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**WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS**

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# CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
ABBREVIATIONS . . . . .		2
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1 - 14	4
I. ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS FACING RURAL WOMEN IN KEY AREAS AND RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM . . . . .	15 - 70	7
A. Food and agriculture . . . . .	27 - 39	10
B. Access to land . . . . .	40 - 45	13
C. Access to water . . . . .	46 - 51	15
D. Access to credit facilities and banking . . . . .	52 - 58	16
E. Access to rural co-operatives . . . . .	59 - 70	17
II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN OTHER AREAS . .	71 - 93	20
A. Integration of women in rural and community development	72 - 75	20
B. Education, training and access to technology . . . . .	76 - 86	21
C. Maternal and child health and family planning . . . . .	87 - 91	23
D. Employment . . . . .	92 - 93	24
III. CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS . . . . .	94 - 108	24
<u>Annex.</u> System-wide activities relating to rural women to be carried out over the period 1980-1981, by regions and selected countries . . . . .		29

ABBREVIATIONS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for West Asia
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Report of the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the  
United Nations Decade for Women in collaboration with the  
Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared pursuant to the request of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women at its third session, in which it requested information on rural woman and particularly on food, access to land and water, credit facilities and co-operatives. The introduction gives the background to the report and describes the methodology for selecting the activities relating to rural women being carried out by organizations of the United Nations system. Sections I and II cover the areas specifically requested by the Preparatory Committee and other important areas, including subtheme sectors, respectively, and section III contains conclusions and observations.

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Scope and objectives

1. This report is prepared by the Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in collaboration with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in pursuance of a decision by the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference, which, at its third session, held at United Nations Headquarters in April 1980, requested a brief report on rural women with particular reference to food, land, water, credit and co-operatives (see A/CONF.94/23, chap. I, para. 2).
2. The mandate is interpreted as encompassing a brief review (see sect. II below) of the economic and social position of women in the structure of rural society as it relates to women's access to resources in the areas enumerated in paragraph 1 above. In addition, in section II, information is given on some aspects of the subtheme sectors, namely, health, employment, education and training, access to technology and the integration of women in rural development, as well as activities that are being undertaken by the United Nations system in those areas.
3. While the report is not intended to be a comprehensive review and appraisal, it draws in section I on the conclusions of studies issued within and outside the United Nations system in order to point out issues relating to rural women and the constraints that hamper the resolution of those issues.
4. It also draws on information on the activities of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system that was assembled for the cross-organizational programme analysis on rural development (E/AC.51/1980/4 and Corr.1-3), prepared by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Task Force for Rural Development of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and its lead agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and considered by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its twentieth session. That report covered over 3,700 activities relating to rural development being carried out by the principal United Nations agencies and organizations working in the field over the period 1980-1981. In the previous phase of the cross-organizational programme analysis, activities were analysed according to seven categories formulated by the ACC Task Force in accordance with the various mandates of intergovernmental bodies throughout the system, and a report was submitted to the Economic and Social Council in document E/1979/44. The seven categories comprised policies and planning, agriculture, industrial development, physical infrastructure, natural resources and environment, the application of science and technology, health and social services and human resource development and institutions. For the purpose of the present report, activities relating specifically to rural women have been selected from the total number of activities and rearranged according to the categories requested by the Preparatory Committee. In this way, the response of the system over the two-year period 1980-1981 to the concern expressed by Governments regarding the needs of rural women and the problems facing them may be reviewed.

5. The dual approach will, it is hoped, facilitate the formulation of action-oriented strategies for the rest of the Decade and beyond. Observations on the findings of the report, and the conclusions drawn from them, are given in section III. The annex contains a review of activities carried out by United Nations bodies in selected countries in four geographical regions.

B. Methodology for selecting activities being carried out by the United Nations system

6. In order to gauge the scope of the activities relating to women that are being carried out, a few background facts should be provided with respect to the original study (E/AC.51/1980/4 and Corr.1-3). As mentioned earlier, it covered nearly 3,700 activities and approved projects or programme elements (the smallest denominator of activities) in the programmes and budgets for the biennium 1980-1981 <sup>1/</sup> of organizations within the United Nations that were directed at "poverty-oriented rural development" defined in terms of the segment or group of a rural population intended to benefit from the activity. There were differences in the interpretation of what constitutes rural development, in that some organizations interpreted it in a broad sense to cover all activities in rural areas, while for others it meant only those activities which related to the rural poor. Still others did not report on activities that had both urban and rural beneficiaries but were not broken down specifically to differentiate between the two. Broadly speaking, the term was taken to refer to "the transformation of rural life and activities in all their economic, social, cultural, institutional, environmental and human aspects", focusing on the less advantaged and poor segments of the rural population (see E/AC.51/1980/4 and Corr.1-3, paras. 10 and 11).

7. The number of activities designed to benefit rural women depended on the criteria used for identifying the beneficiary, since several different types of intended beneficiaries were often given for each activity. Only for 161, or about 4 per cent, of the total number of activities was it stated that rural women were the intended beneficiaries, whereas 180 other activities nearly 5 per cent of the total, were noted to include women among the intended beneficiaries. The combined 341 activities amounted to only 9 per cent of the total number of rural development activities. <sup>2/</sup>

8. For the purposes of the present report, only those activities in which projects or issues affecting women were specifically mentioned in the project description have been reviewed and the projects which simply listed women among other categories as beneficiaries have been omitted. This figure excludes the several hundred WHO projects in the areas of health where women were not

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<sup>1/</sup> In the case of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the budget cycle covers the biennium 1979-1980.

<sup>2/</sup> Other beneficiaries included family (76.3 per cent), producers (38.1 per cent), the landless (26.2 per cent), and youth (7.3 per cent) (see: E/AC.51/1980/4 Corr.3, table 8, "Beneficiaries by sector"). In that table, the percentage of activities relating to rural women is shown as 9.2.

specifically mentioned and where the target group was stated to be the family, as well as many other projects which were specifically designed, mainly by FAO, to assist the landless or small farmers and producers at the rural level, even though it is clear that women could often be expected to benefit from those activities.

9. The descriptions of some of the projects and programme elements were not sufficiently detailed, since the data were not originally intended for this purpose and it was often difficult to define activities accurately in terms of the areas on which this report focuses: food, land, water, credit, co-operatives, education and training and access to technology.

10. Because of this, it is not possible to identify the precise percentages or proportions of projects relating to the concerns of rural women. Nevertheless, despite global and intergovernmental concern with achieving greater equity for rural women and their full integration in the development process, as expressed in resolutions and plans of action adopted by recent international conferences over the past decade, 3/ the expected level of activities has not been generated in this area (only 9 per cent).

11. The majority (86 per cent) of the activities relating to rural women that are reviewed here are operational projects and are therefore undertaken only at the specific request of Governments. This is an important context in which to view the system's response to intergovernmental mandates.

#### C. Analysis of activities of the United Nations system

12. The data show that, over the 1980-1981 budget period, 13 organizations within the United Nations system are undertaking activities specifically designed to benefit women in rural areas. 4/ The World Health Organization (WHO),

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3/ Including those of the United Nations World Population Conference (see Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3)), the World Food Conference (see Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3)) and the 1977 United Nations Water Conference (see Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12)) and, especially, the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace, the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the resolutions adopted by the World Conference on the International Women's Year (see Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.IV.1)).

4/ It should be noted that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recently completed an action-oriented assessment of rural women's participation in development (DP/453 of 14 March 1980) as part of its evaluation programme undertaken jointly with participating and executing agencies. While it covers some

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with 39, FAO, with 36, and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), with 22, have the largest number of activities. Interagency co-operation is reported in less than one fourth of the activities under review. Almost 70 per cent of the activities are carried out at the national level and 28 per cent at the community level. Approximately 50 per cent of all projects included are to be completed in 1981, while the other half continue beyond that year.

13. The total estimated cost for the 161 projects in which rural women were specifically mentioned was \$199,788,400 of which \$157,311,000 was from regular budget sources and \$42,477,400 from extrabudgetary funds (including \$21,173,400 for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)). On the other hand, the total estimated costs for the 341 projects which mentioned women as one of several types of intended beneficiary together with other beneficiaries (and which included the 161 specific projects) were \$491,214,000, of which \$433,742,000 was from regular budget sources and \$57,472,000 from extrabudgetary funds (including \$21,173,400 for UNICEF). The total cost of the 341 projects represents 4.2 per cent of the total regular and extrabudgetary resources expended on rural development activities, excluding the extrabudgetary resources of the World Food Programme (WFP), reported in the cross-organizational programme analysis (E/AC.51/1980/4/Corr.3, table 5).

14. In order to illustrate the types of activities involved, the annex to the present report shows activities from three selected countries in each of the four regions: Africa (Benin, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania), Asia (Afghanistan, India, the Philippines), Latin America (Brazil, Honduras, Haiti) and the Middle East (Democratic Yemen, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic).

#### I. ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS FACING RURAL WOMEN IN KEY AREAS AND RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

##### Some demographic indicators

15. Almost one half of the population of the world lives in the rural areas of the developing world and depends directly on agriculture, fishing, forestry and related activities. 5/ Women comprise a substantial segment of this population. The latest statistics show that 60 per cent of the world's women live in the rural areas and that 80 per cent of these women are to be found in the rural areas of the developing world. Within the developing countries, 72 per cent of all women against 71.6 per cent of the men live in the rural areas. 6/ Although male/female

(continued)

of the activities mentioned, it does not cover projects not funded or executed by UNDP. Other information on rural women's activities carried out by organizations of the United Nations system over the period 1975-1979 can be found in document A/CONF.94/20.

5/ "Review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development in the developing countries since the mid-1960s" (WCARRD/INF/3), p. 1.

6/ "Age-sex distributions in rural and urban areas" (ESA/P/WP/64).

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differentials in the composition of rural populations may appear small on a global scale, there are substantial differences at the regional, subregional and the national levels.

16. A regional breakdown shows that in Africa 75 per cent of the women live in the rural areas and the figure varies by subregion. The concentration of rural women is highest in the eastern Africa subregion, with 88 per cent, 7/ and lowest in the southern Africa subregion, with only 58 per cent. 8/

17. In Asia, the countries in the middle south-east Asian subregion 9/ have the highest proportion of women living in the countryside (80 per cent) while the figures for countries in the subregion described as "other East Asia" 10/ averages 56.7 per cent. In the countries of western South Asia 11/ 50 per cent of the women live in rural areas, while in China the proportion is approximately 77 per cent.

18. In Latin America, 37 per cent of the women live in rural areas, compared with 40 per cent of the men. In the Caribbean countries 12/ which have a larger rural population than the other subregions, 50 per cent of the women live in rural areas, while at the other extreme, the subregion of temperate South America, which is also the most urbanized area of Latin America has the lowest number of women living in rural areas (18 per cent). There is a marked male/female differential, women accounting for a higher proportion of the urban population in all the subregions.

19. Such demographic indicators underscore the necessity for a rural development strategy in which women are viewed as a critical and indeed integral part of rural society. Ironically, however, the evidence suggests that little or no positive change has occurred since the early 1970s in the situation of rural women.

#### The scope and goals of rural development

20. The constraints placed on rural development by international economic factors

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7/ Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

8/ Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.

9/ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

10/ Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

11/ Democratic Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

12/ Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Windward Islands.

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confirm more than ever before the urgent need to implement the proposals of the new international economic order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. These findings underline a statement made by President Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania, in which he said:

"It is not only within nations that we need to give priority to rural development; world growth and world development must be based on a strategy of rural development ... for the world the rural areas are the developing nations ... And under the present world economic order, the rich and the industrialized areas - regardless of whether these are capitalist or socialist - automatically, as well as by the exercise of naked power, extract from the poor and rural areas even that little which they have". 13/

21. The review submitted to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development found that poor terms of trade, and tariff and non-tariff barriers against processed goods from the developing countries resulted in a lack of access to markets; that continued to have a negative impact on the growth of agro-industries. Official foreign development assistance set by donor countries themselves has not grown while the debt service from developing countries continues to rise. Where foreign private investment has been encouraged the net result has been the reinforcement of cleavages between mechanized export agriculture and subsistence farming and increased rural dependence on foreign capital, techniques and markets. These factors have a negative impact on agriculture and the objectives of national self-sufficiency in food.

22. At the national level, development policy has disfavoured rural areas in the share of public investment, with the consequence that rural people have to bear the greater burden of development. Besides, they are faced with few employment opportunities and social amenities. National pricing policies, taxation and terms of trade favour the urban-industrial sector and have the result of decapitalizing the rural areas. Furthermore, with respect to agriculture, pricing and taxation policies tend to work to the advantage of the export sector, while domestic food production lags behind.

23. The rural areas of the developing world are at present characterized by sharp cleavages defined by access to resources. While a small section of the rural population has benefited through technological advance and access to better education, land, services and inputs, most rural people remain poor and cut off from these opportunities and are also pushed into the traditional sector. The split is further manifested by increasing landlessness and the growing productivity gap between rich land-owning farmers and the poorer classes.

24. Despite variations in the definition of scope and objectives of rural development, it is largely recognized within the United Nations that the most recent and applicable legislative authority on rural development is the Declaration of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference

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13/ "On rural development", an address delivered at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development on 13 July 1979.

on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and endorsed by General Assembly resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, in which it is stated that:

"The goal of agrarian reform and rural development is transformation of rural life and activities in all their economic, social, cultural, institutional, environmental and human aspects. National objectives and strategies to achieve this transformation should focus on eradication of poverty, including nutritional improvement, and be governed by policies for attaining growth with equity, redistribution of economic and political power, and peoples' participation". 14/

25. Rural women share with men the common problems of rural under-development. Indeed, the worsening rural conditions place a substantial strain on the capacity of rural families to function adequately. However, some special problems and constraints which women encounter can be attributed to their socio-economic position in the household and in rural society, which reinforces discrimination against them.

26. What is the position of women in rural society and what new factors and circumstances tend to work to the particular disadvantage of women? What sort of country projects are requested by Governments and how does the United Nations system respond to the need to improve the social and economic situation of rural women fundamentally? The following passages will attempt to answer these questions in relation to food and agriculture, land, water, credit, co-operatives and in education, training and access to technology, health and family planning, employment and integration of women in rural development.

#### A. Food and agriculture

27. In many developing countries, most women are engaged in agricultural production and are responsible in the main for the production, processing and distribution of a variety of food crops. Depending on the types of technology used, the prevailing agrarian structure and patterns of land tenure and distribution, women's role and work inputs in agriculture, food production and the distributive trade may vary from region to region and in form. Women's participation in agriculture varies from full proletarianization, seasonal labour reserve, subsistence producers in haciendas to small producers in independent smallholdings.

28. In Africa, which has been described as the "region of female farming par excellence", women are largely responsible for food production. 15/ It has been estimated that they account for 60-80 per cent of the agricultural labour force. Women's work input in agriculture and food varies in different countries. For instance, in some parts of Zaire, women spend between 180 and 312 days in the

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14/ Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), p. 4 (see also A/34/485).

15/ Ester Boserup, Women's Role in Economic Development (New York, N.Y., St. Martins Press, 1970), p. 16.

field and work from five to six days per week. In one small farm area of Kenya, it was found that women spent an average of four and a half hours a day on farming in times of low demand for labour and from six to nine hours a day in peak seasons. In Lesotho, where two thirds of the men work as migrant labour in South Africa, most of the year women spend up to 10 hours a day in the fields at the height of the hoeing season. 16/

29. In Latin America, it is estimated that women account for 40 per cent of the agricultural labour force. Since there is a higher number of males than females in the rural areas, this must mean an extremely high work input on the part of rural women. In this region, differences exist between working conditions for women and labour demands on them in areas dominated by large estates and the corresponding conditions in the smallholding areas. In the large estates, women tend to have a less permanent employment status than men. In areas where small farms predominate, women are largely responsible for agriculture as men have to go out in search of work outside the subsistence economy. 17/

30. In most parts of Asia, a large number of women are wage-earning agricultural workers on commercial farms and on plantations. It has been estimated that women in this region account for 60-80 per cent of the agricultural labour. 18/ These figures vary by subregion, country and type of agriculture. In Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Philippines, India and Pakistan, women account for 30-50 per cent of the total labour-force in plantation agriculture. 19/ The latest estimates indicate, for instance, that women in Thailand form 36.8 per cent of the total number of economically active persons in agriculture. In India the proportion is 19.9 per cent, while in Fiji 8.9 per cent of the women are in this category. 20/

31. In many countries of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) region, women are involved in various phases of agricultural production. While the custom of female seclusion often prevails, women continue to work in those agricultural tasks which can be performed within the home, such as cleaning seed, drying grains, tending domestic animals and processing and preparing food. However, in some countries in the region, for instance, in Democratic Yemen and Yemen, women are central to subsistence agricultural production.

32. In a number of developing countries, women are involved in the distributive

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16/ For further details and sources, see "Women in food production, food-handling and nutrition, with special emphasis on Africa", a 1977 report of the former Protein-Calorie Advisory Group, that had been jointly sponsored by WHO and UNICEF.

17/ Lourdes Beneria, "Reproduction, production and the sexual division of labour", World Employment Research Working Paper No. 2 (1978).

18/ Economic Commission for Africa, "The changing and contemporary role of women in African development", 1974.

19/ Rural Development, United Nations Development Programme Evaluation Study No. 2 (June 1979), p.68.

20/ Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1978 (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1978).



trade of goods, food-stuffs and fish in local and subregional market centres. In Africa, women pursue marketing activities as a means of earning cash to meet their household expenditure. In Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, some market-women who trade in both small and large towns exercise considerable economic power. The information available suggests that nearly 60 per cent of the marketing activities are in the hands of women. In much of South-East Asia and in some areas of South and Central America, trade in rural and urban areas is dominated by women. 21/

33. Although women continue to be crucial to food production and agriculture, in many rural areas of the developing world their position and capacity to survive are rapidly being eroded. Rural women have traditionally worked as members of family groups and, on the basis of their roles as wives, mothers and daughters, they have been guaranteed some degree of economic security. This has led to the impression that directing assistance to the rural household will necessarily benefit women. The economic strength of the family on which women have depended, however tenuously, is growing even more insecure. Strategies for rural development have to come to terms with the fact that the rural family is being severely restricted in its access to resources and is being gradually differentiated by the process of technological change and that women stand to suffer adversely from these processes.

34. In Latin America, for example, the advance of commercial and heavily capitalized agriculture has led to a proletarianization of the labour force, with the result that rural wage workers tend to be employed on a temporary basis with no security in land for personal cultivation. For women, this has meant a displacement from permanent labour and they are increasingly being confined to small plots as unremunerated family helpers (see A/33/238 and Corr.1, paras. 72-73).

35. Both the demographic distribution of women in rural areas of the developing world and the observations of the impact of technological change, taken together, suggest very strongly that the problems of rural under-development will be particularly devastating for women unless specific policy interventions are made with regard to expanding and enhancing the value of rural employment for women.

#### Related activities of the United Nations system

36. Activities selected for this section from among those carried out by the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system include those concerned with improving nutritional levels among women, as well as food and agricultural productivity.

37. Seven organizations, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported a total of 19 activities in this area. WFP has nine, UNICEF and FAO each have three, and ESCAP, WHO, UNFPA and UNESCO each have one.

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21/ Rural Development ..., p. 68.

38. In the area of nutrition, special or supplementary feeding programmes for mothers and/or pregnant women and infants or pre-school children are carried out by WFP in eight countries: four in Asia (Bhutan, Nepal (two) and the Republic of Korea), two in Latin America (Haiti and Ecuador), two in the Middle East (Syria and Yemen) and one in Africa (Congo). UNICEF has a similar project, which, inter alia provides services that include supplementary feeding, nutrition and child-care education in India. In Kenya, UNICEF reports a project which is designed to improve living conditions, with special reference to health, nutrition and the provision of safe drinking water. In Haiti, WHO is helping to establish hospitals, nutrition centres and maternal and child health centres. 22/ There are also nutrition-related projects for vulnerable groups in Pakistan and Bangladesh which are run respectively by FAO and UNFPA. The UNESCO project is for the development of nutrition education materials for use in primary schools and in non-formal education for rural women. This project is being carried out for use at the global and national levels.

39. In the area of improved agricultural production, FAO has a two-week project in the African region to assist women in agricultural production in 1980. Also on a regional basis, ESCAP is holding an expert group meeting on the development of appropriate technology and methods of technological transfer to assist rural women in agriculture and agro-industries in the Asian and Pacific regions in 1980. This project is being carried out in co-operation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO and UNESCO. ESCAP will also prepare a study on the role of rural women with a view to enhancing their current and future activities related to agriculture and rural development in 1981, in collaboration with the ILO and FAO. Improved agricultural production is also sought institutionally by the establishment of women's co-operatives in the United Republic of Cameroon (FAO). In a multifaceted project in Burundi, UNICEF provides seeds, insecticides, fertilizer and appropriate technology to farmers, including women, for food drying and storage. This project also gives assistance to women's activities and to increasing income-generating activities. Finally, FAO has a projects to add a women's component in major field programmes, which includes the prevention of food losses and forestry, agriculture and fisheries. The UNDP is co-operating in this project. The focus of the project is consistent with the increasing implementation of the policy of UNDP and the World Bank to ensure that women are included in special components as part of other over-all projects. Reference could be made here to the proposal in the UNDP evaluation activities relating to rural women on the need to prepare guidelines and instructions on women's participation in technical co-operation for their resident representatives and field staff (DP/453, para. 75(c)).

#### B. Access to land

40. Since women play an important role in agriculture, the improvement of their position and conditions of work depend to a large degree on their access to land

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22/ It should be mentioned here that WHO has many other nutrition activities which focus on the family as the intended beneficiary and are therefore also beneficial to women.



and water, which are key factors of production. Although there are few systematic studies that assess the impact of agrarian reform and rural development, there are indications that increasing landlessness will work to the particular disadvantage of women.

41. Increasing landlessness, whether it results from demographic pressure or inequality in the distribution of land or heavy capitalization and mechanization of agriculture, has in the majority of cases pushed men into non-agricultural wage-labour. Because of a lack of similar employment opportunities for women, the latter have tended to remain in small subeconomic plots of land, where they experience exploitation. Where more women have had to migrate to urban centres because of declining opportunities in agricultural employment, as is the case of Latin America, the majority of them have ended up in low-paid service jobs. Thus, whether women migrate to the cities or remain in rural areas, the impact of landlessness on them is in reality the same - diminishing returns for their labour and increasing workloads.

42. The review of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development concluded that, in so far as land had been the basic means of rural credit schemes and a means by which development decisions could be influenced, new patterns of land allocation might reinforce existing inequalities between men and women (WCARRD/INF.3, pp. 89-90). Indeed one study of land tenure changes in an African rural community indicated that the new scheme of individualized land tenure might take away women's usufructory rights in land which they held by virtue of their affiliation as wives or daughters to a patrilineage. In addition, women's land rights under communal ownership were not being correctly interpreted and integrated in the new tenure regulations, with the result that rural women unless they had land registered in their names might be unable to claim legal rights to land under the existing statutory provisions (WCARRD/INF.3, p. 90).

43. While traditional patterns of marriage and property rights are usually less advantageous to women under individualized land rights, problems of intergenerational transfer and increasing pressure on the land add to the obstacles to women's access to land.

44. Under conditions of socialized land and agriculture in the centrally planned economies, women's access to land has improved. However, their double obligations on the farm and in the home continue to imply longer working hours for women than for men. 23/ In the United Republic of Tanzania, for instance, the programme of ujamaa (socialism and self-reliance) has improved women's access to land. However, women's harsh conditions of work as rural producers continue to pose a challenge to ujamaa. Furthermore, regional variations within the country would appear to suggest that pre-existing agrarian structures and patterns of land allocation, together with decreasing land/person ratios, are continuing obstacles.

45. No activities specifically designed to assist rural women have been reported under this heading. An FAO project in Indonesia, however, will assist the

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23/ Achola O. Pala, "Women's access to land and their decision-making on the farm: experiences of the Joluo of Kenya", discussion paper No. 263 (1978), produced for the University of Nairobi, Institute for Development Studies.

Government Directorate of Forestry Planning in identifying and selecting priority areas, including administration and land use. Although the intended beneficiaries are producers and the landless, women are expected to be included.

### C. Access to water

46. Water is one of the most important necessities for productive activity. In many societies of the developing world women's responsibilities in carrying water for domestic use are closely associated with their roles in food production, preparation and processing. Distances from water points and seasonal fluctuations not only affect the accessibility of water for the household but also put a severe strain on the time needed to accomplish the wide range of tasks that women undertake. Widespread drought exacerbates this situation. Indeed, during the dry season, women in one African country have to devote up to nine hours a day to water-carrying alone. Another source suggests that if a water point is located three miles (6.6 kilometres) away, a woman may spend at least two hours a day, or 33 per cent of her daily working hours, fetching water. 24/

47. The time spent on fetching water could be far more usefully invested in other productive efforts. The availability of water could also enable women to grow other food crops and vegetables nearer the home by using water sources that can easily be pumped or hosed into a garden. Safe water also contributes directly to the improvement of community health by combating parasites and water-borne diseases.

48. Apart from the physical effort and high demands on energy associated with water-carrying, the problems of women's access to water are a strong indication of how broader problems of rural under-development affect the productivity of women. The problems of water for rural women also confirm the argument that the benefits of technological advance in this field have eluded women: where women have great responsibilities, technological advance is either very slow, backward or totally lacking.

### Related activities of the United Nations system

49. While there are no activities dealing exclusively with women's needs for water supply or facilities, a few projects include the provision of potable water or of water pumps. A few UNICEF projects, which are mainly community-based, do address themselves to the problem. One project in Afghanistan is designated to assist 18 specific rural areas in a number of ways, including the provision of safe drinking water. A second, in Burundi, has as one of its aims the promotion of integrated rural development, extending an existing project in Gitega by expanding facilities for water collection and storage in four new areas, together with other strategies. A project in Ethiopia focuses on safe water supply as part of an effort to provide basic health care and reduce women's drudgery. This is an interesting feature, as one of the most serious problems facing rural women is the cost in terms of the time, energy and health spent in backbreaking (see

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24/ See "Water, women and development" (E/CONF.70/A.19), p. 4.

sect. B, para. 44, above). An ILO project that has a similar objective, although it does not specify access to water, is entitled "Technological change, basic needs and the condition of rural women". The project has, as its dual objectives, the generation of income and employment for rural women, as well as a reduction in the work burden through the introduction and use of appropriate technology in women's activities. This is a continuing project, funded from extrabudgetary sources.

50. It should be mentioned that UNICEF reports that in 1980 and 1981 it will spend over \$100 million on rural water supply and sanitation in the rural areas of 90 countries. As this cost figure is not broken down by project description, no proportion can be explicitly said to benefit rural women. It is clear, however, that women benefit from the projects in this area (see E/AC.51/1980/4/Corr.3, table 2, foot-note a). It is also obvious that rural women will benefit from work to be carried out in connexion with proposals for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1980-1990, requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1979/31 of 9 May 1979 and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 34/191 of 18 December 1979.

51. In addition to these projects, WHO has an expenditure for the period 1980-1981 of \$22,205,600 for its programme on basic sanitary measures. This includes the provision of water supply and waste disposal systems and the systematic surveillance of the quality of drinking water, mainly for the benefit of rural populations, including women.

#### D. Access to credit facilities and banking

52. In the past, institutional credit has been closely tied to land ownership, an asset that is often unavailable to rural women. Lending policies have also not met adequately the credit needs of rural women or those of the landless rural poor (WCARRD/INF.3, p. 90), yet credit and funding continue to be an important input into activities of rural development.

#### Related activities of the United Nations system

53. In recognition of the special problem of inequality in the access to credit by men and women, the FAO Conference at its eighteenth session endorsed a resolution adopted by the World Conference on Agricultural Credit, held at Rome from 14 to 21 October 1975, to the effect that credit should be made more available to the farming population, irrespective of sex. As a result the Scheme for Agriculture Credit Development was established. The Scheme provides mechanisms for raising funds from various donor agencies for development and the implementation of women's projects for income-producing activities through better access to institutional credit. Projects in the Scheme vary by region, depending on the type of rural institution and on ongoing development activities.

54. According to information in the data base of the cross-organizational analysis, FAO appears to be the only organization with activities designed to extend credit to women. It has four activities: a project to provide experimental credit to ujaama village women in the United Republic of Tanzania, a credit scheme for

training rural women in India, which includes a production centre and income-generating activities for women, and two projects at the regional (Africa) and subregional (East Africa) levels, respectively, which provide women's programmes in agricultural credit and banking.

55. Some of the projects scheduled to be funded by the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women are also relevant as part of this discussion.

56. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women was mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976 25/ as an outcome of the International Women's Year. On the basis of an analysis of the request to the Fund, the advice of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund and the experience of the regional commissions, the priority areas for use of the Fund include the following: development planning, wood and alternative energy sources, small-scale industry and business and the training of trainers with emphasis on rural development. 26/

57. By the middle of 1980 the Fund will be supporting 122 projects in developing countries and regions, in which the major emphasis is on support to economic and social development activities and special consideration of rural women and poor urban women. The total value of the 122 projects stands at \$7.2 million: 54 of them are regional and 68 are country-level requests.

58. The policy to assist programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade has made it possible for the Fund to identify funding and credit constraints experienced by women at the national and regional levels and attempt to fill the gaps in resources. Indeed the increase in requests from women's groups and government departments since the Fund's inception strongly indicates the urgency of funding and credit needs of rural women. The Voluntary Fund will not, however, be able to meet these needs even within the Decade for Women if its own resources do not increase in the same period. 27/

#### E. Access to rural co-operatives

59. Whenever concern is expressed about women's lack of access to or low participation in rural co-operatives, it is usually implied that co-operatives would offer women a real opportunity to advance themselves and/or improve their

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25/ See also the decision on the International Women's Year adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session and General Assembly resolutions 32/141, 33/188 and 34/156 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/42 which, together with resolution 31/133, constitute the major mandates of the Fund.

26/ The current members are: German Democratic Republic (Chairperson), India, Jamaica, Nigeria and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

27/ For a more detailed review of the present and intended activities of the Fund, see the background paper prepared for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/CONF.94/BP.18).



United Republic of Cameroon is a continuing project. The fourth is a continuing global project on the involvement of rural women in development through co-operatives and other rural organizations, which is intended to have an impact at the national, subnational and community levels.

69. Of the three projects reported by the ILO, two scheduled for completion in 1980 are at the regional level - in Africa and Asia - and are designed to improve the participation of women in co-operatives. The third project, a global one, will comprise an analysis of problems relating to women's participation in co-operatives with guidelines for action. As a background paper for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the United Nations has prepared a paper on the role of co-operatives and other organizations in mobilizing women's efforts for development, which makes suggestions on how women's access to co-operatives might be improved. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women is also involved in this area. Almost 25 per cent of its 122 country and regional projects involve small business and industry and technologies. Predominantly in Africa and Asia and the Pacific the projects include the organization of existing production into co-operative marketing, the retraining of obsolete skills and the provision of experts to upgrade existing skills and marketing procedures (see A/CONF.94/BP.18). 30/

70. The ECWA project for rural women in West Asia has more facets and includes training workshops on communication, preparing educational materials, primary health services as well as co-operatives. Its intended impact is at the community level and its two years' duration ends in 1981. The reported co-operating organizations are the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Women, UNDP and FAO.

## II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN OTHER AREAS

71. While section I of this report first highlights areas requested by the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, the activities provided by the system cover other important sectoral areas, such as planning for the integration of women in national development, including popular participation, education, training and access to technology, health and family planning and employment. These areas are reviewed below.

### A. Integration of women in rural and community development

72. Several United Nations agencies and bodies are involved in activities enhancing capacities at the national level to carry out programmes and projects in the area

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30/ For greater detail, see paras. 19 and 24 of the background paper on the activities of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs prepared for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/CONF.94/BP.11).

of integration and participation of women in rural and community development. Agencies with activities in this are: UNICEF, with eight activities, FAO, with seven, and ECA, ECLA and ECWA, with one each.

73. Of these projects, three undertaken by FAO and two by UNICEF are of particular interest in that they address themselves to the involvement of women in the decision-making process, as leaders, and as agents of change. Interestingly enough, both FAO and UNICEF have two separate country projects in Honduras, the former is on a continuing basis, while the latter is a five-year project. Although the UNICEF one is more of a community-based project with a women's component, while that of FAO is specifically aimed at the participation of rural women as agents of change, neither project involves agency co-operation with other United Nations agencies. FAO has another country project in Thailand (training of rural women leaders), which appears to be a support project for its regional project in Asia and the Pacific. The latter project is assisting and strengthening group activities of women and promoting their involvement in the decision-making process. ESCAP is co-operating with FAO in this project, which is a continuing activity.

74. The rest of the projects emphasize community development efforts, such as infrastructure support and the extension of services to rural women through community-based centres. For example, the United Nations has two technical co-operation projects in Oman and Bahrain. In the Oman project, which gives assistance to the Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs through support to community development efforts, especially assistance to women in remote villages, UNICEF is also indicated as being the co-operating agency. The Bahrain project is basically supporting community centres, which provide intersectoral services for improving the situation of rural women and their families as a means towards integrating women in the community development effort as a whole.

75. At the regional level, ECLA, ECA and ECWA have projects for the integration of women in development; the ECLA project includes a study of the sex distribution of work and occupational structure change associated with modernization in rural areas. It also evaluates the implementation of recommendations on the social situation of women established in the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year. <sup>31/</sup> Similarly, ECA is studying the roles and needs of African women in development so as to be able to make available more and better quality data on women, in order to improve planning for the increased participation of women in development (1980-1981). The ECWA project in this area emphasizes training workshops on communication for rural women workers. This is also a two-year project.

#### B. Education, training and access to technology

76. UNESCO reports 11 activities in the area of education and training for women.

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<sup>31/</sup> See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.



for women. Three of the projects deal with the analysis of socio-economic factors, including modernization in rural areas, and their implications on the status and role of women. All three projects deal with technical co-operation and also include studies and research for use of Governments and experts. One is of particular interest in that it attempts to look at educational strategies in the light of different socio-economic conditions, the co-ordination of formal and non-formal education as well as the relevance of education in rural development for enhancing employment. It is a global project and has a two-year duration.

77. UNESCO also reports three regional projects in French-speaking Africa, in the Arab States and in Latin America - which are training courses for those responsible for the education of women in rural areas. All three are technical co-operation projects for the period 1979-1980. A fourth activity in this specific area (the training of educational personnel and preparing educational materials) is a global project in nutrition education materials, laying down guidelines for teaching non-formal education for rural women, using radio and farm forum techniques. In keeping with the UNESCO budgetary cycle, this project also covers the period 1979-1980.

78. Two other projects - one of which is an experimental training project in Ghana and the other in the Upper Volta - deal directly with the education of women for participation in development.

79. In the area of adult literacy and continued learning activities, two country projects are reported by UNESCO in Afghanistan and Swaziland. While the Swaziland project is designed to promote a more active and effective role for women in community affairs, the Afghanistan project is specifically oriented towards family health and the relationship between demographic factors and socio-economic conditions in rural areas. The Afghanistan project also indicates UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF as being co-operating agencies.

80. A number of organizations are involved in training rural women in skills that will improve their economic activity. FAO has four projects for training women in income-earning activities, two of which are in Africa and the remaining two in Asia and the Pacific. Three of the four projects are intended to reach rural women at the community level. The two projects in Africa (one of which is a technical co-operation project in the Sudan) are expected to end in 1980 while those in Asia and the Pacific are of a continuing nature.

81. The ILO has four continuing projects, two of which are in Africa (Ghana and the Upper Volta) and the other two in Asia (Bangladesh and Pakistan).

82. All four are expected to end by 1980 or 1981. Two agencies are co-operating with the ILO - UNICEF in Bangladesh and UNDP in the Upper Volta. The project in the Upper Volta, along with a UNIDO project in Bolivia (the upgrading of ceramic craft technologies among women potters in Cochabamba province) are the only ones specifically aimed at upgrading and promoting craft-related activities among rural women. Both projects are expected to end in 1981.

83. In response to the concern that women should have access to improved agricultural technology, including training and equipment, in order to lighten their workload, a number of projects have stressed training in the acquisition of skills so that when appropriate technology is developed or transferred, rural women agricultural workers can make optimum use of it. ECA has a two-year project in this area, in co-operation with the United Nations Secretariat, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, the ILO and FAO, which ends in 1981. ESCAP has a similar project for 1980.

84. Industrial technology is also the subject of a number of other activities, such as the UNIDO two-year project for upgrading ceramic craft technologies among women potters in the province of Cochabamba in Bolivia (see para. 82 above). A second project, run by UNIDO, will train French-speaking African women in design production and the application of packaging material. It involves a three-week training seminar to take place in 1980.

85. The United Nations is conducting a five-year project in Swaziland, scheduled to end in 1980, on the integration of women in development, which will concentrate on the promotion of income-generating activities through increased access to improved technology.

86. The focus on ensuring that women have equal access with men to technology and to upgrading the level of technological training for all the population in rural areas is of special interest in that it is one of the key factors in reducing the work and burdens of rural women which is discussed in paragraph 44 above.

#### C. Maternal and child health and family planning

87. All 39 projects reported by WHO affecting women are in the area of maternal and child health. All are technical assistance projects, and 22 are funded solely by UNFPA. Most are country projects - eight in Africa, 12 in Asia, 11 in Latin America and four in the Middle East - and only four are regional - in Africa, the Americas, the Western Pacific and Europe. It should be noted that WHO's programmes in primary health care encompass a number of important elements which ultimately benefit rural women.

88. WFP has seven country projects - in the form of financial assistance to mother and child centres at the community level. The countries include Bolivia, Democratic Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia (two) and Yemen.

89. UNFPA is clearly the dominant agency in the area of family planning. The 17 activities reviewed are basically in the form of financial and other assistance to Governments for strengthening and extending family planning programmes, in terms of population education, rural primary health (in particular, maternal and child health), the training of personnel and other support services. Most projects are designed to take effect at the national level. WHO and UNICEF are reported as co-operating agencies for a number of the projects and, to a lesser extent, the ILO and UNESCO.

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90. FAO has one project in the area, namely, the provision of liaison and infrastructure support to the FAO/UNFPA programme for better family living. UNFPA is assisting in funding the project and is a co-operating agency, along with the United Nations Secretariat, WHO and UNDP.

91. UNFPA has two training projects, namely, the upgrading of primary health care workers, with particular emphasis on maternal and child health, and an expanded training programme in Afghanistan for dais (traditional birth attendants). Both are continuing projects.

#### D. Employment

92. The generation of employment opportunities for rural women is specifically noted in the project descriptions of three of the ILO activities and one each of UNFPA and the United Nations. The first ILO project offers employment opportunities for rural women through organization, and evaluates existing projects. It also develops guidelines on projects for the employment and income promotion of rural women. The second provides inputs for improved policies and action to government institutions and organizations, with a view to increasing the employment of rural women and raising their living standards. Another project deals with technological change, basic needs and the condition of rural women. It has the dual objective of generating income and employment for rural women and reducing their work burden through the introduction and use of appropriate technology in their activities. This has been mentioned earlier in connexion with the access of rural women to water (see para. 49 above). In Egypt, UNFPA has a population and development project which is designed to provide a link between population objectives and development efforts at the local level through the encouragement of small-scale labour-intensive projects designed to involve an increasing number of females and to raise the status of women, particularly at the community level. All four activities include the collection and dissemination of information and the preparation of studies for general use of Governments and experts.

93. The United Nations is preparing a global study on the situation of women workers in the light of labour legislation and maternity protection, and will formulate improved or new international guidelines in this regard. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women also has relevant activities (see paras. 55-58 above).

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

94. Frequently, concern about obstacles to rural women's advancement masks an assessment of women's perceptions of their reality and how they cope with change. It seems that the time has come to pay critical attention to what rural women are saying, to devise channels of communication through which they can articulate their views, to see how they define their priorities and how national policy and international assistance can enhance their participation in the development of the rural areas. In many parts of the developing world, women's groups and solidarity institutions exist and are expanding rapidly. Whatever their form, and despite

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regional variations, women's groups represent an awareness on the part of women that the goals of their advancement can be more effectively realized if they organize and try to deal systematically with their economic and social problems (see the Conference report on national machinery and legislation (A/CONF.94/11)). An assessment of the activities of women's groups suggests that rural women perceive the inadequacy of government strategies for rural development in meeting their own felt needs. They therefore organize themselves, partly to fill the gaps in resources and partly to contribute to a greater social awareness of the potential of women and of the negative effects on them of changing rural circumstances.

95. In Africa, women's associations and groups at the village level have a long history. There are mutual aid groups, work groups, credit associations and family-based groups. 32/ Their main purpose is to pool resources and enhance each other's economic power. In many instances their activities are undertaken in direct response to some of the obstacles in agriculture, the lack of access to credit and money and to the lack of opportunities to participate in the structure and organization of existing development institutions. These groups are found among rural women and a growing number are being formed by poor urban women.

96. Case stories from Asian countries (the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Java, Indonesia and Bangladesh) 33/ demonstrate that women's groups provide an opportunity for women not only to raise badly needed income but also to enhance their own self-image and capacity. The experiences of China suggest that, even where mobilization of rural people is a policy priority, women's solidarity groups and associations are important in clarifying for women themselves, and for redefining for the society as a whole, the objective position of women and the changes in attitude and perceptions which must occur in order for women to participate and benefit from rural transformation and agrarian reform. 34/

97. Because of the limitations in the data collected, as well as in the scope and nature of the original report from which the data were drawn, only a preliminary assessment can be made of the activities of the United Nations system in relation to rural women. Certain tentative conclusions may nevertheless be drawn. In general, it can be concluded that, while the coverage is quantitatively limited -

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32/ See Kamene Okonjo, "Rural women's credit systems: a Nigerian example" in Studies in Family Planning (New York), The Population Council, 1979, pp. 326-331 and Achola O. Pala, "Women power in Kenya: raising funds and awareness", Ceres (March-April 1978), pp. 43-45.

33/ The ESCAP/FAO, intercountry project for the promotion and training of rural women in income-raising group activities.

34/ See Elisabeth E. Croll, Women in Rural Development: the People's Republic of China (Geneva, International Labour Office, 1979), pp. 52-58.



only 161 activities in 34 countries out of a total of over 3,700 activities in about 118 countries - the activities are included in almost all the most important sectors.

98. It should also be noted that past experience has shown that, in order to resolve the problems faced by women in most developing countries, it is essential to carry out an integrated set of measures designed simultaneously to improve the immediate conditions of women and to adjust those national and international structures and processes found to impede women's full and active participation in development (see A/CONF.94/BP.11).

99. The activities discussed in the present report relate primarily to the former category, namely, to direct, remedial measures for improving the situation of women. Measures designed to make the over-all development effort more responsive to women's needs and interests in the context of the new international economic order and the new international development strategy are briefly dealt with in section IIA above. These measures might be reviewed in a future cross-organizational programme analysis.

100. In section I, an attempt has been made to identify some of the major problems and issues of rural women's participation in development. This has led to the following conclusions:

(a) Two thirds of the women in developing countries live in the rural areas;

(b) Rural development has suffered neglect in terms of low capital investment, steadily narrowing opportunities for employment, investment in export-oriented agriculture at the expense of food production, poor access to health, education and information, the adverse impact of agricultural technology, increasing landlessness due to unequal distribution and growing pressure on the land;

(c) Poverty and the slow and uneven development of the rural areas are factors that have worked to the particular disadvantage of women;

(d) Poverty and rural under-development reinforce male dominance in a vicious way because in these circumstances what is at stake is the unequal sharing of poverty between women and men;

(e) What is needed is a strategy to deal with women's special problems within the broader issues of rural poverty, under-development and the resultant apathy and lack of political power.

101. In the light of the above, it is clear that the United Nations system as a whole needs to review its activities designed to benefit rural women, with a view to increasing their spread - across countries and regions - and their scope - by adding new dimensions to existing projects and programmes. This is especially applicable with regard to leadership training, self-reliance, the participation of rural women in decision-making, the extension of credit to women and assistance with food-processing. Furthermore, in areas where it has been shown that there are few or no activities, that is, access of women to land and property rights with a

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view to strengthening their ability to stabilize their control over land-holdings, thereby improving agricultural production and the welfare of their families, increased attention might be given, among others, to the proposals in the following paragraphs.

102. Data on rural women are not readily available on a national or regional basis. In fact, the productive work done by rural women either in the home, on the farm or in the market place is still seldom recognized or measured as a contribution to the gross national product. Women's economic productivity is often undervalued and underremunerated. This was pointed out quite strongly at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. For these reasons the research and statistical compilation of work done by rural women has lagged far behind the reality of their situation. The microdata and case studies that are available do not often permit comparability; the macro information is often devoid of a social and cultural context, which is important in understanding women's perception of development. This problem of data is one of the indicators of discrimination against women which perpetuates the view that because what women do is not known it cannot be important and can therefore be excluded from national plans and budgets for development. National and regional comparative studies on the impact of changing agrarian conditions on women and women's response to these changes and their policy implications are urgently needed and the statistics on economically active women, whether in rural or urban areas, also need to be refined.

103. In connexion with data collection, the Statistical Office of the United Nations is preparing for publication a technical report on the collection and compilation of statistics on the use of time which is to provide countries with guidance on a methodology for use in connexion, particularly, with rural development programmes and the study of the participation of women in development. It could also be recommended that the integrated reporting system on women, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/186, should focus on collecting data and information relevant to the analysis and review of the situation of rural women. It is hoped that more projects will emphasize the area of data collection and dissemination to facilitate effective national and regional planning. The newly created International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should also play a role in this area.

104. For the future, the momentum intensified by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in chapter IV of its Programme of Action, 35/ and by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 34/14 of 9 November 1979, must be sustained. That Conference stated, inter alia, that recognition of the vital role of women in socio-economic life, both in agricultural and non-agricultural activities, was a prerequisite for successful rural development planning and programme implementation. The Programme of Action also makes a number of detailed recommendations concerning equality of legal status, women's access to rural services, organization and participation by women and women's educational and employment opportunities. These may serve as a useful guide to practical action-oriented strategies for the future, which it is hoped can be followed up more systematically by the World Conference at Copenhagen.

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35/ See Report of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 (WCARRD/REP), Part One.



105. A useful feature of the Programme of Action is that it has a built-in evaluation and monitoring procedure as part of its follow-up at the system-wide level. This process will be carried out on a three-yearly basis by FAO, in collaboration with the other members of the United Nations system that have rural development programmes.

106. Greater interagency co-operation might facilitate a more comprehensive, integrated approach to promoting rural women's participation in development and follow-up should also be the responsibility of AAC. It could, therefore be recommended that the ACC Interagency Task Force on Rural Development be requested to pay more specific attention to the problems of rural women and to report thereon periodically to the intergovernmental bodies concerned.

107. A further, somewhat related, activity is one similar to that being carried out by FAO, which is designed to ensure that a special women's component is integrated with every major programme or project, where feasible.

108. Further work also needs to be done to extend and refine the data contained in the annex to the present report, with a view to preparing comprehensive country profiles on the situation in order to facilitate the understanding of women's special problems and potentials as active participants in development and especially in rural development. It would also be useful if organizations of the United Nations system could ensure that, in drawing up future subprogrammes, programme elements, or technical co-operation projects in rural development, they identify rural women explicitly whenever they are the sole beneficiaries, or among the intended beneficiaries, of a particular activity. This would greatly facilitate efforts to assess the deployment of resources for rural women throughout the system.

Annex

System-wide activities relating to rural women to be carried out over the period 1980-1981, by regions and selected countries

Region and country	Organization	Short description of project/ programme element	Intended level of impact	Duration/ completion date	Co-operating United Nations agency	Costs in thousands of United States dollars		Source of funds
						Regular budget	Extra-budgetary	
AFRICA								
Benin	FAO	Survey of rural women's activities in rural areas	National	Continuing		17		
	FAO	To assist in the settlement of young farmers and ensure the participation of women	Community	Two years/ December 1980			249	
Kenya	UNFPA	Maternal and child health/family planning and implementation review	National	Continuing		208		
	UNICEF	To strengthen rural development and improve the quality of life for children, adolescents and women	National/ community	Four years/ 1981	WHO UNDP		617	UNICEF
United Republic of Tanzania	UNFPA	To upgrade primary health care workers with particular emphasis on maternal and child health	National	Continuing		106		
	UNFPA	Contraceptive supplies for maternal-child programme	National	Continuing		5		
	FAO	Experimental credit to <u>ujamaa</u> village women	Community	1981			43	MMP
	UNICEF	To assist 32 village clusters through the provision of clean drinking water at mother and child health centres, training of personnel and income-generating projects for women's activities, including village technology	Community	Six years/ 1982	WHO WFP UNESCO	3 446.0		UNICEF
ASIA								
Afghanistan	UNFPA	National midwife training programme	National	Continuing		91		
	UNESCO	Family health, family life education through basic literacy to improve awareness and understanding of better family and environmental health, improved status of women ... in rural areas	National	1979-1982	UNFPA UNDP UNICEF		450	UNFPA

System-wide activities relating to rural women to be carried out over the  
period 1980-1981, by regions and selected countries (continued)

Region and country	Organization	Short description of project/ programme element	Intended level of impact	Duration/ completion date	Co-operating United Nations agency	Costs in thousands of United States dollars		Source of funds
						Regular budget	Extra- budgetary	
Afghanistan (continued)	WHO	Maternal and child health	National	Continuing		25		
	UNICEF	To assist 18 remote rural areas by providing health services, nutrition, safe drinking water, education and women's activities	Regional/ community	Five years/ 1982	UNDP FAO UNCDF WB		620	UNICEF
India	WFP	Supplementary nutrition for pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers	Community	Three years		57 397	24 720	
	UNFPA	Measures to reduce infants and maternal mortality in promoting the small- family norm	National	Continuing		6 420		
	FAO	Credit scheme for training cum production centre income-generating activities for women	Community	1981			83	MMP
	UNICEF	To provide co-ordinated services to young children and women of child- bearing age in disadvantaged rural and tribal areas	Regional/ community	Four years/ 1981	UNDP FAO WHO UNESCO		8 439	UNICEF
Philippines	UNFPA	Maternal and child health programme in a large predominantly rural area (Bohol)	Subnational	Continuing	WHO	116		
	WHO	Maternal and child health	National	Continuing		25		
LATIN AMERICA								
Brazil	WHO	Maternal and child health and family planning	National	Continuing			500	PAHO/ UNFPA
	UNFPA	Integrated maternal-child care: to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates	National	Continuing	WHO	659		
Honduras	WHO	Maternal and child health and family planning	National	Continuing			150	UNFPA
	FAO	Participation of rural woman as agents of change	Subnational/ community	Continuing			49	MMP

System-wide activities relating to rural women to be carried out over the  
period 1980-1981, by regions and selected countries (continued)

Region and country	Organization	Short description of project/ programme element	Intended level of impact	Duration/ completion date	Co-operating United Nations agency	Costs in thousands of United States dollars		Source of funds
						Regular budget	Extra-budgetary	
Honduras (continued)	UNICEF	Children's growth and development, the integration of women into the community decision-making process, improvement in family income levels to raise rural living standards ...	Community	Five years/ 1983			1 163	UNICEF
Haiti	WFP	Hospitals, nutrition centres, mother and child centres	Community	Five years		3 446	8 031	
	WHO	Maternal and child health and family planning	National	Continuing			2 000	UNFPA
MIDDLE EAST								
Democratic Yemen	WFP	Assistance to mother and child centres	Community	Three years		8 773	36 571	
	WHO	Maternal and child health	National	Continuing		200		
Oman	United Nations	Support for community development efforts, especially assistance to women in remote villages	Community	Six years/ December 1981	UNICEF		167	UNDP
	WHO	Maternal and child health	National	Continuing		8		
Syrian Arab Republic	WFP	Feeding programme (mothers and pre-school children)	Community	Five years		20 573		
	WHO	Maternal and child health	National	Continuing			10	UNFPA

Source: Data collected for the cross-organizational programme analysis on rural development (E/AC.51/1980/4 and Corr.1-3).

Note: Apart from the acronyms in regular use, the following abbreviations have been employed: MMP (Money and Medals Programme); PAHO (Pan-American Health Organization); UNCDF (United Nations Capital Development Fund).