



**Ministry of Social Affairs**

**United Nations Population Fund**



**ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2003**

**Population and Development Strategies Sub-programme**

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### Population and Development Strategies Sub-programme

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## ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2003

### Population and Development Strategies Sub-programme

#### I. Contribution of the PDS sub-programme to the stated outputs:

As defined by the Country Programme, the purpose towards which the PDS Sub-programme outputs contribute is: *“To have contributed to integrated population, gender and reproductive health dimensions in national and sectoral development planning”*.

The **first output** planned to occur as a consequence of the sub-programme activities is: *“Strengthened national capacities for the integration of population, RH and gender dimensions into sectoral planning and programming”*.

In order to reach this output, the PDS sub-programme worked in 2003 on setting up the preparatory steps to upgrade institutional, policymaking and planning capacities through the initiation of a preliminary process to develop national population policy plans of actions, to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the NPPC and its TS, and to integrate a population and RH course in a specific university’s curricula.

**1.1.** With regard to the development of national population policy plans of action (PoAs), the TS evaluated and carried out an in-depth analysis of various similar Arab countries’ national population policy PoAs for a better understanding of the means to integrate population issues within the Lebanese Government Policy. This is an on-going activity which will continue in 2004 and be taken in account during the whole process of preparation of the PoAs.

It was planned to follow this first step by an expert group meeting to review and finalize the PoAs structure and TOR for their formulation but this activity was postponed due to a delay in the transfer of the MoSA’s contribution in the 2003 program budget.

On the other hand, the TS proceeded to the mapping out of structural units and departments of line ministries and administrations and elaborated a strategy for the establishment of Focal Units within the Lebanese Ministries and different public administrations. It is expected to finalize this step and complement it in 2004 through the establishment of these Focal Units after defining clearly their tasks and responsibilities within their respective Ministries.

**1.2.** With regard to the institutional and technical capacities of the NPPC, to counter the scarcity of human resources within its Technical Secretariat and further activate it, the



existing TS staff was retained and two additional research assistants were appointed. The TS was also provided with additional computers, printers and other office equipment.

Throughout the year 2003, the TS participated in several workshops on population related issues and was provided training and capacity building on these issues as well as on basic management methods and data analysis softwares. These participations and trainings had a very positive impact on the performance of the TS and empowered the staff with the in-depth understanding required to fulfill and implement the project activities with the appropriate methods.

- Participation of the TS in a training workshop on **Result Based Management (RBM)** (7-10 May, 2003) organized and conducted by the UNFPA and the CST-Amman. The workshop focused on: basic RBM concepts and definitions; results chain and causal relations; operational tools; process of Logframe preparation; tools for linking problems and results; tools for orienting monitoring and evaluation to demonstrate results; tools for reporting and documenting results.

- Participation of the TS in a training seminar on the **UNESCO IDAMS Software** (Internationally Developed Data Analysis and Management Software Package) (19-21 May, 2003) organized and conducted by the League of Arab States and the UNESCO, in collaboration with the Central Administration of Statistics. The seminar focused on: Data in IDAMS; working with WinIDAMS; WinIDAMS User Interface; working with WinIDIS; IDAMS "Setup" file; WinIDAMS printout file.

- Participation of the TS in a workshop on **Gender Statistics as a Tool for Policy Formulation and Analysis** (17-19 June 2003) organized and conducted by the ESCWA in cooperation with the specialized United Nations agencies. The workshop focused on: evaluating the progress made by countries participating in the ESCWA project for the development of national gender statistics programmes; considering successful national experiences in employing gender statistics in the formulation of policies; learning about the experiences of United Nations specialized agencies in the area of mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistics; get familiarized with the ESCWA gender statistics website.

- Participation of the TS in a workshop on **Social Indicators with Emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals and Indicators** (20 June 2003) organized and conducted by the ESCWA in cooperation with the UNDP. The workshop focused on: increasing awareness of the MDGs, the related indicators and the consequent international and national undertakings to achieve those Goals by 2015; introducing means of following up and monitoring progress made in achieving MDGs.

- Participation of the TS in a workshop on **Gender Capacity Building Assessment** (6-10 October 2003) organized and conducted by the UNFPA and the CST-Amman. The workshop focused on: Gender Conceptual and Development Framework; Gender in Reproductive health; Gender and Statistics; Gender Based Violence; Gender and Education; Gender Mainstreaming in Planning Development and Monitoring and

Evaluation; the Situation of Women in Lebanon; the Lebanese Women's National Strategy.

- Participation of NPPC experts and other concerned parties from the PDS project and MoSA in the **Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Integration of Population Issues in the Development Process** (Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, 17-19 December 2003) organized and conducted by the Population and Development Team of the ESCWA. The meeting focused on: Population and Sustainable Development; Population Policies and Contemporary Challenges; The Supporting Environment for Integration.

- Participation of the NPPC experts and other concerned parties from the PDS project and MoSA in the Meeting of presidents of NPPCs in Arab countries (Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, 20-21 December 2003). Within the framework of this Meeting, the PDS sub-programme prepared Lebanon's national report on population activities in Lebanon during the years 2002 and 2003.

**1.3.** With regard to the integration of a population and RH course in the University of Balamand's curricula, the year 2003 was mainly a preparatory year. Terms of Reference were developed jointly between the UNFPA CO with MoSA/PDS, reviewed with UoB, and endorsed by PDS. A meeting with all stakeholders (ie UoB, MoSA, and UNFPA) was held in August 2003 for briefing the university about the objectives, methodology, expected outcomes and coordination mechanism of the integration process of population in university curricula. In accordance with the project document, the UNFPA signed a contract with the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Balamand, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2003, to design course materials and/or update existing relevant courses on population, reproductive health and RH. It was suggested to establish a coordinating/steering committee to convey technical support to this activity; it would be formed by a number of representatives from the concerned parties.

The **second output** planned to occur as a consequence of the sub-programme activities is: *“Increased availability of sex-disaggregated population related data by region”*.

In order to reach this output, the PDS sub-programme planned in 2003 to undertake in-depth and specialized studies in priority areas as well as surveys related to RH.

**2.1.** With regard to the undertaking of specialized studies, the PDS sub-programme identified a study on External Migration and began the preliminary steps to initiate it through the drafting of detailed TORs that were discussed with the CST which suggested that the study be broadened in its objectives as well as its outputs. But this kind of deep analytical and extensive study would need a bigger budget as well as more time to be completed. Thus, the TORs were not finalized and the study was suspended.



**2.2.** With regard to the undertaking of RH-related surveys, the PDS sub-programme participated in the preparation of the preliminary steps for the conduction of the multipurpose survey as well as the PAPFAM survey, will full involvement and execution by the Central Administration of Statistics. More specifically, the PDS participated in the drafting of the multipurpose survey questionnaire, and assisted in the discussion of the sampling process in both surveys.

The **third output** planned to occur as a consequence of the sub-programme activities is: *“Increased awareness and understanding of priority population, RH and gender issues, contained in the national population policy, among policy makers, parliamentarians and opinion leaders”*.

In order to reach this output, the PDS sub-programme planned in 2003 to assess the awareness of decision makers regarding population issues, establish a media network of population issues and launch advocacy activities.

**3.1.** With regard to the assessment of the awareness, knowledge and perceptions of decision makers regarding the content and scope of the population policy, the consulting firm MADMA was assigned to initiate and conduct the field study. A questionnaire was drafted and discussed by various parties (CST-Amman, UNFPA CO and the TS). After getting wide agreement on the content of the questionnaire, it was distributed to 270 NGOs, 39 religious leaders and 136 members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers. The first draft of the study is expected to be ready by the end of April 2004.

**3.2.** With regards to the establishment of a media network in support of population, RH and gender issues, the TS started working on setting it up through the preparation of a questionnaire aiming to evaluate the knowledge and awareness of media personnel on population issues as well as their opinion on these issues. It was planned to appoint 5 students in journalism from the Lebanese University and to train them on population issues and on the means to carry out this opinion survey. However, this activity was discontinued because it was assessed that the establishment of a media network needed more clarification concerning its objectives, methodology and strategy. In 2004, the PDS is planning to revive this activity but in a new form and after defining clear goals, procedures and an unambiguous structure for this network. The process will take place in full collaboration with the IEC Unit of the MoSA which has the necessary experience to deal with the media people.

**3.3.** With regard to the advocacy activities aiming at advancing policy dialogue among parliamentarians, decision-makers and other influentials at national and community levels on population, RH and gender issues, the PDS sub-programme organized a Syrian-



Lebanese common workshop on the impact of population policies on the development process (15-16 April, 2003) which was attended by a number of representatives from the Syrian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, members of Syrian and Lebanese NGOs, as well as representatives from the Lebanese MoSA and members and experts from the Lebanese NPPC. This workshop benefited from broad media coverage and engendered further collaboration with Syrian partners through exchange of population-related documents and plans to organize additional workshops in Syria (about family health) and in Lebanon (about the elderly).

On the occasion of the celebration of the World Population Day (11 July 2003), the PDS organized a one day workshop on Youth problematic issues and Regional disparities in Lebanon; it was attended by a group of journalists and representatives of youth associations. This workshop engendered a debate in the written medias through many articles that covered the risen issues and other population concerns.

Furthermore, the information that was disseminated and discussed during the World Population Day Workshop was printed out in educational wall papers that were distributed during the workshop as well as afterwards (to groups of young people in the MoSA summer camps, to the youth which participated in the RH awareness-raising campaigns, etc.).

Moreover, the TS developed greeting cards that bring in the goals stated in the National Document for Population Policy in Lebanon in a simplified, user-friendly and illustrated manner. These cards were distributed by the TS, the MoSA and the UNFPA on the occasion of the New Year 2004 to a large number of their partners and collaborators (individuals as well as organizations). The feedback on this activity was mostly positive especially that it had contributed in disseminating the foremost content of the National Document for Population Policy in Lebanon among institutions and organizations that weren't aware of its existence till now.

As for the establishment of links with population-related Parliamentarian Committees (such as the Education, the Public Health and labor, the Youth and Sports, the Woman and Child, and the Human Rights Committees) and their involvement in relevant advocacy activities, a workshop with parliamentarians was planned but since it was supposed to be based on the results of the Opinion Leaders' Survey conducted by MADMA, and the Survey wasn't completed in due time (ie before the end of 2003), the workshop was postponed.

Being a multi-stakeholder programme, the PDS was assigned the filling-out of the ICPD+10 Field Inquiry questionnaire undertaken by the UNFPA and which aims at documenting the actual implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. So as to ensure objectivity, quality and adequate coverage of this questionnaire, the TS proceeded to sending it to a large number of concerned parties (ministries, experts, NGOs), and synthesized all the responses it received in a final Arabic version that was later translated into English. This gathering of information on the last 10 years was very useful

**3.4.** As part of the networking and coordination activities, the TS is participating actively in the IEC committee established by the RH-IEC/MoSA sub-programme that aims at coordinating and cooperating with several parties in the implementation of informational and educational activities related to different population issues. The TS also participated in the first meetings of the Training committee established by the RH/MoPH sub-programme but this participation was discontinued because it was estimated that there was no possibility of joint training activities between the PDS and the RH/MoPH sub-programmes.

Within this context, it is significant to note that there was insufficient coordination between the PDS and the RH-IEC/MoSA programmes despite the fact that many meetings were held with the purpose of attaining a certain level of coordination between the two work plans. However, it remains imperative to reach an understanding on this matter since the PDS sub-programme embraces in its goals all population issues including RH. Therefore, efforts should be undertaken to set up a common work plan for the year 2004 with operational means and a clear agenda.

In order to improve linkages and interactions between and among the expected activities and results pertaining to the PDS and RH sub-programmes and to foster teamwork, ownership, accountability, efficiency and joint reporting, it was also planned to establish a Sub-Programme Steering Committee to be formed from representatives of CDR, MOSA, NPPC/TS, RH programme of MOPH, CAS, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Health Sciences/University of Balamand, relevant NGOs and women's committees and UNFPA CO- as well as additional entities as deemed necessary. In view of that, primary discussions were held but the process was discontinued given that the functionality and efficiency of this Steering Committee was very questionable due to the large number of the members that were supposed to form this Committee.

## **II. Main constraints and proposals/recommendations to increase the effectiveness of upcoming activities:**

These project activities will furthermore be developed and widened throughout the year 2004 but some were assessed by the TS as not being sufficient to contribute precisely to the above mentioned outputs, due to a number of major constraints and/or lack of detailed means of implementation in the Project Document (mainly in the activities related to the first output). Hence, the TS has developed a comprehensive work plan for the year 2004.

With regards to the **first output**, it is planned to continue the mapping out of structural units and departments of line ministries and administrations for the establishment of focal units. However, the establishment of these focal units cannot be done without clear terms of reference and responsibilities for these units in order to make



them functional. Therefore, it was proposed to define clear terms of reference and pre-established responsibilities and tasks for the focal units for optimizing the integration of population, RH and gender concerns into sectoral planning and programming.

On the other hand, it was assessed that the PDS sub-programme couldn't enforce these units on the concerned ministries and that an official ratification should be solicited. Thus it is proposed to ratify the establishment of the focal units through the Council of Ministers or through each of the concerned Ministries.

In addition, since it will be difficult to formulate PoAs simultaneously in all population-related fields, it was recommended to limit this task during the 1<sup>st</sup> year and focus only on 3 main population issues (to be defined later on) that would subsequently be integrated in the work plan of a specific number of focal units (after their establishment). So it is proposed to identify, during the year 2004, 3 main population issues and a limited number of ministries or public administrations and some concerned NGOs within which population-related projects and activities will be carried out to mainstream population issues in their programs.

As for the process of formulation, drafting and ratification of the national population policy PoAs, the TS estimated that it would be important to involve the concerned Ministries in this process and let them contribute with their experiences in this matter. Hence, it is proposed to submit the draft PoAs to the Director General / Director of each concerned Ministry, administration and NGO, and integrate their comments into the final versions of the PoAs before ratifying and enunciating them.

As regards the integration of PoAs into sectoral plans, the TS considered that it would be unfruitful unless the staff of each administration is well-acquainted with its content and trained to apply it. Therefore, it is proposed to acquaint the concerned ministries' and other administrations' staff with the objectives and various dimensions of the PoAs, and organize training workshops on mainstreaming population issues into sectoral plans.

### **III. Contribution of the PDS sub-programme to the advancement of gender equity, equality and women's empowerment:**

All through the year 2003, the PDS sub-programme made efforts aiming at introducing women's component and gender methodology, tools and objectives in its various activities so as to support capacity building on gender issues and to contribute gradually to mainstreaming gender issues in development and later on their integration in national population PoAs:

- The TS participated in a Workshop on Gender Statistics as a Tool for Policy Formulation and Analysis (ESCWA, 17-19 June 2003);
- The TS participated in a Workshop on Gender Capacity Building Assessment, (6-10 October 2003) aiming at assessing gender needs and priorities and setting up a strategic planning and implementing process;



- Women's component and gender issues were introduced in the questionnaire of the Opinion Leaders' Survey, as well as in the multipurpose survey and the PAPFAM survey in order to ensure availability and dissemination of sex disaggregated data with gender analysis;
- A special emphasis was made on the gender component in the World Population Day workshop on Youth problematic issues in Lebanon, and gender was mainstreamed in the statistics presented in the educational wall papers also prepared for the celebration of the World Population Day (11 July 2003);
- A particular reference was made to gender issues in the greeting cards prepared to bring in the goals of the National Document for Population Policy in Lebanon.

#### **IV. Technical support of the UNFPA and participation of CST-Amman advisors:**

The UNFPA CO and the Country Support Team (CST-Amman) had an active role in supporting the PDS sub-programme in the critical stages of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of its 2003 activities.

- The UNFPA adopted a Results-Based Management approach and ensured building of national capacities (including the TS staff and other MoSA representatives) in RBM through a training workshop, conducted jointly by the UNFPA CO and two advisors from the CST-Amman, and aiming to optimize the use of resources and to manage for results.
- Terms of reference of the Opinion Leaders' Survey and the Lebanese External Migration Study were developed jointly between the PDS, the UNFPA CO and the CST-Amman.
- An advisor from the CST-Amman conducted the workshop on Gender Capacity Building Assessment after submitting a study/report on Gender Assessment in the Population Field in Lebanon for the Country Population Assessment Report.
- The CST-Amman and UNFPA CO were consulted to discuss the content of the Opinion Leaders' Survey questionnaire and the comments were incorporated in the final version of the questionnaire.

In order to provide further technical support to the TS, it was planned that the UNFPA, in collaboration with the PDS sub-programme, will recruit a National Coordinator for the PDS. Therefore, TORs were drafted for this position and many candidates sent their applications. A long-list was established but the recruitment process was discontinued and postponed. However, a new call for applications will be launched in 2004 to recruit the National Coordinator for the rest of the sub-programme's duration.



## **V. Management of the programme and use of financial resources:**

During the year 2003, the PDS sub-programme appointed two additional research assistants thus allowing the initiation of a team work within the TS as well as a structured distribution of tasks and responsibilities. This new team combined with the new management policy smoothed the progress of the sub-programme, enriched its activities and generated fruitful results.

As for the management of the sub-programme's financial resources, all financial and administrative decisions were taken within the sub-programme's Executive Committee meetings and by means of these meetings' minutes.

## **VI. Assessment of the execution modality:**

Throughout the year 2003, two sub-contracts were initiated in the framework of the PDS sub-programme (with Madma and with the University of Balamand) and the UNFPA Co was entrusted with the execution of both these activities in terms of sub-contracts.

