

**USAID's Population and Family Planning
Assistance in Turkey**



Annual Report - 1995

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID population assistance to Turkey reached new heights in 1995, both in terms of financial obligation and contribution to a sustainable national family planning program. The largest international donor for population activities in Turkey, USAID contributed over \$7 million in technical assistance and commodities in 1995. In the spirit of a commitment to sustainable development, 1995 marked the first year of USAID's 5-year strategy to reduce technical assistance and phase-out contraceptive commodities. The Governments of the United States and Turkey signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting the strategy and reinforcing each partner's pledge to sustainable development and balanced population growth.

USAID continued to support family planning programs in both public and private sectors by providing technical assistance in the areas of policy, management, training, service delivery, and information, education and communication. US Cooperating Agencies (CAs) under contract with USAID worked with the Ministry of Health (MOH), Social Security Organization (SSK), medical schools, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector health service providers to improve the availability and quality of family planning services in Turkey.

Highlights of the 1995 program include:

- ◇ The MOH developed a National Strategy for Women's Health and Family Planning, assisted by USAID CAs
- ◇ The MOH launched a Contraceptive Self-Reliance Initiative, with support from OPTIONS, in response to USAID's planned phase-out of contraceptive commodities
- ◇ SEATS Project conducted a family planning cost-benefit study for the SSK. The SSK agreed to procure and provide contraceptives free of charge to their members, and expand family planning services to 82 SSK sites
- ◇ SOMARC, local NGOs, and a group of private health service providers established a private sector reproductive health network in two urban squatter areas in Istanbul
- ◇ JHPIEGO facilitated an agreement between the MOH and university medical schools to certify medical interns who receive the JHPIEGO family planning training program
- ◇ AVSC supported the launch of a broadscale post-partum and post-abortion family planning program in both the public and private sectors

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AVSC	Access to Voluntary and Safe Contraception
CA	Cooperating Agency
CBS	Community Based Services
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
FPLM	Family Planning Logistics Management
FPMD	Family Planning Management Development
FHTP	Family Health Training Project
GOT	Government of Turkey
HRDF	Human Resource Development Foundation
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IUD	Intrauterine Device
JHPIEGO	Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Reproductive Health
JICA	Japanese International Cooperating Agency
KAPS	Women's Health and Family Planning Service System
LMIS	Logistics Management Information System
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OB/GYN	Obstetrician-Gynecologist
PCS	Johns Hopkins University Population Communication Services
SEATS	Family Planning Service Expansion and Technical Support
SOMARC	Social Marketing for Change
SSK	Social Security Organization
TESK	Turkish Confederation of Tradesmen and Craftsmen
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

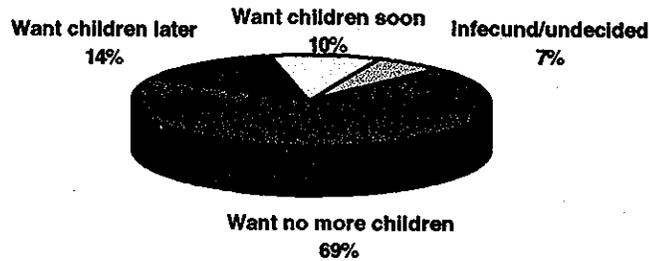
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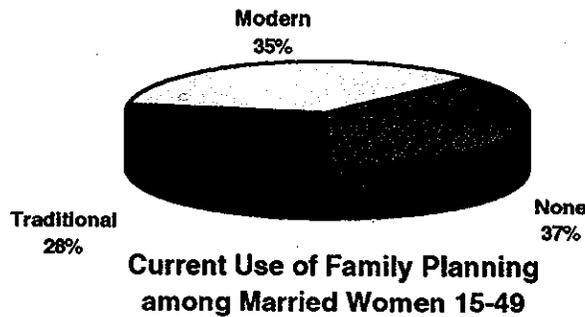
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BACKGROUND

For over a quarter of a century, USAID has provided funds to Turkey for population activities. In recent years, USAID has increased support for population programs in response to a growing demand for family planning in Turkish society. Turkey, with over 62 million inhabitants, ranks sixteenth in population size among the world's nations. The population is expected to double in 32 years. The total fertility rate is 2.7, but the average number of children that women of reproductive age desire is just over two. More than two-thirds of married women say they do not want any more children and 14% wish to delay their next pregnancy at least two years.



While overall contraceptive prevalence among married women is 63%, only about half of these women use modern methods. An estimated five million couples of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning.



The USAID population assistance program has three goals:

- ① Improve women's health
- ② Lower fertility
- ③ Reduce population growth rates to levels consistent with sustainable development

BACKGROUND cont.

Currently the largest contributor to population programs in Turkey, in 1994, USAID adopted a five-year (1995-1999) strategy to gradually *reduce* population-related technical assistance to Turkey. The program strategy, developed in partnership with the Government of Turkey, works to:

- ① **Encourage the Turkish Government to strengthen implementation of population policies**
- ② **Encourage non-governmental organizations to play a greater role in population and health programs**
- ③ **Improve coordination and communication between the private and public sectors involved in population and family planning**
- ④ **Use USAID resources effectively to support sustainable development**

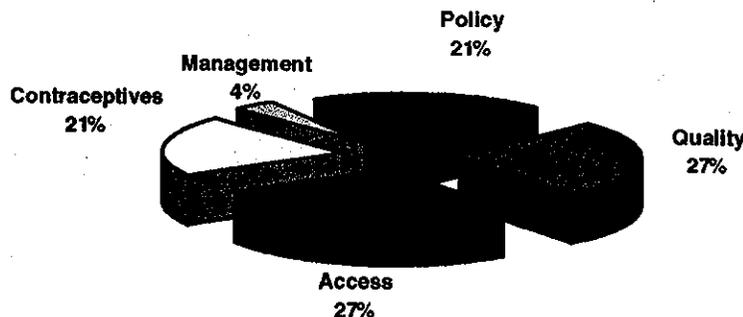
In July 1995, the governments of the United States and Turkey formally approved the five-year strategy. U.S. Ambassador Sally Shelton and Turkish Undersecretary of Health Omer Yildiz signed a Memorandum of Understanding as a commitment to future cooperation between the two countries in the fields of family planning and reproductive health.

There are three strategic approaches for achieving the program's strategic objectives:



Program activities correspond to these approaches and include interventions with the rapidly growing private sector and the existing public infrastructure.

In addition to technical assistance, USAID earmarked about 20% of the Fiscal Year 1995 Turkey budget for contraceptive commodities. 1995 was the first year of a five-year *phase-out* strategy for contraceptive commodities.



COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

A USAID Joint Programming Team coordinates the Turkey Population Assistance Program. The team includes representatives from the Global (G) and Europe and Newly Independent States (ENI) Bureaus of USAID and the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. Day-to-day management and technical oversight rest with the Embassy Population Advisor, a Michigan Population Fellow, and a State Department Economic Officer.

The Embassy team coordinates the activities of U.S. Cooperating Agencies (CAs) who are responsible for the implementation of program activities. CAs operate under contracts with the USAID Office of Population. CAs have different areas of technical expertise and represent U.S. universities, voluntary organizations and private companies that specialize in population and family planning.

In 1995, USAID awarded Field Support funds to the following CAs in Turkey:

AVSC International - Access to Voluntary and Safe Contraception
Family Planning Logistics Management (FPLM)
Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Reproductive
Health (JHPIEGO)
Johns Hopkins University - Population Communications Services (PCS)
John Snow Inc. - SEATS
Macro International - Demographic Health Surveys (DHS)
Management Sciences for Health - Family Planning Management
Development (FPMD)
Pathfinder International
The Futures Group International - SOMARC and OPTIONS II
University of Michigan International Population Fellows Program

The primary areas for CA technical assistance are policy, training, management and information, education and communication (IEC), and service delivery. Seven CAs have in-country offices and Turkish national country representatives. CAs work with a variety of Turkish public institutions and private sector organizations on program implementation. CAs coordinate their activities with each other and their local counterparts by preparing annual workplans and attending CA meetings every two months. The Embassy team reviews CA workplans and compiles them into a single country-wide workplan, which the Joint Programming Team approves. CAs report quarterly on their activities to the Embassy. The following is a summary of program activities for 1995.

POLICY

The policy component of the five-year strategy for USAID Population Assistance to Turkey focuses on support to the Government of Turkey (GOT), the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), working in family planning and reproductive health. Collaborating agencies working with all three sectors made significant strides in 1995.

Government of Turkey

- The OPTIONS Project worked with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to develop a National Strategy for Women's Health and Family Planning. OPTIONS and the MOH coordinated this effort, joined by representatives from other governmental bodies such as the SSK, Ministries of Education, Labor and State, the commercial sector including private physicians and pharmaceutical companies, non-governmental organizations, other international donors, and USAID CAs. OPTIONS Project facilitated the establishment of five working groups responsible for specific elements in the national strategy and guided these working group and the steering committee in the strategic planning process. The large group ratified one of the five strategy components — Training and IEC — and prepared the other four sections for ratification in early 1996.
- In conjunction with the strategic planning process, OPTIONS Project worked with the MOH on a contraceptive commodities cost and procurement study that was later used in facilitating a contraceptive self-reliance workshop. OPTIONS assembled key players to formulate a strategy to address the USAID commodity phase-out. MOH and other GOT and private sector representatives participated.
- Another goal in the policy component of the program's strategy is to use relevant data to effect policy change. AVSC made use of data from the 1994 Situation Analysis of Reproductive Health Services, holding dissemination workshops at both national and provincial levels. Over 400 participants representing high level MOH officials, provincial health directors, hospital administrators and service providers took part in the dissemination meetings. AVSC finalized and distributed national and regional reports from the study.

POLICY cont.

- MACRO Inc. assisted SEATS in preparing a report on the Social Security Organization (SSK) subset of the 1993 Demographic Health Survey (DHS). SEATS then presented the report to SSK decision-makers. MACRO Inc. also provided technical assistance to MOH and Hacettepe University staff in Baltimore on six follow-up studies using DHS data. The MOH and Hacettepe will publish and disseminate the analyses to policy makers in 1996.
- FPMD worked closely with the MOH in testing a services information system in five provinces while providing technical assistance to the MOH's Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS) Team. FPMD and CDC hosted a training workshop in the U.S. for three members of the MOH LMIS Technical Team. This was followed by a "Data for Decision Making" workshop in Turkey for 35 provincial staff.
- SEATS finalized its SSK family planning cost savings study report and presented it to SSK leadership. The report demonstrated the cost-benefit of providing contraceptives over delivery or abortion costs for unplanned pregnancies. In May, the Executive Board of the SSK agreed to begin purchasing contraceptive commodities. SEATS then trained one person from SSK on logistics management and procurement.

Commercial Sector

- SOMARC developed a network of private sector health providers in a unique reproductive health services social marketing program. Collaborating with AVSC, SOMARC conducted site assessments of pharmacies, hospitals, polyclinics, and private offices of OB/GYNs and general practitioners in two pilot areas in Istanbul. SOMARC, AVSC, and the Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF) trained interested and qualified providers in contraceptive technology, counseling techniques, marketing and total quality management. Working with the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation and a public relations firm, SOMARC developed the advertising and promotional campaign for the network. In October, SOMARC formally launched "KAPS," the Turkish acronym for Women's Health and Family Planning Services System. Over a dozen newspapers and several television stations covered the launch, announcing the new network of 3 hospitals, 5 polyclinics, 5 private physicians and 22 pharmacies. Network members have

POLICY cont.

pledged their commitment to quality services and an adherence to the agreed-upon affordable prices for services.

Non-governmental Organizations

- The OPTIONS Project organized a workshop on "Advocacy for Policy" for non-governmental organizations. Eight NGOs, three of which focus on family planning, participated. At the conclusion of the two-day workshop, the eight NGOs agreed to continue working together on common issues. By the end of the year, eleven NGOs were collaborating as an ad-hoc network. The new POLICY Project will continue to provide technical assistance to the group on advocacy and representation at the HABITAT II conference in June 1996.
- FPMD conducted management needs and sustainability assessments of the three family planning NGOs in Turkey. These comprehensive reports on the NGOs' roles, organizational structures, management capabilities and financial bases provide helpful insight for the NGOs themselves, the MOH and USAID who has supported each NGO indirectly for several years. FPMD will continue to work on organizational development and financial sustainability with these NGOs.

QUALITY

The USAID Population Assistance Strategy emphasizes family planning services quality in terms of modern contraceptive availability, competency-based training programs for providers, and information, education and communication (IEC) efforts directed at both providers and clients.

Availability of high quality services and modern contraceptive methods

- AVSC trained two MOH staff persons to be trainers of minilaparotomy. In addition, AVSC established an outpatient minilap training site in Eskisehir and completed an outpatient/postpartum minilap training manual. AVSC trained one general practitioner in no-scalpel vasectomy and established a no-scalpel vasectomy training program in Ankara. AVSC, in collaboration with the MOH, standardized competency-based training programs for vasectomy and minilap as part of a certification program. AVSC also collaborated with SEATS on training SSK providers in minilap and vasectomy.
- AVSC and SEATS continued to work with the MOH and SSK on introducing Norplant to new service delivery points. MOH introduced Norplant in Turkey in 1994. AVSC worked closely with the MOH to facilitate the introduction of Depo Provera in Turkey, scheduled for early 1996.
- In the private sector, SOMARC, AVSC and HRDF trained KAPS network providers on contraceptive technology and the importance of client-driven choices of contraceptive methods, including training on non-biased counseling. SOMARC's medical director conducted routine site visits to KAPS sites to ensure the adherence to the KAPS commitment of quality and availability of a wide range of methods.

Competency-based training emphasizing quality, modern methods and counseling

- JHPIEGO expanded its two-week family planning training program for medical school interns to 13 university medical schools. In addition, JHPIEGO prepared for new pre-service and in-service training programs for

QUALITY cont.

general practitioners, nurses and midwives. JHPIEGO hosted a series of clinical skills standardization workshops and training skills workshops for university trainers. Staff from two universities received training from JHPIEGO on interactive training methods and adult learning. At the close of the year, JHPIEGO successfully facilitated an agreement between the MOH and the universities to offer formal certification to those interns who completed the JHPIEGO family planning training program.

- AVSC trained 21 hospital staff at Capa University in Istanbul on pre- and postnatal family planning and counseling. As a follow-up to one of the regional dissemination meetings of the 1994 Situation Analysis, AVSC conducted a training for 25 providers in Samsun on contraceptive technology, communication and counseling.
- SEATS and AVSC trained SSK clinical staff on family planning counseling and held two SSK service delivery and counseling trainings of trainers. In addition, SEATS and AVSC conducted two trainings of trainers that focused on the SSK's national service delivery plan.
- SEATS hosted a conference on quality for SSK hospital administrators and service providers, assisted by AVSC. Thirty-eight representatives of six hospitals and the SSK general directorate attended the three-day workshop. Participants identified quality priorities in each of their facilities and created short-term action plans. SEATS will assist SSK with follow-up activities and longer-term strategy development in 1996.
- SOMARC's training of KAPS network providers, including pharmacists, emphasized quality of care and counseling, as well as contraceptive technology.

QUALITY cont.

Information, education and communication materials for providers and consumers

- SEATS disseminated the National Service Delivery Plan guide and pocket books to SSK trainers as a complement to the training program. SEATS also continued to deliver posters, brochures and calendars to Turk-Is (Turkey's largest labor union) clinics and workplaces.
- PCS, working with the MOH and JICA, designed and produced a training video for clinicians on family planning counseling and communication. The video is part of a larger training package that includes a poster on counseling steps and method-specific counseling guides.
- PCS and Hacettepe University translated, printed and distributed 5,000 copies of the *Population Reports* issue featuring Norplant.
- JHPIEGO, HRDF, the MOH and several universities collaborated on IEC activities to complement the training of family planning service providers. They completed and disseminated the second version of the National Family Planning Service Guidelines, Clinicians Handbook on Family Planning, and Clinical Skills Training Manual. JHPIEGO also drafted an infection prevention poster and supported the production of HRDF's family planning provider newsletter.
- SOMARC created numerous IEC materials for the KAPS project including brochures, a newsletter, a wall chart with KAPS prices and other promotional-type materials such as hats, mugs, t-shirts and aprons. The KAPS 24-hour hotline offers information on the location of KAPS providers and answers frequently asked questions on family planning and modern contraceptive methods, as well as other health issues. Two months after the KAPS launch, SOMARC reported an average of 20 calls per day to the hotline.
- Pathfinder continued to support the trade union, TESK, by offering leaflets, booklets and posters to five TESK family planning clinics. Pathfinder also supported a weekly TESK radio show on family planning.

ACCESS

The strategic plan envisions access to family planning through a thorough integration of quality services into both public and private service delivery systems. This includes the expansion of postpartum and post-abortion family planning services which in the past were neglected in both public and private sectors. The strategy also highlights the need for programs and services directed at underserved groups.

Integration of family planning services into existing health systems

- AVSC equipped seven hospitals (including MOH, SSK, and Turkish Railways) for outpatient tubal ligation. They also supported the initiation of vasectomy at Capa University hospital, Turkey's sixth vasectomy site. AVSC assisted in the expansion of the Norplant program and worked with the MOH on the strategy for introduction of Depo Provera in 1996.
- SEATS worked with the SSK on establishing family planning programs in 13 new sites in 1995. This brings the total number of SSK facilities providing family planning services to 82. SEATS also opened two new SSK family planning training centers, one in Gaziantep and another in Diyarbakir.
- SOMARC continued to monitor the progress of the "OKEY" condom and low-dose oral contraceptive social marketing campaigns. In 1995, the OKEY condom had 30% of the condom market share in Turkey and the low-dose pills had over 72% market share.

Establishment/expansion of postpartum and post-abortion family planning

- AVSC initiated the introduction of post-abortion family planning in 15 MOH, SSK and university hospitals. AVSC continued their work in postpartum family planning facilitating the introduction of new programs in 6 public hospitals.
- SEATS included postpartum and post-abortion family planning in their training of providers at 10 of the new SSK sites.

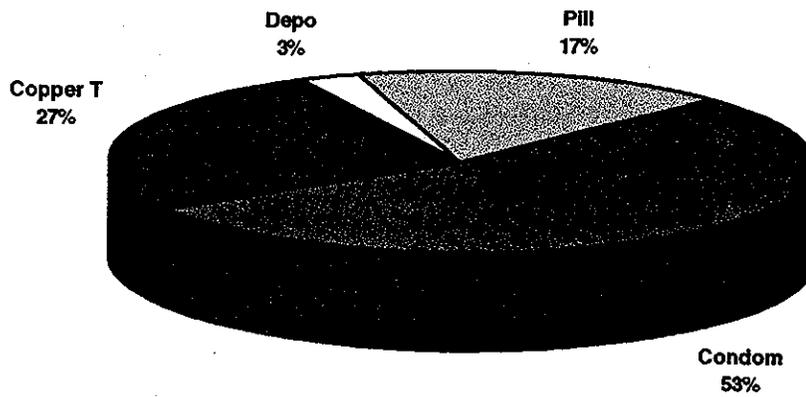
ACCESS cont.

Directing services to underserved groups

- Pathfinder, in collaboration with HRDF, continued to support community-based services (CBS) programs in the slum areas of two cities: Izmir and Gaziantep. Thirty-two CBS workers received training and conducted outreach to women in the project areas, providing counseling, condoms and pills, and referrals to nearby facilities.
- SOMARC's pilot areas for the KAPS network of quality affordable services are centered in two urban squatter (*gecekodu*) areas in Istanbul with a total population close to 2 million.
- AVSC and PCS collaborated on reviewing IEC materials for males from other countries and will join the MOH on designing Turkey-specific materials which target males.

COMMODITIES

USAID provided \$1,700,000 worth of contraceptive commodities to the Government of Turkey in 1995. Commodities included oral contraceptives, condoms, Copper T IUDs and a one-time supply of Depo Provera. 1995 was the first year of a five-year phase-out plan for USAID commodities to GOT.



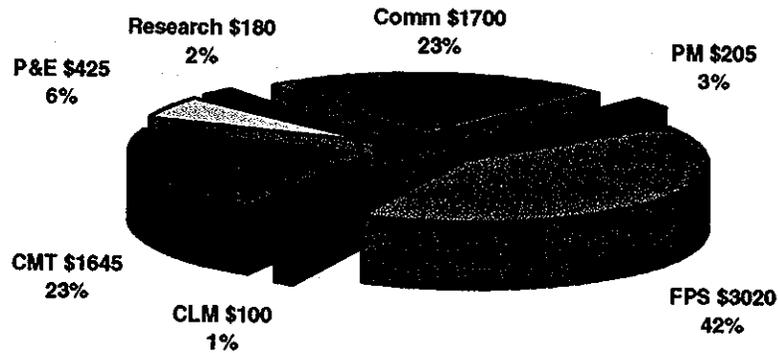
USAID Contraceptive Commodity Expenditures
FY - 1995

MAJOR WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

- ◆ National and IEC/Training Strategy Development Conference, March 1995 (GOT, PCS, JHPIEGO, AVSC, FHTP)
- ◆ Data for Decision Making Workshop, April 1995 (MOH, FPMD, CDC)
- ◆ Gaziantep Regional Dissemination Seminar of 1994 Situation Analysis, June 1995 (MOH, Gazi University, AVSC)
- ◆ National Situation Analysis Dissemination Seminar, July 1995 (MOH, Gazi University, AVSC)
- ◆ Advocacy for Policy Workshop, July 1995 (OPTIONS, NGOs)
- ◆ Samsun Regional Dissemination Seminar of 1994 Situation Analysis, October 1995 (MOH, Gazi University, AVSC)
- ◆ KAPS Reproductive Health Network Launch, October 1995 (SOMARC, NGOs, private sector)
- ◆ SSK Quality of Care Conference, December 1995 (SSK, SEATS, AVSC)
- ◆ Contraceptive Self-Reliance Workshop, December 1995 (GOT, commercial and NGO sectors, OPTIONS)

APPENDIX A

USAID FY 1995 Turkey Budget Allocations* (in thousands of dollars, percent of total budget)

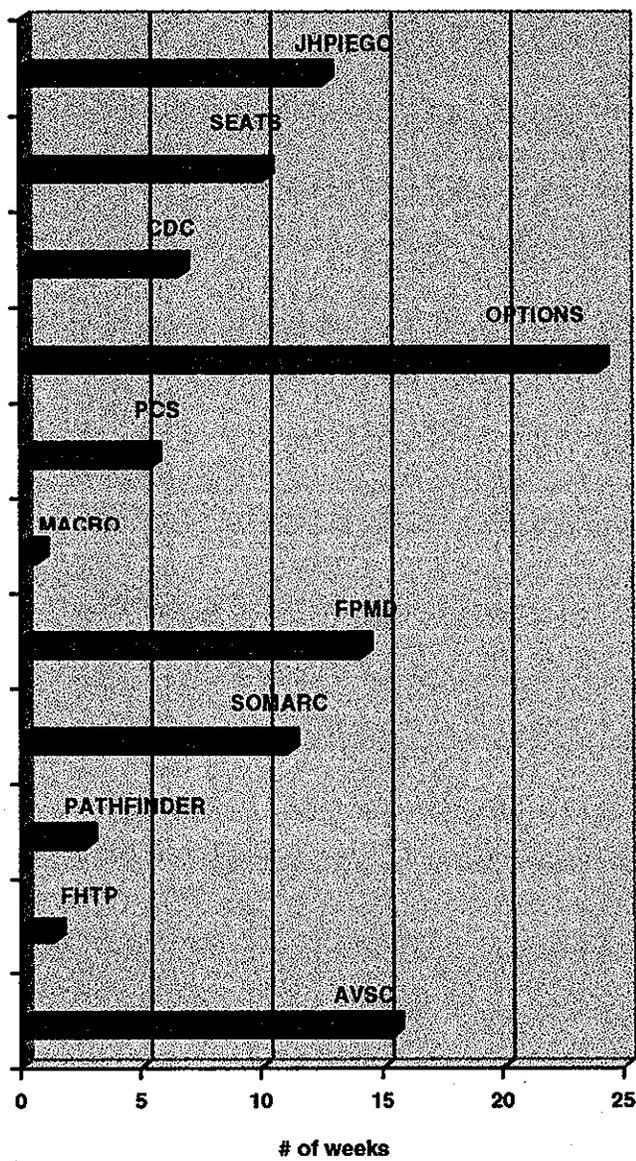


CMT = Communications, Management and Training
FPS = Family Planning Services
CLM = Contraceptive and Logistics Management
PM = Program Management
P & E = Policy and Evaluation
Comm= Commodities
Research

* These are estimated budget allocations by program component. Many training and research activities, for example, are funded through FPS CAs.

APPENDIX B

Person-Weeks of Technical Assistance Travel to Turkey



APPENDIX C

Turkey Joint Programming Team

