



SOUTIEN POUR  
L'ANALYSE ET LA RECHERCHE  
EN AFRIQUE

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## **Assessment of CERPOD Institutional Capability**

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### **Identification of Potential Areas for Collaboration with SARA**

*Bamako, Mali: April 3-8, 1993*

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**Assessment of CERPOD Institutional Capability and  
Identification of Potential Areas for Collaboration with SARA**

Bamako, Mali  
April 3 - 8, 1993

***Purpose:*** The purpose of the trip to Bamako, Mali, was to explore opportunities for establishing linkages between the SARA project and the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Développement—CERPOD (Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development).

***Background***

Because the HHRAA Project seeks strong African participation in its research-agenda development, implementation, and dissemination, SARA has set as one of its 1993 workplan objectives to identify African institutions and set mechanisms to enlist their collaboration. CERPOD has been targeted as one of the potential African institutions that might be of support to the HHRAA implementation process, especially in francophone Africa. CERPOD is a semi-autonomous affiliate of the Sahel Institute—INSAH, created by the nine member countries of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel—CILSS (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal). CERPOD has carried out a wide range of research, training, and dissemination activities related to population and development in Sahelian and francophone Africa countries. Because of its regional prominence and expertise, CERPOD has the potential to serve as an important African institutional partner of the SARA Project in support of the HHRAA implementation process.

***Objectives***

The following objectives were set for the visit to Bamako, Mali:

1. To explain the goal and objectives of the HHRAA Project and the role of the SARA Project.
2. To learn about CERPOD's institutional capacity and how its programs are carried out.
3. To identify issues for research and analysis and dissemination activities that CERPOD might carry out in support of the HHRAA research-agenda development and implementation.

### ***Methods***

During the visit, I conveyed and gathered information by meeting with individuals and groups of individuals. I met with the Director of CERPOD and the key technical staff members. I met with the USAID Mission Director and the key HPN staff. I met also with other interested parties such as the Population Council representative.

In addition to meetings, I had the opportunity to review some key CERPOD working documents such as the 1991 & 1992 annual reports, the five-year working plan 1993-97. I visited the facilities, especially the computer room and the documentation center.

### ***CERPOD Institutional Capacity***

CERPOD's program is carried out by five technical divisions staffed by dedicated multidisciplinary professionals namely: demographers, economists, journalists, statisticians, computer specialists, and accountants.

The technical divisions are: Studies and Research, Training, Family Planning, Information, and Computer Science. The technical divisions have support from the Director and the division of Administration and Finance. CERPOD is overseen by a Scientific and Management Committee (CSG).

CERPOD has conducted a number of studies in the following priority domains:

- Integration of demographic variables into the planning process;
- Fertility, family planning and maternal health;
- Health and child survival; and
- Migrations and Urbanization.

CERPOD has sets of databases containing demographic and socioeconomic information for the Sahelian countries and even for some countries outside the Sahel. Some of those databases, such as census data and DHS data, have not been fully exploited. CERPOD has developed software and models (INTEGRA—Integration of Demographic Variables into the Planning Process; PAGE—Population-Agriculture-Environment) as tools for countries to better manage some of the information available.

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## ***Funding and Collaborating Agencies***

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The institutional strength of CERPOD comes also from its information dissemination activities. In addition to technical reports, scientific publications, and monographs, CERPOD regularly publishes a magazine called **PopSahel**. It has also developed a network of journalists in Sahelian countries to increase dissemination of population and development information.

CILSS member states usually turn to CERPOD for technical assistance for population related activities such as planning a census, developing a population policy, and organizing seminars on population issues.

### ***Funding and Collaborating Agencies***

CERPOD is funded by CILSS member states and international agencies. The 1991-1992 financial report showed that the main funding agencies were the United States Agency for International Development (39%), Canadian Agency for International Development (19%), CERPOD/CILSS (11%), Netherlands (9%), UNFPA (8%), Ford Foundation (4%), and others.

CERPOD has been managed as a semi-autonomous center under the INSAH. An internal accounting assessment was conducted by a management consultant. Consultations are being carried out with various CERPOD funding agencies to come up with a consensus on how to charge for overhead. CERPOD is awaiting an administrative restructuring after the Council of Ministers of CILSS is held the second week of May in Banjul, Gambia. It is not known how much the expected restructuring will affect the overall CERPOD management and performance.

CERPOD has a network of national, regional, and international collaborating agencies.

### ***Potential R&A Issues and Dissemination Activities***

#### ***1. Quality assurance of CERPOD's databases***

CERPOD has sets of databases from various sources. Those data sets might be very useful for secondary analysis on some of the potential R&A issues identified for the HHRAA research-agenda. CERPOD has expressed a need for technical assistance and support for assuring the quality and improving the storage of those data sets. The technical assistance would help to better organize the data for easier access and retrieval in the future.

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MACRO and CERPOD have planned a seminar on the analysis of the DHS data sometime in May. SARA may consider asking MACRO to carry out the task of quality assurance of CERPOD's data sets.

### **2. *Use of REDATAM for decentralized information management for planning***

CERPOD has submitted a proposal to the Canadian International Research and Development Centre for the dissemination and the promotion of REDATAM for use in African countries for decentralized information management.

REDATAM, as I understand, is a computer program that can help regionalize or decentralize the management of census data. It is a tool that can be useful in developing geographic information systems for planning and evaluating programs. It is said that national statistics institutes have been analyzing census data only on a national basis. They have never disaggregated data for use by regional and local institutions. REDATAM has been developed to fill that gap.

CERPOD would like SARA to join in the effort to promote the use of REDATAM by regional and local institutions such as health districts.

### **3. *Operational research on quality of family planning services***

CERPOD, in collaboration with The Population Council, organized training for professionals from selected francophone countries on operations research, especially situational analysis methodology. Senegal, Togo, and Cameroon were among the countries that sent participants.

A second training session was planned for this spring but The Population Council has not been able to fund it. CERPOD feels strongly about carrying on this OR training if funds were available.

The approach may be to initiate a study on a cross-cutting issue in selected countries. If there is a research topic that HHRAA wants to carry out, that needs a short-term field study in more than one francophone country, CERPOD might be able to carry out that task.

### **4. *Migration and Urbanization***

CERPOD has established a network of professionals in the Sahelian countries to look at the issue of migration and urbanization. A protocol has been developed to

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## ***Basic Education Initiative***

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study migration in selected urban areas in the Sahel countries. The study is planned to start this fall if the network receives the required funding.

The CERPOD contact person for this activity was not available during my visit. I didn't get much detail on the project. The network and the planned study sound like good opportunities that HHRAA and SARA might take to carry out research and analysis on issues related the migration and urbanization areas.

### ***5. Basic Education Initiative***

USAID Mission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has been collecting qualitative and quantitative data on the basic education project. Partial analysis of the data has been carried out regularly to include in the progress report of the project.

Ms. Chahenne of the USAID Mission mentioned that they sent a cable to AFR/ARTS/HRH expressing the need for some in-depth analysis of the data. The computer division of CERPOD might be able to help with the data management in Bamako if asked.

### ***6. Dissemination activities through CERPOD's media network***

CERPOD would like to conduct a three-phase intervention study on using its network of journalists to increase dissemination of health research information through some of the daily or weekly newspapers in African cities. CERPOD mentioned that with the increasing democracy movement, a number of newspapers are now being published in Africa. It is possible to get information to decision makers, opinion leaders, and a portion of the population by using these newspapers.

CERPOD is thinking about a study that consists of the following phases:

1. Review over a period of two to three months of two to four newspapers per participating country to see how much health information is now being published.
2. Workshop with selected journalists from the newspapers reviewed to discuss phase one findings and discuss some selected health research findings such as EPI coverage and malaria socioeconomic impact;
3. Repeat phase one about three months after the workshop.

### **7. *HIV/AIDS and STDs***

Discussions with CERPOD and the USAID Mission indicate the need for baseline descriptive studies to get a picture of the magnitude of HIV/AIDS and STDs in most of the Sahelian countries.

CERPOD mentions also in its plan of action the need to undertake study that will look at the interrelation of migration movements and polygamy (two common phenomena in the Sahel) with HIV and STDs.

### **8. *Population Policies in Sahelian Countries***

CERPOD has been providing technical assistance to Sahelian countries on the process of formulating a population policy. The next step CERPOD wants to take is to conduct an evaluation study on how countries are implementing their population policies.

### **9. *Other issues of interest***

The following topics were brought up as research issues that CERPOD may be willing to address if support is provided to develop research protocols:

- Socioeconomic impact of the structural adjustment;
- Infant feeding practices in the Sahel.

### ***Conclusion***

CERPOD has the institutional capacity and the regional significance to be one of the African institutions that SARA will establish linkage with for the implementation of some of the HHRAA project research, analysis, and dissemination activities for francophone Africa.

By the end of May 1993, the administrative and management changes of CERPOD will be known. After that, SARA can explore the mechanisms for executing a contract with CERPOD to carry out some specific activities. A first activity might be to have MACRO assist CERPOD in assessing the quality and the potential use of all the data sets it has.

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*List of Persons Contacted*

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**CERPOD:**

Nassour G. Ouaidou , Director  
Baba Traoré, Family Planning Division  
Mouhamadou Gueye, Studies and Research Division  
Diarra Fatima Diarra, Computer Division  
Moussa Dolo, Computer Division  
Hamdou Rubby Wane, Studies and Research Division  
El Hadj Bassirou Sow, Information Division  
Marcio Thome, The Population Council

**USAID MISSION:**

Charles Johnson, Mission Director  
Lynn D. Gorton, HPO  
Stephens Dorothy, TAACS Advisor  
Chahine Rassekh, Education  
Nlandu Mangani, Family Planning Project

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH:**

Abdoulaye ag Rhaly, Member of the CERPOD's Scientific and  
Management Committee.