure that women receive equal consideration.

RELUCTANCE IN
ACCEPTING
SOCIAL FACTORS
IMPORTANCE

The importance of considering social factors in project design is not, however, universally recognized. A May 1977 AID Development Studies Program paper entitled "Social Analysis of Development Projects: A Suggested Approach for Social Soundness Analysis" states:

"Many people in development agencies agree that social cultural factors are significant to the success or failure of development projects, and some assert that these factors are of prime importance. But these assertions occur in private conversations rather than in official project papers; or if they do, only in the preamble, not in the project design and budget."

The Percy Amendment requires more than including a sex breakdown in currently available statistics, or studying the role of women in the population cycle, or searching the literature to compile all available data on women. The social soundness analysis

framework addresses some of the requirements of the amendment but does not necessarily provide the information needed to develop projects that increase women's participation levels. In order to attack that problem, specific studies must be undertaken to determine the type of projects that are most effective in integrating women into developing economies. To date, this type of program planning effort has dealt with economic and production systems. Integration of women and other human rights objectives have not received the highest planning priorities.

There are many other country-specific projects where information on women is being gathered merely because "women are people" or because "women are viewed as key in family planning efforts." Others with significant components of providing new types of information on women are described in Section IV. Of particular note is the eight country study of the effect of child care systems on women's integration into the development process. Conducted by the Overseas Education Fund of the League of Women Voters, this study is collecting and analyzing quantitative as well as qualitative information on the degree and manner prevailing child care systems operate as a constraint and to explore alternate models. Other projects aimed at expanding the boundaries of information known about women include the previously mentioned women head of household study, and an AID funded effort by the International Center for Research on Women designed to fill information gaps on women in rural areas. This study is: "A Preliminary Study in Three Countries" and is aimed at developing a low-cost methodology to provide needed data, especially relating to the time budgets of the rural women.

INQUIRE

AID is currently developing an information retrieval system for project documents, reports, descriptions and summaries. The INQUIRE system is used to search project paper abstracts for key words. Although the actual data generated by an AID project is not stored in this library, key words such as "women in development" are used to access abstracts of project papers and identify project numbers. This information, in turn, is used to access project papers and reports to obtain the information on women which may have been generated by the project.

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING DATA BANK

Another system, the Country Programming Data Bank (CPDB), uses special codes called AICS codes to access project information. This system has special codes for women in development projects or for those that include women as major benefactors of the project. These projects are coded by the project designer. There is, however, some discrepancy in how the codes are applied. Attempting to fulfill the Percy Amendment Mandate, many project designers perceive the requirement that all projects be designated as having women recipients and apply women in development code with greater frequency than warranted by project content. A cooperative effort with the information system managers and the AID/Women in Development office is necessary to develop special access codes for meaningful women in development projects to make this system truly functional in obtaining information or data that can be used for project design and evaluation.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC MICRO DATA SETS

AID is also compiling actual country-specific micro data sets from government agencies, universities and other sources throughout the world. A report on the availability of computerized cross sectional and longitudinal micro data sets is currently being printed. AID intends to investigate the data sets included in that report and to produce a library of those tapes that appear most compatible with AID data objectives. Many of these micro data sets include information on women. Some, particularly the fertility studies, provide information specifically concerning women. Few data sets directed at other aspects of women's lives have been identified. However, these micro data bases, when in place, can be used to provide certain data elements for the women in development profiles. This is a potentially important role since it is well recognized that the bits of data available for various countries throughout the world are stored in a variety

of places and have in the past not been accumulated in a central location. The task is immense, however, and will not reach its full potential value to the women in development effort until such time as more studies are designed to provide needed information on women.

MULTI-PURPOSE
HOUSEHOLD
SURVEY

Other efforts aimed at improving the general quality of information gathered on both women and men involves a cooperative effort with the World Bank to develop a multipurpose survey questionnaire. The basic economic and demographic modules of the questionnaire are contained in a 1977 report to the World Bank and AID, "A Multi-Purpose Household Questionnaire: Basic Economic and Demographic Modules." The format of the questionnaire represents a significant improvement in the type and sequencing of questions used to determine the extent of economic activity engaged in by women and benefits received.

CONTINUED NEED
FOR MICRO
STUDIES

This questionnaire provides for better accounting of the nonpaid family worker economic activities of women but does not recognize the economic value of women's work in the home or other volunteer activities. Fuel and water provision, food preparation, and provision of health and general social services for the family is farther from the accepted concepts of economic activity than those relating to unpaid family labor in food production, cottage industries or marketing. Obtaining information on these activities must continue to come from micro-studies rather than as a part of larger nationwide multipurpose surveys. AID must continue to place emphasis on conducting these definitive micro-studies as well as including their results in overall program and project planning.