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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES

Recommendation by the Executive Director

Assistance to the Government of Colombia

Maternal and Child Health Programme in Colombia (COL/73/P03)

Estimated total UNFPA contribution:	\$4 500 000
Duration:	Three years
Estimated equivalent value of the Government's contribution:	\$10 893 000
Estimated starting date:	January 1975
Executing Agency:	World Health Organization (WHO)
Government co-operating agency:	Ministry of Health

I. Background

1. At its seventeenth session in January 1974 the Governing Council approved \$1.6 million for this project (DP/25/Add.2) and requested the Executive Director to negotiate with the Government the remaining portion of the project for an additional three years (1975-1977), and resubmit the remainder to the Council for approval.

2. Negotiations have been conducted with the Government of Colombia to reorient the activities of the project to give it a more clearly defined population focus, to increase its effectiveness and to better utilize the available resources.

II. The Project

3. The long-term objectives of the project are unchanged and consist in the decrease of the maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and the improvement of family well-being through the provision of family planning education and services.

4. The immediate objectives are to expand the coverage of maternal and child health services, to increase the number of family planning acceptors and to contribute to gynaecological cancer screening and detection. In addition, operational objectives include the strengthening of the programme's evaluation and communication systems, the training of medical and para-medical personnel and the provision of clinics and audio-visual equipment.

5. The work plan comprises the following activities:

(a) To expand the coverage of services, the use of resources will be rationalized, equipment and supplies provided and a system of control and supervision put into practice;

(b) To increase the number of family planning acceptors, community education programmes on responsible parenthood will be launched, family planning information through rural health workers intensified, the role of para-medical workers increased, contraceptives sold at low costs, equipment and supplies provided and target achievement increased by means of more intensive supervision;

(c) To maintain cumulative continuation rates of 50 per cent in family planning, the programme will pursue the creation of an appropriate system for the follow-up of users and the elimination of all negative factors in the provision of services;

(d) To extend the post-partum services to 96 regional hospitals, the plan is to increase their personnel, equipment and supplies and to organize activities within the norms of the general maternal and health programme;

(e) To contribute to the detection of gynaecological cancer, an annual screening aimed at 300,000 women over 30 years of age and appropriate follow up actions will be conducted for family planning users;

(f) To strengthen the evaluation system of the programme, short-term consultants, personnel and equipment will be provided to a special unit which is in charge of developing and applying appropriate methodologies and of conducting the analysis of collected data;

(g) To strengthen the communications programme, a unit will be created for the production of educational materials, and to which personnel, equipment and supplies will be provided.

(h) To train medical, para-medical and voluntary personnel, specific courses in techniques of maternal and child health care will be organized;

(i) To increase the facilities of the maternal and child health services, clinical and audio-visual equipment and supplies will be provided under an improved and more efficient distribution system.

III. Financial data

6. During the course of negotiations and with the reformulation of the quantitative targets of the project, the request was modified from \$4.5 million to \$10 million. The major increases were in local personnel which increased from \$1,700,000 to \$5,214,400, and in the equipment and supplies component which increased from \$1,753,000 to \$3,480,000. This request has been carefully examined but UNFPA felt that, to maintain consistency with its initial contribution in 1974 and in order to phase down international financial assistance as the programme enters its seventh year of implementation, UNFPA would be prepared to consider the request contained in the original budget, since the quantitative targets could be achieved under the original formulation.

7. UNFPA assistance now envisaged will include a permanent expert as Project Manager and short-term consultants in evaluation, communications and research. Local costs will cover technical personnel for the evaluation and communications units, administrative personnel, rural health "promoters" and the services of physicians. In addition, UNFPA will cover the expenses of training courses, clinic, office, audio-visual and educational equipment and supplies and maintenance of equipment.

8. The breakdown of the recommended UNFPA contribution for the next three-year segment of the project is the following:

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>Total</u>
Experts	\$ 38 200	38 200	38 200	114 600
Local personnel	438 200	546 900	615 600	1 600 700
Training	440 900	156 200	162 200	759 300
Equipment and supplies	743 300	597 700	412 000	1 753 000
Miscellaneous	75 300	75 900	89 200	240 400
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Total	1 735 900	1 414 900	1 317 200	4 468 000
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IV. Recommendation

9. The Executive Director recommends that the Governing Council:

(a) Approve the project in the amount of \$4.5 million for the period 1975 to 1977, with the understanding that the amount of \$1.3 million for 1977 will be resubmitted for approval to the Governing Council after a new progress review in January 1977.

(b) Authorize the Executive Director to make the appropriate arrangements with the Government of Colombia and the Executing Agency.