AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BANK GROUP’S POLICY ON POPULATION

January 2004
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The revised Bank Group’s policy on population was adopted in January 2001 in response to the new international agenda and in conformity to the new Bank Vision. Its main goal is to provide support to Regional Member Countries (RMCs) in developing and implementing integrated population policies and programs in the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The present guidelines provide a road map for the identification and integration of population factors into the activities of the Bank Group. Specifically they focus on issues relating to institutional and key operational strategies, country programming and the project cycle.

With regard to institutional strategies, the Bank will strengthen the level of collaboration among its staff and regularly update the database for the provision of key demographic and socio-economic indicators. Outside the Bank, emphasis will be placed on the development of partnership with other development agencies and stakeholders; on co-financing of projects and on institutional capacity building. Key operational strategies to be addressed are i) mainstreaming of pro-poor population interventions in the priority areas such as, agriculture and rural development, social sector programmes of health, education, gender, environment; and ii) policy dialogue and advocacy. Others include resource mobilisation for population activities from both Bank and external sources; and regional integration through closer collaboration with regional population training institutions and professional associations.

During Country Programming Bank staff will be more proactive and shall use the opportunity of policy dialogue with RMC authorities and stakeholders to emphasise the need for the active participation of national population specialists, the consistent adoption of participatory approaches involving key local stakeholders, and regular updating of socio-economic and demographic data and information in the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Country Strategy Papers (CSPs).

In the course of the project cycle, the Bank will closely collaborate with RMC authorities, development partners, other stakeholders and potential project beneficiaries, at the preparatory phases, in order to identify projects that address population and sustainable development. Subsequently, Bank staff shall ensure that identified project ideas are properly designed in a participatory manner to qualify for inclusion into the Bank’s project pipeline and lending programme. During the appraisal stage, Bank population specialists shall play a significant role in ensuring that population issues have been properly addressed and that pertinent indicators have been introduced for monitoring and measuring their impact. The Bank staff will regularly review project reports and participate in relevant field missions.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .................................................. ii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS ........................................... iv

I. INTRODUCTION ................................................................. 1

II. INSTITUTIONAL AND KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES .... 3

2.1 At the level of the Bank ............................................. 3
2.2 Outside the Bank .................................................... 3
2.3 Mainstreaming of pro-poor population interventions ....... 4
2.4 Policy dialogue and advocacy ............................... 5
2.5 Resource mobilisation for population activities .......... 5
2.6 Regional integration ............................................... 6

III. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING ............................................. 7

3.1 Sources of Information and Data ............................ 7
3.2 The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) ............. 7
3.3 The Country Strategy Paper (CSP) ........................... 8
3.4 Policy-based lending ............................................ 9

IV. THE PROJECT CYCLE .......................................................... 11

4.1 The Project Identification phase ......................... 11
4.2 The Project Preparation phase .......................... 14
4.3 The Project Appraisal phase .......................... 15
4.4 The Project Implementation phase ............... 18
4.5 The Project Completion Report phase ........... 18
4.6 The Post-Evaluation phase .............................. 19

List of Boxes

Box 1: Stand Alone Project-related Studies ..................... 12
Box 2: Institutional Capacity Building Project Ideas ........ 12
Box 3: Components of Other Projects .......................... 13

List of Tables

Table 1: Population-related issues identified in the specific African context 16

Annexes

ANNEX I Population-related indicators for projects ........... 20
ANNEX II Stand alone project-related studies ............... 21
ANNEX III Institutional capacity building project ideas .... 23
ANNEX IV Population and education project ideas ........ 25
ANNEX V Population and gender project ideas ............ 27
ANNEX VI Population and rural development project ideas .... 30
ANNEX VII Population and reproductive health project ideas ..... 32
ANNEX VIII Population and environment project ideas ........ 34
## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<td>ADB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>APAC</td>
<td>African Population Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>APC</td>
<td>African Population Commission</td>
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<td>APHRC</td>
<td>African Population and Health Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>Communication for Behaviour Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>Country Strategy Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHS</td>
<td>Demographic and Health Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human immuno-deficiency Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental organisations</td>
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<td>NPP</td>
<td>National Population Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organisation for African Unity</td>
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<tr>
<td>OM</td>
<td>Operations Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIP</td>
<td>Project Implementation Plan</td>
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<td>PPF</td>
<td>Project Preparation Funds</td>
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<td>PRSP</td>
<td>Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Reproductive Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMC</td>
<td>Regional Member Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>STD</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAF</td>
<td>Technical Assistance Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAPS</td>
<td>Union for African Population Studies</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Board of Directors approved the revised Bank Group’s policy on population in January 2001. The revised policy on population addresses demographic issues directly influencing population growth, as well as population accommodating factors, which operate in synergy with other social sectors to influence population growth. This revision was prompted by new challenges and emerging issues mainly from the new International Development Agenda as set by recent regional and global conferences. It is also based on the recently approved Bank Group Vision document which has positioned population matters as one of the crosscutting themes for attaining its overall goal of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

1.2 The new population policy document represents major shifts from the previous policy, from the exclusive focus on family planning for fertility control to a broader and more inclusive concept of reproductive health. It also represents a shift from an emphasis on demographic targets to a new focus on qualitative indicators related to the improvement of standards of living of the population.

1.3 The overarching goal of the new policy is to provide support to RMCs in developing and implementing integrated population policies and programs in the context of poverty reduction. Its specific objectives are to:

- Assist African countries to achieve a balance between population growth and socio-economic development by providing them with relevant information on the population and development interrelationships through training and awareness creation;

- Assist RMC governments to develop appropriate legal frameworks and policies in order to prevent attitudes and practices that continue to subordinate adolescents’ and women’s sexual and reproductive rights, and increase the risks of illness or death and economic marginalization of women;

- Assist RMC governments and specialised institutions to set up policies and strategies for the management and empowerment of the refugee population, by addressing their needs for family planning and reproductive health services, skills building and access to productive assets;

- Support programs and direct interventions that address unmet need for family planning; and

- Ensure the quality and enhancement of human resources through implementation of appropriate health, education and skills building programs with the view to improving household income generation and providing gender balanced socio-economic opportunities.
1.4 To achieve these objectives, the Bank Group will focus on the following strategic actions in the course of its interventions:

- Population policy formulation and implementation;
- Access to reproductive health services and rights;
- Integrated population activity providing social, economic and political empowerment;
- Management of migration, rural development and environmental issues;
- Addressing the issue of displaced persons and involuntary population settlements;
- Empowerment of youth and women; and
- Research and capacity building.

1.5 The objective of these Guidelines is to provide a road map for the identification and integration of population factors into the Bank Group activities both at country programming and at project cycle levels. In the process, it defines ways to translate emerging concerns and the new focus of the Bank Group Vision into relevant population projects and charts out modalities of partnership with other line development agencies in the field. It lays emphasis on the participatory approach both at the level of the Bank and during the entire project cycle.

1.6 In preparation for the elaboration of the current Guidelines document, the Bank organized a two-day workshop where RMC high-level officials in the area of population, health, education and rural development, as well representatives of training, research and development institutions were invited. The policy document was tabled for discussion in order to identify the operational issues to be considered. The recommendations of the workshop constituted the canvas for shaping up the guidelines for implementation.

1.7 The main components around which the Guidelines for implementation of the Bank Group’s Policy on Population are designed are:

- Institutional and key operational strategies;
- Country Programming; and
- The Project Cycle.
II. INSTITUTIONAL AND KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

Institutional Strategies

These strategies are reviewed at two different levels: within the Bank, and outside the Bank in the form of partnership with key development agencies and capacity building of high level officials in regional member countries (RMCs).

2.1 At the level of the Bank

The new orientations of the Bank Group's policy on population call for a more integrated approach to work at the level of the Bank itself. Therefore, the Bank will:

⇒ Design focused training courses and ensure close collaboration and regular exchanges between Bank staff. This will enable Bank staff to transcend sectoral barriers and build a team of sustainable development advocates with the basic knowledge and skills in the full range of economic, environmental and social issues and their inter-linkages. Such an environment shall enhance the fullest participation of population specialists and trained Bank staff on population-related issues in the development and revision of various sectoral policies and guidelines to achieve coherence in the integration of population concerns; and

⇒ Regularly update the Standard Database on Socioeconomic Statistics especially with current and reliable population related data for decision-making. Such statistics and other relevant documentation will constitute valuable inputs for use by the Sustainable Development Resource Center, and relevant departments under the Planning, Policy and Research Vice Presidency in orientating the operational strategies of the Bank in individual RMCs. A summary table of population-related indicators providing key information on the demographic and socioeconomic context of a specific project in a country is presented in Annex I.

2.2 Outside the Bank

Institutional strategies to be developed outside the Bank Group shall include:

⇒ Partnership with development agencies working on population matters at the international, regional and local levels. This will entail co-operation and collaboration agreements with key specialised development partners having common or complementary population related concerns. The 1992 collaboration agreement between the Bank Group and the UNFPA, which has recently been amended to incorporate emerging issues such as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, displaced persons and refugees, gender issues, and advocacy and policy dialogue, should be pursued with other development partners. Such collaboration could take the form of organising joint project identification missions in the RMCs to identify components to be addressed by individual partners or jointly through co-financing. This is the more crucial at this time of pervasive budgetary constraints among most RMCs. The Bank Group will choose between integral financing of specific
projects and/or entering into specific cost-sharing arrangements with other partners depending on the individual agency’s expertise, experiences and shared interest; and

⇒ Capacity building at the level of the RMCs and regional population training and research institutions. This will enhance the capacity for policy dialogue through information dissemination, seminars and workshops in order to raise the level of awareness about population issues among government authorities and various stakeholders. Assistance will take the form of collaboration, technical support and grants, which may include hardware (including new constructions, rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment, if applicable) and software (such as the implementation of IEC programs, or the execution of reproductive health and family planning services) to executing agencies and to regional population and training institutions.

The institutional strategies outlined above call for specific interventions in the Bank’s operations. Hence, the key operational strategies identified for the implementation of the population guidelines are detailed in the section that follows.

KEY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

2.3. Mainstreaming of pro-poor population interventions

2.3.1. In line with the overarching goal of the Bank Group’s vision of poverty alleviation and sustainable development, specific efforts will be directed at mainstreaming population issues in its priority areas of intervention such as, health, education, agriculture and rural development and micro enterprise.

2.3.2. In practical terms, this will imply giving priority to programs and projects that meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups such as, women, children and the youth of the RMCs, in the process of economic development. A consultative process will ensure women and the youth participate effectively in the design, implementation and evaluation of pro-poor population related projects. In this manner, they will feel empowered and committed and hence ensure the sustainability of such projects after funding has ended. Special emphasis will be placed on projects that enhance the reproductive roles of women and contribute to the facilitation of their productive roles and overall well being viz:

- Accessible and affordable reproductive health services including pro-choice family planning services;
- IEC programs focusing on maternal and child care and nutrition; and
- Access to potable water sources and fuel-saving technologies.

2.3.3. Examples of such project ideas that bring out the nature and mix of these interventions are presented in synoptic forms in Annexes VI and VII of these guidelines.
2.4 Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

2.4.1. In view of the fact that most governments of the RMCs place emphasis on macro-economic stabilization of their economies, there is the tendency to overlook the fact that people are the agents as well as the ultimate beneficiaries of development. Through regular policy dialogue during PRSP and CSP missions, the Bank staff will encourage RMC governments to formulate, implement and consistently monitor and evaluate national population policies and to regularly review their population programs and allied sectoral policies to take account of population and development interrelationships and of the need for relevant data on population.

2.4.2. The tendency has always been for RMC governments to expect that grants be provided by some specific donor agencies for execution of most stand-alone population projects. The Bank will use the opportunity of policy dialogue with government authorities and stakeholders to increasingly consider population-related projects as development-oriented, and to invest in them like other public goods and services.

2.5. Resource Mobilisation for Population Activities

2.5.1. In view of the current scarcity of resources for development assistance, especially those for targeting social sector programs and projects within RMCs, the Bank will encourage partnership and co-financing with other development agencies as a means of pooling scarce resources to address population related issues. This shall also provide an avenue for sharing experiences and obtaining the skills mix needed in most population and development issues.

2.5.2 At the level of the Bank Group,

⇒ Task managers are expected to increase the awareness of RMC on the availability of grants or project preparation funds for capacity building and for the preparation of projects with strong population-related components;

⇒ The opportunity of policy dialogue with the RMCs should be exploited to encourage them to mobilise more internal resources in order to provide substantial counterpart funding for population related projects as proof of their commitment and appropriation; and

⇒ There is a consistent adoption of the participatory approach by bringing stakeholders and the private sector to increasingly invest in ventures that would contribute to poverty reduction and to the overall improvement of the quality of life of the population.
2.6 Regional Integration

2.6.1. The Bank Group is ready to promote population programs whose effectiveness and development impacts shall be enhanced by their regional or sub-regional nature of interventions. In this light, efforts will be made to meet the joint objectives of the Bank's policy on Economic Co-operation and Regional Integration and of its Policy on Population. This shall be made possible through:

⇒ The development of a regional/sub-regional co-ordinated approach to IEC and service delivery programs in the broad domain of reproductive health including family planning, responsible parenthood, adolescent sexuality and HIV/AIDS;

⇒ Addressing cross-border migration issues; and

⇒ Adopting of harmonised educational standards and curricula.

2.6.2. This shall involve the replication of lessons learnt and best practices from one project to similar projects within the same region taking due consideration of the specificity of each RMC.

2.6.3. The Bank Group will further pursue its collaboration with regional institutions dealing with population issues within the continent. Professional associations such as the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS) will be supported through collaboration, technical support and grants if deemed appropriate. By maintaining close links with regional co-ordinating bodies such as the African Population Advisory Committee (APAC) and the ECA/OAU/ADB Population Commission, the Bank will regularly exploit such channels to make its development programs responsive to the nature of population and socio-economic development in the region.

2.6.4. Also, regional population training and research institutions will be strengthened for the training of professional staff for the RMCs and for providing expertise for in-country Bank-organized training for project personnel and stakeholders. Specialists from these institutions could also serve, when required, as resource persons in projects and programs being funded by the Bank.
III. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING

The process presented below provides a step by step description of how population issues should be taken into account at different stages of country programming.

3.1 Sources of Information and Data

3.1.1. In order for population issues to be properly integrated during the various stages of country programming, steps will be taken by the Bank to ensure that current, reliable and adequately disaggregated data and information are available. These may take several forms such as:

⇒ Well prepared country population profiles or reports if such do not exist as an output of collaborating agencies such as UNFPA), as well as data files from censuses and specific demographic surveys;
⇒ Population and sectoral projections;
⇒ Other social sector reports and policy documents; and
⇒ International statistical publications and reports.

3.1.2. These can be obtained from national census and statistical offices and from various administrative records compiled by line ministries. Other sources include; Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) sources; the Standard Database on Socioeconomic Statistics and the Sustainable Development Resource Center of the Bank; various United Nations specialized agencies and World Bank sources. Various local and international NGOs often do produce valuable population related information.

3.2 The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

3.2.1. A necessary prerequisite for Country programming is the availability of a detailed Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) prepared through a national participatory process to identify the major issues and national priority areas of intervention and strategies to be adopted in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty reduction. This approach allows participation to be planned in such a way that stakeholders are involved, gain ownership and are empowered to influence the process. It represents a major development agenda of each RMC and serves the dual purpose of directly attacking the source of poverty as well as attracting international support for poverty reduction.

3.2.2 The Bank will ensure that as many national population specialists and line development agencies and NGOs as possible are actively involved in the participatory process of PRSP in relevant RMCs. First of all, population related issues based on current and reliable demographic data and information should be highlighted at every stage of the process. This should be followed by a thorough analysis of the inter-relations between population variables and socio-economic

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1 DHS have been carried out by National Statistical offices in developing countries in collaboration with USAID since the cessation of the World Fertility Surveys, a major source of demographic data in developing countries in the 1980s. This has remained a source of updating national demographic data, especially during inter-censal periods.
parameters in the RMCs. This is with the view of identifying the impact of rapid population growth on development and vice-versa. This will facilitate the identification of specific population policies and programs, in conjunction with other social policies, which correlate with poverty reduction.

Generally, PRSPs should integrate the following demographic data and analysis;

i. current population size and growth rate
ii. fertility and mortality rates, patterns of migration
iii. age structure and geographic distribution
iv. educational, health, employment and rural/urban status of the population
v. medium-term population and macro-economic projections, including the analysis of the inter-relations between population and socio-economic development variables.

3.3 The Country Strategy Paper (CSP)

3.3.1. The CSP process is one of the most important vehicles for a dialogue on development with RMCs and their CSOs. A detailed assessment of the PRSP, will enable the Bank Group to prepare a Country Strategy Paper (CSP) that clearly defines the strategy it wants to adopt in identifying investment operations in each country by sector, compatible with its vision of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Information from other studies such as the Economic and Sector Work (ESW) and on ongoing macro-economic and structural reforms shall provide a sound background for such an assessment.

3.3.2. In conformity with the guidelines for the preparation of the CSP, the Bank will ensure that population specialists and trained Bank staff on population-related issues do actively participate in assessing pertinent population issues and proposing strategies for addressing them.

3.3.3 So far, CSPs have not been giving sufficient attention to population dynamics and their effect on development prospects in specific countries. The general issue is that in Africa, population growth is a major constraint to development. When population growth rates are higher than economic growth rates on a long-term, poverty becomes pervasive. More specifically, looking at the issue of population density, the effect of population pressure on limited land and resources is a major development constraint that needs to be translated into policy action.

3.3.4 Population dynamics should become an integral part of the policy dialogue with countries. However, issues of population dynamics such as population growth and density; family planning, fertility and nuptiality; morbidity and mortality; reproductive health and HIV/AIDS; age structure and youth; migration and urbanization; refugees and displaced populations would vary from country to country depending on the priority of individual countries based on their national policies. Therefore, the Bank’s strategies should include specific actions on population as appropriate.
3.3.5. Generally, population issues should be integrated into CSPs, in sections discussing the assessment of economic and social situation by answering questions related to, the current demographic situation and the key problem areas; the underlying factors of the demographic situation; the demographic trends and the emerging constraints to sustainable development. The ensuing analysis will bring out the critical linkages between demographic variable and socio-economic development parameters which are particularly important in the country’s context e.g. the mutual impacts of population dynamics and economic growth, productivity, investment, education, health etc.

3.3.6. While discussing the major constraints to development in the country in the CSP, this section should capture the constraints related to the demographic dimension that will require policy changes and programs to address them. Finally, this should be reflected in the Bank’s country strategy, which must conform to the Bank’s policy as well as complement those of other development partners. The latter, to the extent possible, should identify areas of co-financing given the limited Bank resources and be flagged as an issue requiring dialogue. Other population related issues that should feature in the CSP and be raised during policy dialogue include:

⇒ Improving on the quality and availability of basic demographic and socio-economic data and of research for policy formulation;
⇒ Promoting the formulation, adoption and implementation of population policies, and assisting in the strengthening of relevant institutions (Central Statistics Office, Census Bureau, National Population Unit, etc.);
⇒ Promoting awareness on emerging issues such as gender, reproductive health including adolescent sexuality, HIV/AIDS, displaced populations, etc.; and
⇒ Sensitising policy makers and the public on population-development interrelationships, especially on how population factors are likely to influence or be influenced by economic decisions and outcomes, and affect gender and other social relations and the environment.

3.3.7 This will facilitate the subsequent prioritisation and endorsement of population related projects and programs by RMCs as investment operations for inclusion into the Bank's project pipeline.

3.4 Policy-based Lending (Structural Adjustment Loans)

3.4.1 The purpose of policy-based lending is to provide balance of payments support to the RMC for the implementation of its reform programs outlined in the PRSPs. The reform programs include, macro-economic stability, equitable economic growth and poverty reduction, public expenditure policy and management, governance focusing on legal and judicial system reform; and support to specific sectors. Since most reforms are launched to increase the benefits of development directly or indirectly to the population; in most cases, the programs may be synergized when implemented in conjunction with population policies and programs, and the programs may also enhance the impact of population policies and programs on set targets. For example, any program supporting a shift in public expenditure from defence to agriculture and rural development, education, health etc will tend to benefit the poor, particularly women and youth in RMCs. In conjunction with
population programs addressed to these population sub-groups, this program when properly implemented may act as a catalyst in reducing the rapid rate of population growth by empowering women and youth to take appropriate decisions and actions in favour of smaller family norm.

3.4.2 The type of population data and analysis to be integrated into policy-based lending will depend on the sectors of the economy targeted and will be similar to that required in the specific sector (see, Annex 1)
IV THE PROJECT CYCLE

4.1 The Project Identification phase

4.1.1. The CSP prepares the ground for the Bank Group to embark on the project identification exercise during which it enters into dialogue with individual RMCs in order to either assess individual projects submitted for funding or to undertake sector specific project identification. Country departments should, on a regular basis, but at least following a major CSP report, mount sector identification missions to identify investment operations, which qualify for Bank Group financing. In the course of identifying possible population-related projects, the Bank will have the option of intervening, singly or in conjunction with other development partners, in either stand-alone projects or in projects that are components of broader projects or programmes in the area of health, rural/urban development, agriculture and education etc. Population specialists as well as trained Bank staff on population-related issues within the Bank will either participate actively during sectoral project identification missions, or make substantial contributions to the issues paper for projects with strong population components.

4.1.2. Issues papers preceding the identification mission should include population-related projects, based on the critical population problems facing the country and acting as a constraint to development efforts as highlighted in the PRSPs, CSPs and economic and sector reviews. During the identification mission, this will form the basis of further investigation, data collection and analysis, as well as dialogue with RMC’s officials, decision-makers and other development partners. In addition, the mission should also begin to explore how best to address the potential population project either as a stand-alone or a component of another project/s with the greatest impact on the identified population problems.

4.1.3. It should be noted that the identification and active participation of the beneficiaries are key to the success of any program/project to be executed. Hence, during the identification mission, the Bank project team should hold meetings with the borrower, beneficiaries and other stakeholders to elicit their views and needs on the project. The team should also meet with NGOs and other donors to gather basic information about their views and anticipated involvement in the proposed operation.

4.1.4 In the process of identifying the project for Bank financing, the mission team may not be in a position to collect all the data necessary for the appropriate analysis. The mission team must clearly indicate in the identification report the missing information and the required work to obtain it e.g. demographic surveys/profiles and other studies deemed necessary in the Preparation Phase (see, table 2).

4.1.5. The Bank Group’s current partnership agreement with the UNFPA should be exploited to promote stand-alone projects already identified and appraised by this development partner within the RMCs. This would enable the Bank to benefit from the UNFPA’s long established experience and expertise on the ground and thus avoid duplications. It will also enhance inter-agency co-operation in the co-financing of projects. Besides, the Bank Group and key development agencies may decide to organise joint population sector project identification missions to individual RMCs in
order to select relevant projects. Such missions should entail effective Bank staff participation in order to ensure that the Bank's vision, development concerns and priorities are adequately incorporate.

4.1.6. Examples of some population-related project ideas that could be considered during sector identification missions are shown in the boxes that follow (see boxes 1-3). The first set of project ideas represents interventions that the Bank will consider as stand alone projects. More details on these stand-alone project ideas are available in Annex II. Furthermore, Annexes III to VIII provide specific examples and concrete ideas related to institutional capacity building, education, gender, rural development, reproductive and health and environment.

**Box 1**

### STAND ALONE PROJECT-RELATED STUDIES

**Survey on the dynamics of the family**
- Qualitative and quantitative approaches could be employed at household and community level to capture aspects relating to people’s perceptions about the family and its size and evolution, the value of children and problems of parenting. Other issues to be considered may include domestic violence, interpersonal and especially gender relations and roles, and the role of marriage and sexual relations in family dynamics. Outcomes from such a study will be very useful for the formulation or revision of the national code on the family, for the design of appropriate social legislation with regard to the rights of women and children, for reproductive health and education programmes and for various IEC campaigns.

**Demographic surveys**
- These may include focussed, in-depth surveys designed to further investigate into specific problem areas identified during a census or the development of integrated information systems. Examples of possible project ideas include:
  - Surveys on migration, urbanization and household structures to capture information on economic activity, dependence and the impact of economic crisis, gender issues and relationships within the household, transfer of resources, etc.
  - Development of an integrated system of information on population and development including the development of a viable vital statistics registration system.

Findings will be useful for projects and programs dealing with poverty alleviation, gender, social protection, agriculture or environment. The Bank already has an experience of such interventions in Burkina Faso and in Togo, in partnership with national university based institutions called “Unités d'Enseignement et de Recherches Démographiques (UERD).”

**Box 2**

### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT IDEAS

**Strengthening of the National Statistical System**
- Improving on the management, organisation and strategic planning of the national statistical system.
- Developing an appropriate human resource development strategy to make best use of existing skills and to provide for a consistent human resource development plan with focus on building a team spirit with allowance for decentralisation.
- Improving on data collection and processing systems and methods for priority projects such as censuses, sample surveys and other data collection and compilation exercises that meet the demands of ongoing projects and of the various stakeholders.
- Improving on the format and design of products of the system, making them more accessible to users and improving relations with them.
- Developing institutional arrangements and upgrading legislation that would guarantee the independence and credibility of national statistical systems and thus improve public confidence in their products.

**Institutional strengthening for project and programme implementation**
- Support for the stakeholder consultative process for designing a national program in the field of population.
- Technical assistance for the preparation of the program and for the development of the management information system.
- Assistance for sector institutional restructuring and for building of the capacity of stakeholders and intermediaries.
- Meeting initial project management costs.

**Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Short Courses**
- To facilitate dialogue among all players – policy makers, program managers, local trainers, beneficiaries, funding agencies, and other development partners – through exchange of ideas, dissemination of best practices and experiences in improving population-related project implementation.

4.1.7. Other population-related project ideas that could be of interest to sector identification missions shall be those that constitute components of broad poverty reduction programmes or large projects that fall within different sectors (see box 3).

### Box 3

**COMPONENTS OF OTHER PROJECTS**

**Communication for Behaviour Change (CBC)**
- Conducting a situational analysis to know what facilities are available and reviewing key existing information and identifying gaps in knowledge;
- Formulating communication strategies around key identified aspects of behaviour.
- Discussing the behavioural dimensions of the program with key stakeholders and determining the specific role of each of them; training of project staff; finalising messages and media plans and producing the materials;
- Launching, monitoring and evaluation of the project over a 3-4 year period.

**An Educational Development Project**
- Improving on the intake capacity (building schools) and quality (training trainers) of basic and secondary schools;
- Intervening in curriculum development in order to integrate courses on population and development interrelationships, reproductive health, nutrition, personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation, etc;
- Promoting the education of girls and functional literacy among adult women;
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Education for project management, pedagogic supervision and evaluation and for production of technical materials.

**A Women's Development Initiative Project**
Projects aimed at improving opportunities for women by increasing their skills, productivity, income and empowerment having the following components:
- A demand-driven grassroots social fund for:
  - providing support for the formation or strengthening of women's groups;
  - encouraging women's groups to organise themselves around productive activities which they identify themselves and in which they are willing to contribute a minimal initial investment capital;
  - assisting women to invest in labour-saving ventures; and
  - sponsoring intermediaries to provide women's initiative groups with technical assistance.
- An institutional strengthening component which should involve:
  - organising IEC activities to increase awareness among men and women on diverse issues;
  - assisting in the capacity building of stakeholders
  - establishing measurable intermediate and outcome indicators from the outset and systematically producing and compiling requisite data to measure them;
  - promoting female role models and social change promoters as impetus to empowerment.

A prototype of this project may be designed specifically to focus on adolescent women.

**An Integrated Early Childhood Development Project**
Such projects are likely to be multisectoral with individual components being handled by different ministerial departments requiring a strong central co-ordination The main components of such a project may include:
- Improving child health through reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality;
- Improving access and quality of early childhood education and;
- Improving the nutritional status of under-five children and pregnant and nursing women;
- Improving on the overall management and supervision of this multisectoral, multi-donor projects.

**A Reproductive Health Program with a strong STD and HIV/AIDS Control Component**
Within the broad reproductive health (RH) program, it may be deemed necessary to design a specific subproject whose goal would be to reduce the incidence of the transmission of STDs and HIV/AIDS infection. Other diseases related to the reproductive system among men and women may also be targeted. The following project components should be envisaged:
- Strengthening public and private institutions responsible for HIV/AIDS and STD control;
- Raising awareness through advocacy campaigns at policy level for political support and sensitisation using NGOs and grassroots and peer groups to reach vulnerable groups;
- Designing and implementing communications campaigns to bring about change in behaviour;
- Systematic screening for STDs among women who come for prenatal care;
- Teaching women and adolescents how to recognise STD infections and encouraging them to seek treatment;
- Providing training for home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients and making it possible for people with such infection to live longer and healthier lives;
- Initiating income-generating activities to assist and empower affected families to provide care to patients and orphans;
- Providing services for screening and management of cases of prostate and cervical cancer with possibility of referral facilities for early and complete treatment;
- Setting up adolescent youth service delivery centers where a wide range of RH services, including counselling and sex education would be made available to the youth. Similar facilities may also be foreseen to handle the specific RH problems of men;
- Conducting situational analysis surveys and other operational research coupled with qualitative community-level surveys to enhance quality service delivery and to improve on policy and program design.

Box 3 (Continued)

**A Safe Motherhood Project**

This should be a demand-driven approach that considers the social, cultural and economic determinants of safe motherhood taking into consideration supply-side constraints relating to availability and quality of services. The main components of such a project would include:

- Strengthening the availability, sustainability and quality of client-oriented maternal health services at the community level;
- Organising advocacy and sensitisation campaigns with the view to overcoming major demand-side constraints to use of maternal health services;
- Reviewing of the pricing policy for services provided;
- Increasing the knowledge of key RH issues among adolescents through institutionalised RH programs in the educational system, peer educators, NGOs and grassroot organisations.

**Population and environment project ideas**

Such projects are designed either to focus on the impact of the interaction of specific categories of the population on their immediate environment or on the effect of environmental changes due to human or natural causes on the resident population. They seek to ensure that poverty reduction projects do not end up damaging the environmental conditions of the poor. The following represent some project ideas in this domain:

- Evaluating the impact of rapid population growth and resultant high densities coupled with extensive land-use patterns on the rural environment of a particular region;
- Assessing the impact of unplanned settlement of refugee populations on the immediate environment of particular regions of a country;
- Studying the coping strategies being adopted by populations directly affected by constant environmental changes to determine whether such strategies are sustainable;
- Assessing the impact of the introduction of fuel-saving techniques on the control of environment degradation.

4.2 The Project Preparation phase

4.2.1. For proposals that have already been prepared by the RMC, Bank Group’s intervention should ensure that:

- An adequate feasibility study has been carried out
- beneficiaries, stakeholders, other donors and local experts have been fully involved in the identification and preparation process;
- proper focus has been given to the specific population or population-related issue, employing the most feasible strategies and appropriate organisational arrangements for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

4.2.2. For stand-alone population projects that have been identified and prepared by the UNFPA, with whom the Bank has entered into collaborative agreements, there may be no need for any further scrutiny given the expertise of this partner in this
domain. In the case of other projects that have a prominent population component, feasibility studies will be mandatory to ascertain that they have a sound formulation.

4.2.3 For projects that have been identified during sector identification missions, the RMCs will be provided with the technical assistance to ensure a participatory approach in elaborating the project proposal. Where the RMCs require financial assistance for some of the feasibility studies that must be part of this process, Bank staff shall acquaint them with procedures for eligibility for grants or loans through grants, project preparation fund (PPF) or other bilateral funding. The Project preparation team shall decide whether the population project is better executed as a stand-alone or a component of another project/s. For example, issues of high mortality rates-infant, childhood and maternal- in an RMC are better addressed via projects in health, water and sanitation and food security rather than in infrastructural projects like roads, electricity etc.

4.2.4 Areas of collaboration with other development partners like UNFPA in the project cycle activities, where the latter have the comparative advantage, should be indicated. Also, areas for potential co-financing with other development partners should be indicated in order to be specific on Bank Group’s role in the project.

4.3 The Project Appraisal phase

4.3.1 During this third phase of the project cycle, the Bank staff is expected to undertake a comprehensive and systematic review of all aspects of the project in order to establish the framework for project implementation and monitoring, and to make recommendations with regard to its eligibility for funding. In accordance with the Bank’s operational manual, the economic, financial and institutional bases of the population-related project should be ascertained after reviewing the demographic situation of the country, the inter-relationship between population factors and socio-economic development, the role of other development partners in the population field in the RMC, the anticipated project areas and beneficiaries, and the expected impact on the project etc. The participation of Bank population specialists as well as trained Bank staff on population-related issues are indispensable both within the Bank and on the field during the appraisal of projects with a strong population component and especially, in the case of stand-alone population projects.

4.3.2 Field appraisal missions will provide the occasion for:

⇒ Ensuring that the executing institution has or envisages recruiting technical expertise capable of handling population and other cross cutting issues and that budgetary allocations have been made for this.

⇒ Ensuring that population components as well as other components of the project are cost-effective and sustainable.

⇒ Assessing the level of involvement of the principal beneficiaries and other stakeholders and the likely social impacts of the population component through discussions with the executing agencies and site visits;
⇒ Finalising partnership arrangements between the Bank Group and specialised population agencies; and

⇒ Holding final discussions on the details of financial management and co-ordination of assistance including specific monitoring activities, which could be entrusted to the specialised agencies. Such arrangements should feature clearly in the Project Implementation Document (PID) and Project Supervision Plans that usually accompany the appraisal reports.

The appraisal mission will further ascertain that as many population-related indicators as possible are incorporated into the logical framework as objectively verifiable indicators (see Annex 1). Some of these may be non-quantifiable outcomes that may include ordinal scale impressions of project beneficiaries, staff and stakeholders; attitudinal changes; opinions; etc. In effect, most benefits accruing from social sector projects are hardly quantifiable, thus are not easily amenable to econometric evaluations.

TABLE 1: Population related issues, identified and prioritized in the specific African context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The critical study/research areas are as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Further investigations on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and the socio-economic and cultural impacts of HIV/AIDS;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Care of infected and affected persons with case studies on successful country-based support programmes (home care strategies);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mother-child infection rates and regional differences causes, etc…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Impact of advocacy and other sensitization programmes on policies and sexual behavior changes; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Setting up regional database on HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Mortality Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Updating information on regional levels and trends;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Determinants of maternal mortality rates;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Regional differences in socio-economic and cultural consequences of maternal deaths;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Design of appropriate policies and programmes for reducing maternal mortality rate;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Development of evaluation methodology on reproductive health programmes; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Establishment of database on mortality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rapid Urbanization in Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Updating regional data on levels and trends;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2 Adapted from the proceedings of the Third African Population Conference. UAPS, December 1999.
- Identifying causes, consequences and determinants of rising urbanization;
- Identifying appropriate policies for reducing urbanization process;
- Documenting the negative effects of rapid urbanization with respect to the following:
  - Urbanization and Environment
  - Urbanization and Family Structure and Disintegration,
  - Urbanization and Spread of HIV/AIDS,
  - Urbanization and Poverty, etc…
  - Urbanization and Gender relations
- Establishing data base on urbanization

**Internal and International Migration**

- Updating information on levels and trends;
- Socio-economic and cultural determinants of migration;
- Migration with respect to the following
  - Migration and HIV/AIDS, etc…
  - Migration and brain-drain
  - Migration decision-making and gender roles,
  - Migration and environmental conditions
- Changing policies on migrations
- Establishing database on migration

**Conflicts, Refugees and Displaced Persons**

- Updating regional information on levels and trends;
- Identification of appropriate conflict resolution strategies and policies;
- Inventory of human rights violation of refugees and displaced person by / or region/sub region
- Case studies of women and children refugees and those who are displaced;
- Case studies of successful humanitarian policies and programmes;
- Identifying appropriate rehabilitation strategies for refugees and displaced persons;
- Relations between refugees and non-refugee/displaced persons;
- Environmental impact of refugees and non-refugee/displaced persons;
- Refugees and political insecurity;
- Establishing data base on refugees and displaced persons.

**Increasing Incidence of Poverty in Africa**

- Understanding the socio-cultural meaning of poverty;
- Updating information on regional levels, trends and determinants;
- Evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes;
- Case studies of successful community-based alleviation programmes strategies;
- Poverty and globalization;
- Poverty and HIV/AIDS
- Poverty and urbanization;
- Poverty and environmental degradation;
- Universal education, poverty and conflicts;
- Data base on regional poverty.
4.4 **The Project Implementation phase**

4.4.1. At the project implementation stage, the Bank project manager and his team, which should include population specialists or Bank staff trained in population-related issues, will use the opportunities offered through supervision and monitoring of projects to ensure the relevance of organizational and institutional arrangements put in place for the execution of the project. In addition, an appropriate mix of experts in team will help in identifying operational problems and recommending appropriate solutions to them. Specifically, the team should ensure;

⇒ Regular reviews of all project reports-supervision mission reports, country portfolio review and restructuring (CPRR) and annual portfolio performance review (APPR) reports at the level of the headquarters and obtaining other direct information from the executing agencies, project sites, stakeholders and beneficiaries on the field in order to properly assess the effectiveness of project interventions;

⇒ that targeted population issues are being considered during implementation and providing prompt feedback to ensure that neglected issues are taken into account;

⇒ the use of qualitative research approaches to further assess progress and impact among both beneficiaries and stakeholders. Such methods that evaluate people’s perceptions, expectations and levels of satisfaction with services or entire interventions help to understand the cultural, social, political and institutional context within which projects are designed and implemented. They include in-depth interviews, focus group analysis and documentary review.

4.5 **The Project Completion Report (PCR) phase**

4.5.1 The Project Completion Reporting exercise provides an in-depth analysis of major issues that are important in explaining the success or failure of the project. To this end, the project manager and his team will employ complete and reliable data and information from quarterly progress reports submitted by the borrower with other details from executing agencies, consultants and supervisory staff and on loan negotiation and administration. During this process, the Bank assesses the results of the project in the light of the means employed and estimates its contribution to the overall objective of the project. It will also identify the discrepancy between the envisaged strategies and the timeliness of activities and expected outcomes at the appraisal phase and the actual results at the time of completion. This information shall be crucial in determining to what extent project beneficiaries may have been affected in the process, as well as documenting operational lessons.
4.6 **The Post-Evaluation phase**

4.6.1. Detailed post-evaluation will be carried out by the Bank upon the completion of Bank-financed projects, incorporating population program interventions. The aim is to determine the overall effect of the project on the targeted population and hence go beyond the direct objectives of the interventions to examine other multiple effects that may have occurred. This type of project activity is also a guide for the improvement in the design and preparation of similar projects in the future and/or the revision of the Bank’s guidelines as appropriate. Particular attention should be given to determining if a project is supportive of population policies in the RMCs. The focus here will thus be on main outcome indicators that are usually obtained through other sources that provide data coinciding with the period of project interventions.

4.6.2. Population related indicators that may be useful at this stage include:

⇒ The overall impact of the project on the population in terms of its growth rate;
⇒ Changes in the composition and characteristics of the population;
⇒ Changes in migration flows;
⇒ Changes in perceptions, attitudes, behaviour and level of awareness about key population issues;
⇒ Changes in contraceptive prevalence rates;
⇒ Changes in overall fertility levels,
⇒ Changes in the levels of prevalence and incidence of morbidity and mortality; etc.

4.6.3. Although some of these indicators are usually available from censuses or demographic survey data, they can hardly be attributable to one individual project but to sustained population activities across the board. Others are qualitative and might require special surveys to measure them.
## ANNEX I

### POPULATION-RELATED INDICATORS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE DESIGN STAGE OF THE PROJET CYCLE

#### A. GENERAL INDICATORS

- Population size (in million)
- Sex Ratio (100 female)
- Population under 15 years (%)
- Dependency ratio
- Urban Population (%)
- Population Density (per sq. km)
- Population per ha of arable land
- Adult Literacy rate by sex
- Labor force participation by sex

#### B. DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

- Annual population growth rate (%)
- Urban population growth rate (%)
- Crude death rate (per 1000 population)
- Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)
- Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 births)
- Life expectancy (years) by sex
- Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)
- Total fertility rate (avg. # of children/woman)
- Population doubling time (years)
- % of women of childbearing age
- Median age population

#### C. HEALTH AND NUTRITIONAL INDICATORS.

- Population per physician
- Population per nursing persons
- Access to safe water (per cent population)
- % of fully immunized children
- Babies born with birth weight <2500 gm (%)
STAND-ALONE PROJECT-RELATED STUDIES

1. Survey on the dynamics of the family

Such interventions are recommendable in countries where it is realised that there exists no reliable background data to form the basis for effective social legislation and where no code for the family exists. In this case, qualitative and quantitative approaches could be employed at household and community level to capture aspects relating to people’s perceptions about the family and its size and evolution, the value of children and problems of parenting. Other issues to be considered may include domestic violence, interpersonal and especially gender relations and roles, and the role of marriage and sexual relations in family dynamics. Results from such a study will be vital for the formulation or revision of a national code on the family and for the design of appropriate social legislation.

2. Improvement of the Vital Statistics Registration System

As a first step to improving the national vital statistics registration system of any given country, it may be worthwhile to start by testing the operationalization of the proposed approaches in a number of pilot areas before they can be eventually replicated over the national territory. This should include such aspects as the exhaustive declaration of vital events, regular forwarding of files and the compilation and dissemination of results, including all other institutional arrangements. Lessons learnt from such studies could eventually be used to design viable national-level vital registration systems that shall provide essential data for the follow-up and evaluation of other projects and programs.

3. Population Policy Formulation or Revision and Implementation

Some RMCs have not as yet come up with explicit population policies even though they are confronted with such population problems as rapid population growth that is outstripping economic growth, unequal spatial distribution, problems of resource allocation, etc. Others have developed policies which, in view of various emerging issues, need to be revised. The Bank may intervene specifically in this direction by:

- Strengthening of the institutional capacity to assemble relevant documentation needed for population policy formulation and creating the structures for the co-ordination of the participatory process required for policy formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision;
- Organising formal multisectoral consultations with line ministries and other stakeholders;
- Formulating and adopting or revising the National Population Policy (NPP);
- Operationalising the NPP in terms of programs and projects;
Strengthening the institutional capacity of key stakeholders involved in the implementation, monitoring, evaluating and periodically revising the NPP.

4. **Intercensal demographic surveys**

These may include focused surveys designed to further investigate into specific problem areas identified during a census or in-depth studies meant to provide complementary information for the better understanding of a specific dimension of population dynamics. Examples of possible projects include:

- Migration surveys: to capture motivations for and consequences of out-migration or in-migration; to study the process and sectors of insertion of migrant populations; to capture changes in gender roles and household composition resulting from migration; etc;

- Development of an integrated system of information on population and development including the development of a viable vital statistics registration system;

- Fertility surveys: to study key determinants of both high fertility and sub-fertility and to better understand the main proximate determinants for starting, spacing and stopping of childbearing; to focus on the reproductive behaviour of particular subgroups of the population – adolescents, migrants, refugees, etc.

- Mortality and morbidity surveys to obtain cause-specific statistics as well as the prevalence of certain diseases among subgroups of the population.
**ANNEX III**

**INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS**

**Strengthening of the National Statistical System**

In some countries it may be realised that the quantity and quality of statistical data needed for country programming are highly unsatisfactory as a result of the improper functioning of the national statistical system. It may thus be worthwhile to design specific interventions to strengthen this system in order to ensure that more reliable data shall be produced subsequently to enhance program and project follow-up and evaluation. Such interventions should include:

- Improving on the management, organisation and strategic planning of the national statistical system;

- Developing an appropriate human resource development strategy to make best use of existing skills and to provide for a consistent human resource development plan with focus on building a team spirit with allowance for decentralisation;

- Improving on data collection and processing systems and methods for priority projects such as censuses, sample surveys and other data collection and compilation exercises that meet the demands of ongoing projects and of the various stakeholders;

- Improving on the format and design of products of the system, making them more accessible to users and improving relations with them. Taking advantage of new information technology channels for wide dissemination; and

- Developing institutional arrangements and upgrading legislation that would guarantee the independence and credibility of national statistical systems and thus improve public confidence in their products.

**Institutional strengthening for project and Programme Implementation.**

- Support for the stakeholder consultative process for designing a national program in the field of population;

- Technical assistance for the preparation of the program and for the development of the management information system;

- Assistance for sector institutional restructuring and for building of the capacity of stakeholders and intermediaries; and

- Meeting initial project management costs.
Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Short Courses

To facilitate dialogue among all players – policy makers, program managers, local trainers, beneficiaries, funding agencies, and other development partners – through exchange of ideas, dissemination of best practices and experiences in improving population-related project implementation.
POPULATION INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

Communication for Behaviour Change (CBC)

- Conducting a situational analysis to know what facilities are available and reviewing key existing information about reasons for people’s behaviour with respect to health, nutrition, etc. and identifying gaps in knowledge;

- Formulating communication strategies around key identified aspects of behaviour. This shall imply adopting message strategies for specific target audiences and anticipating what media channels shall be used and what materials shall be produced;

- Discussing the behavioural dimensions of the program with key stakeholders and determining the specific role of each of them; training of project staff; finalising messages and media plans and producing the materials; and

- Launching, monitoring and evaluation of the project over a 3-4 year period.

However, ample dispositions should be taken for the communication for change activities to be conducted in synergy with other project or program components to ensure that services advertised are effectively available. CBC activities should be halted if the requisite equipment and services are not available yet. Secondly, it should be borne in mind that perceptions and practices within any given community are never static and that media preferences change as other avenues join the media landscape.

Educational Development Project

- Improving on the intake capacity (building schools) and quality (training trainers) of basic and secondary schools;

- Promoting the education of girls and functional literacy among adult women; and

- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Education for project management, pedagogic supervision and evaluation and for production of technical materials.
“Stay-in School” Educational Project

In cases where it is realised from educational statistics that as result of economic crisis and structural adjustment many children are abandoning school and are no longer capable of pursuing their studies up to the second cycle, a “stay-in-school” project could be envisaged with the following basic features:

- Sponsoring a national social mobilisation effort using various channels of communication to sensitisise parents to keep children in school;
- Targeted scholarships for the poorest secondary level children, especially girls, to improve on transition rates from primary level and on retention rates at secondary levels over a 5-10 year period;
- Providing lump sum grants to secondary schools in the poorest communities to compensate for dwindling parental contributions and for increase in the costs of school inputs; and
- Conducting regular surveys to monitor the impact of the program and make requisite modifications in approaches.

Teaching Women to read and Write

Functional literacy in particular and education in general is a key component for the empowerment of women. Reducing illiteracy levels among women will improve on their ability to better understand IEC and social mobilisation campaigns and to improve on their well-being as well as that of their children and households. Projects, with poor women in both urban and rural areas as the target, could be designed having the following components:

- Sensitisation campaigns bringing out the attributes of acquiring better literacy skills;
- Training of trainers;
- Designing and producing of requisite pedagogic materials; and
- Building institutional capacity for follow-up and evaluation.
ANNEX V

POPULATION AND GENDER PROJECT IDEAS

A Women’s Development Initiative Project

It is a recognised fact that poverty, in most developing countries, has developed a gender dimension where women are known to be more disadvantaged in terms of access to economic resources, education, health services, employment and to decision-making positions. Projects aimed at improving opportunities for women by increasing their skills, productivity, income and empowerment should be envisaged with the following components:

A demand-driven grassroots social fund having the following main activities:

- Providing support for the formation of women's groups where they do not exist and assisting existing groups in subproject implementation and management;

- Encouraging women’s groups to organise themselves around productive activities which they identify themselves and in which they are willing to contribute a minimal initial investment capital. These should be small, technically simple and cost effective projects that produce marketable products. Examples of these are handicrafts, small animal and poultry farming, market gardening, food co-operatives, etc.;

- Assisting women to invest in labour-saving ventures such as grinding mills, food transformation and conservation plants, day care centers with a nutrition component, etc.; and

- Sponsoring intermediaries to provide women's initiative groups with technical assistance in the area of project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and overall co-ordination.

An institutional strengthening component which should involve:

- Organising IEC activities to increase awareness among men and women on diverse issues such as family planning, HIV/AIDS, STDs, harmful traditional practices, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, education, etc. These campaigns should seek to strengthen positive aspects of traditional customs and to sensitise against adverse aspects. In this direction, various types of media channels should be employed with emphasis on folk media, theatre and interpersonal communication which are likely to be more accessible to rural poor women;
Assisting in the capacity building of stakeholders, especially indigenous or community-based groups, in the area of grassroots’ beneficiary training, facilitation, group organisation and co-ordination and in project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting;

Establishing measurable intermediate and outcome indicators from the outset and systematically producing and compiling requisite data to measure them; and

Promoting female role models and social change promoters as impetus to empowerment.

However, it must be recognised that women's initiative projects are likely to face a number of constraints that are not unrelated to the subordinate roles and status of women in society and to their poverty.

The capacity and/or willingness of women to participate in development activities and economic ventures cannot always be guaranteed because some cultural, environmental and traditional constraints are hard to overcome. Hence the need for elaborate IEC campaigns before the launching of such programs;

Women are more likely to participate in projects that are multisectoral and their participation shall be more effective if the decision to join the initiative groups is jointly taken with their husbands. In this direction, the response of men is not always predictable, neither is it identical or unilateral;

Most poor women are not likely to be reached by such projects because they may not have the requisite seed capital to contribute to become members;

More time is needed to build capacity, prepare the groundwork and collect baseline data during the initial phases of the project. Hence more financial resources are likely to initially go into funding of administrative costs during the first 2-3 years;

Women's initiative group projects need simplified institutional arrangements and procedures for subproject selection, disbursement of funds and procurement. Oftentimes, donor agencies are not prepared to make such concessions.

**An Adolescent Women’s Development Initiative**

This subcategory of women is most likely to be out of school and perhaps forced into early marriage and would even have started childbearing in many African societies. They generally constitute primary supporters in household activities, primary caretakers of younger siblings and of the elderly generations and are the potential driving force of future fertility performance and family dynamics. Yet they are hardly ever targeted as a group. Often times, they are
employed as intermediaries, social change agents or support staff of women's groups.

However, a specific adolescent women's project with the same components as that for adult women is likely to be more successful and have a more sustainable impact. Adolescent income generating opportunities should guarantee for a more fulfilling adolescence, with a higher degree of autonomy, self-respect and ability to resist oppressive traditional gender roles. Adolescent women are likely to be more responsive to literacy programs, to adopt new technologies and behaviour patterns and to transmit innovative ideas.
Helping Rural Communities to Help Themselves

In line with the Bank’s strategy of popular participation in demand-driven initiatives targeting poverty reduction, rural community development projects could be envisaged with the view to empowering the rural poor to help themselves. Such projects may evolve around the following objectives:

- Encourage village communities and development committees to embrace or adopt collective decision-making and to design and carry out their own development plans;
- Help the rural poor, especially the women and marginalized groups, to exploit their environment in more efficient and sustainable ways;
- Facilitate access by villagers to basic services like:
  - Health (rehabilitation of health centers; preventive and curative care; etc.);
  - Education (creation/rehabilitation/extension of schools; basic and adult literacy courses; etc.);
  - Water (construction/rehabilitation of wells, boreholes, reservoirs, transmission lines; small-scale irrigation and other water supply projects; etc.);
  - Economic development (crop storage, processing and marketing opportunities; bee, fish and small animal farming; market gardening; other non-farm economic ventures, etc.);
  - Community sanitation (latrines; waste disposal; personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation; etc.),
- Improve the capacity of stakeholders of the private sector such as NGOs, small local firms and contractors to more effectively intervene in the execution of various activities of the community projects.

A Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program

In countries where it is evident that access to abundant potable water sources is the main factor exacerbating poverty conditions in the poor communities, focus may be placed solely on providing this essential resource along with allied services. The main objectives could then include to:

- Build the requisite institutional mechanisms for implementing such a program at central and local levels. Management committees could be
created to prepare plans and appraise subprojects identified by communities;

- Ensure improved and sustainable access to water and sanitation services by rural communities;

- Enhance community participation in local infrastructure provision and the participation of the private sector in service delivery; and

- Improve on the health condition of vulnerable groups in rural settlements through provision of equipment and drugs and integrated health services incorporating reproductive health, nutrition and hygiene.
A Reproductive Health Program with a strong STD and HIV/AIDS Control Component

Within the broad reproductive health (RH) program, it may be deemed necessary to design a specific subproject whose goal would be to reduce the incidence of the transmission of STDs and HIV/AIDS infection. Other diseases related to the reproductive system among men and women may also be targeted. The following project components should be envisaged:

- Strengthening public and private institutions responsible for HIV/AIDS and STD control through:
  - Establishing a functional and decentralised infrastructure to cope with these infections and whose roles would be to provide prevention, treatment, institutional development and surveillance, research and evaluation. This shall imply the creation of nationwide screening, treatment and counselling centers;
  - Providing specialised training for health professionals, trainers and peer groups to ensure efficient case management and provision of care for all categories of patients - adult men and women and adolescents;
  - Providing the requisite equipment, drugs and contraceptives in health institutions;
  - Providing social services and psychological advice; and
  - Strengthening the institutional capacity of these institutions to make for proper project management, particularly human resource development; procurement, maintenance and management of stocks and of a viable information system.

- Raising awareness through advocacy campaigns at policy level for political support and sensitisation using NGOs and grassroots and peer groups to reach vulnerable groups. Such campaigns should be accompanied by the distribution of condoms;

- Designing and implementing communications campaigns to bring about change in behaviour relating to harmful traditional practices, sex discrimination, high-risk exposure to infection, etc.;

- Systematic screening for STDs among women who come for prenatal care;

- Teaching women and adolescents how to recognise STD infections and encouraging them to seek treatment;
Providing training for home-based care for HIV/AIDS patients and making it possible for people with such infection to live longer and healthier lives;

Initiating income-generating activities to assist and empower affected families to provide care to patients and orphans;

Providing services for screening and management of cases of prostate and cervical cancer with possibility of referral facilities for early and complete treatment;

Setting up adolescent youth service delivery centers where a wide range of RH services, including counselling and sex education would be made available to the youth. Similar facilities may also be foreseen to handle the specific RH problems of men; and

Conducting situational analysis surveys and other operational research coupled with qualitative community-level surveys to enhance quality service delivery and to improve on policy and program design.

A Safe Motherhood Project

Against a background of high maternal and child mortality and morbidity levels and evidence of inadequate use of health facilities by women in a particular locality or country, a safe motherhood project is recommended. This should be a demand-driven approach that considers the social, cultural and economic determinants of safe motherhood taking into consideration supply-side constraints relating to availability and quality of services. The diversity of other local health needs of the communities should be addressed in other to determine the mix of interventions and the key stakeholders and development partners to take on. The main components of such a project should include:

- Strengthening the availability, sustainability and quality of client-oriented maternal health services at the community level;

- Organising advocacy and sensitisation campaigns with the view to overcoming such major demand-side constraints to use of maternal health services as cultural norms and traditional practices;

- Reviewing of the pricing policy for services provided; and

- Increasing the knowledge of key RH issues among adolescents through institutionalised RH programs in the educational system, peer educators, NGOs and grassroot organisations. This shall prepare adolescents to subsequently lead healthy reproductive lives.
Population and environment interventions usually feature as components of various urban and rural development projects where the impact of the interaction of specific categories of the population on the immediate physical environment is examined. Other interventions take into consideration the effect of changing environmental conditions on the resident population. Environmental impact analyses that are routine components of almost every project of the Bank are generally of this nature. They seek to ensure poverty alleviation projects that do not end up damaging the environmental conditions of the poor. The following may be considered as subprojects or project components in this domain:

- Evaluating the impact of rapid population growth and resultant high densities coupled with extensive land-use patterns on the rural environment of a particular region. This is generally part of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation projects where efforts are being made to control deforestation and the advance of desertification or where efforts are directed toward protection of water catchments areas and to avoid water pollution. It should include an in-depth study of the rights and use of renewable and non-renewable natural resources related to cultural practices and economic survival of the resident communities. Such an intervention may also be a component of the design of a national environmental action plan. In that case, it should have a population projections dimension during which future population evolution and resource use patterns and its consequences on the environment would be examined;

- Assessing the impact of unplanned settlement of refugee populations on the immediate environment of particular regions of a country. Aspects to be examined should include: destruction of the vegetal cover in search for fuel wood, building materials and food, depletion of scarce water and food resources, environmental pollution with human and household waste, etc.;

- Studying the coping strategies being adopted by populations directly affected by constant environmental changes to determine whether such strategies are sustainable. This would usually apply within a context of changing environmental conditions due to climatic or other natural causes (drought, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or emissions) or due to human causes (execution of other projects);

- Assessing the impact of the introduction of fuel-saving techniques on the control of environment degradation. Such a component should include an effective communication for behaviour change component
along with components for the local production and repair of ameliorated stoves; and

- Within a biodiversity conservation project, focusing on target communities identified as those directly using the resources of the reserve areas on a regular basis, for awareness creation campaigns on the importance of the area’s biodiversity. Subsequently, village natural resource committees may be created for management activities focused on the sustainable use of specific resources such as medicinal plants, thatch, hardwood for furniture, handicraft and construction, fuel wood, etc.