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SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH TRAINING IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH (CRR-3)
24 April to 1 May 1987

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Agenda and List of Participants are given in Annexes 1 and 2. Dr J. Barzelatto, Director of the Special Programme, in an opening address, gave a brief overview of the achievements of the Special Programme. He drew attention to the increasing pledges being made by the donors as a result of which there would be over US\$20 million available for 1987. The Special Programme has two main strategies for achieving its goals. The first is directly related to research and development and receives two-thirds of the Special Programme's resources, while the second is concerned with the strengthening of research capacities of developing countries and receives the remaining third. It was necessary to keep this balance in the funding of the two strategies in order to ensure optimal progress towards the Special Programme's goals. Steps were being taken to convert the Special Programme, which is at present a WHO programme, into one that would involve cosponsorship by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). This change, which is scheduled to occur in 1988, will give the Special Programme a firmer financial footing and place it in a better position to respond effectively to the challenges in the expanding field of human reproduction and family planning research.

Dr S. Segal of the Rockefeller Foundation and member of the Special Programme's Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) gave a brief description of the Rockefeller Foundation's newly established programme called "South to South Collaboration in the Population Sciences" which is aimed at increasing research collaboration amongst scientists in developing countries. The strategies planned for this programme, for which an initial US\$1 million has been approved, are in consonance with the spirit of the work of the CRR. The first exploratory meeting was held in February 1987 where a group of 12 developing country scientists, many of whom have projects supported by the Programme, met to identify research areas and projects that could be carried out through a network of institutions in developing countries. The programme would be willing to consider proposals from developing country scientists which would involve a collaborative effort with scientists from other developing countries. In addition to supporting collaborative research, the new programme would also consider the support of training workshops in developing countries. One such workshop in reproductive biology has already been planned to take place in Nairobi in 1987. The programme could also serve as a vehicle for providing supplementary funding for grants awarded to developing country institutions by the Special Programme.

2. IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

The in-depth review of the Resources for Research section is scheduled for 1988. The results of the review will be presented and discussed at the STAG meeting in February 1989. STAG, at its meeting in February 1987, has appointed a Committee consisting of three of its members - Drs Ratnam, Segal and Short - to carry out the review. The CRR will give the Committee a background document describing the Special Programme's objectives, policies and strategies in strengthening research capacities and also the outcomes that have ensued. The Committee is expected to meet with the CRR at its meeting in 1988.

3. GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC) DURING 1986

A brief review was done of the lists of grant applications that were reviewed by the TRC during the 12 months of 1986. The TRC is an internal secretariat committee which uses policies laid down by the CRR in reviewing and deciding on applications.

3.1 Research Training Grants (RTGs) and Visiting Scientist Grants (VSGs)

A total of 92 applications were reviewed, of which 67 (62 RTGs and 5 VSGs) were approved. The breakdown of the grants according to the disciplines of the approved training programmes and according to countries is as follows:

Andrology	4	Histology and Morphology	4
Biochemistry	3	Immunology	1
Biostatistics	7	Laboratory technology	1
Bioassay techniques	2	Molecular biology	2
Computer sciences	2	Social & Population sciences	11
Embryo culture	1	Pharmacology	2
Epidemiology	12	Reproductive endocrinology	8
Hormonal assays	6	Research management	1
Benin	3	Nigeria	2
Chile	2	Pakistan	2
China	27*	Panama	1
Czechoslovakia	1	Tanzania	2
Cuba	2	Thailand	5
Indonesia	6*	Tunisia	1
Kenya	3	Turkey	2
Malaysia	2*	Uganda	2
Mexico	4		

Having reviewed the institutions that had hosted these trainees it was recommended that, where possible, more institutions in developing countries that have been strengthened over the past 15 years should be used for training grantees.

3.2 Small (SMA) grants

These grants which carry a maximum annual value of US\$5,000 are meant for WHO Collaborating Centres for Research in Human Reproduction located in developing countries and in Eastern Europe which do not receive major institution strengthening support from the Special Programme. Institutions starting on a well planned institution development programme are also eligible to apply. A total of 11 applications were reviewed, all which were approved. The list of institutions for which these grants were approved is contained in Annex 3.

3.3 Laboratory (LAB) supplies grant

These grants carry an annual value of US\$1,500 and are meant as "token" research support for institutions not receiving other institutional grants from the Special Programme. A total of 33 applications were reviewed, of which 21 were recommended for funding. The list of institutions for which these grants were approved is contained in Annex 3.

4. EVALUATION OF RESEARCH TRAINING GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1972 TO INDIVIDUAL SCIENTISTS

In accordance with the evaluation plan approved by CRR-2 questionnaires to obtain information on research performance and other related issues are being mailed to approximately 1000 past grantees. They have been requested to return the completed questionnaire by 30 September 1987. An analysis of the responses will be available for consideration at CRR-4 scheduled for April 1988.

5. IMPROVING RESEARCH MANAGEMENT IN SPECIAL PROGRAMME SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS

The report of the workshop for improving research programmes in supported institutions in Asia that was held 1 to 6 December 1986 in collaboration with the National Family Planning Coordinating Board of Indonesia (BKKBN) in Jakarta, was reviewed. The workshop was the first of its kind to be supported by the Special Programme. A total of 24 individuals, including research managers and their counterparts in the national family planning programmes in Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and

* 10 in China, 3 in Indonesia and 1 in Malaysia were UNFPA-funded

Vietnam, participated in a six day workshop. Among the many general issues in the management of family planning and human reproduction research that were discussed, special attention was paid to strategic planning, management of research personnel, the role of research managers, project selection techniques, networking, programme and project scheduling, research manpower development, financial management and the evaluation of progress in institutional development. A simulation of a small developing country was developed and used for the teaching of managerial concepts. The participants gave an overall high rating for the workshop and commented that training in research management would have been more beneficial if they had been exposed to such a workshop at an early stage of their collaboration with the Special Programme and that the use of a simulation of a developing country situation in the workshop had helped in the learning of managerial concepts.

Similar workshops for Chinese institutions (one has already been scheduled for late 1987 and will be funded by the UNFPA) and for institutions in Latin America (1987/1988) and in Africa (1988) were approved. An amount of US\$50,000 was recommended for each of the workshops to be held in Latin America and in Africa. It was suggested that such workshops be held more frequently. Other international agencies could be approached to cosponsor the workshops because limitations in budget and secretariat time prevented anything more than what has been scheduled.

6. SPECIAL STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING RESEARCH CAPACITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

CRR-2 made a general policy decision to expand the research capability strengthening activities in countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The following activities relate to this decision.

6.1 Involving more African institutions

Site visits have been made to institutions in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. During these visits discussions were held with the local scientists for the purpose of assessing the potential for developing collaborative programmes for institutional development and for eliciting proposals for relevant institutional grants and training grants. As a result of the visits to Zimbabwe, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Zimbabwe has submitted a Long-Term Institutional Development (LID) grant proposal for consideration by the CRR. All the other countries that were visited had potential for marshalling the resources they have in order to plan for a coordinated development of their research capacities and also to carry out some field oriented research, for both of which they require further consultant assistance.

Those African institutions which have collaborated with the Special Programme for several years should participate in strengthening other institutions. In this context, concern was expressed about delays in the designation of some of the institutions as WHO Collaborating Centres.

6.2 Meetings and Workshops

6.2.1 Meeting of the African Fertility Society (AFS), Nairobi, Kenya, 12-15 November 1986

A meeting of the executive committee of the newly formed African Fertility Society was held in November 1986 in Nairobi under Special Programme support. Among the many important outcomes of the meeting was the formulation of a research plan that will be implemented through an African regional network of institutions.

6.2.2 Congress of the African Medical Library Association (AMLA), Daka, Senegal, 22-25 February 1987

In the context of strengthening health library resources in Africa, support was provided for this Congress in conjunction with the WHO African Regional Office. The Congress was held in Dakar, Senegal from 22-25 February 1987. One of the purposes of the Congress, which was the first biennial Congress to be organised by the AMLA, was to promote cooperation among health science libraries of the region. Librarians from Special Programme supported institutions in Benin, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia participated in the Congress.

6.2.3 Workshop for training in RIA and Other Methods for Hormonal Assays, Nairobi, Kenya, 4-15 May 1987

A Workshop in RIA and Other Methods for Hormonal Assays is scheduled for 4-15 May 1987 in Nairobi where a total of 18 participants working in the hormonal assay laboratories attached to institutions being strengthened in Africa will refresh their knowledge and learn new trends in hormonal assay methodologies. The Workshop will be planned and taught by senior scientists from Kenya and Nigeria who were previously trained in the UK through Special Programme support and who now work in their respective Special Programme supported institutions. CRR-2 had approved a budget of US\$35,000 in support of this Workshop.

6.2.4 Workshop on Epidemiological Methods, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 14-25 September 1987

A Workshop on Epidemiological methods for African scientists, for which CRR-2 had approved a budget of US\$70,000, has been planned and will be held in the University Centre for Health Sciences in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 14-25 September 1987. A total of 24 scientists are expected to participate. The curriculum will be planned and implemented in a manner that enables participants to produce relevant research protocols for implementation on return to their home institutions.

6.2.5 AFS Inaugural Conference: "Fertility in Africa", Nairobi, Kenya, March/April 1988

One important outcome of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the AFS (see 6.2.1) was a plan to hold an inaugural conference titled "Fertility in Africa", scheduled for March/April 1988 in Nairobi. The conference will serve as a forum for the presentation of research papers of which about 40 are expected. A proposal for the support of this conference was considered by CRR-3 and an amount of US\$10,000 was approved.

6.2.6 Conference of African Leaders, Arusha, Tanzania, November 1987

An African Leaders' Conference is being planned to take place in Arusha, Tanzania in November 1987 in close collaboration with the WHO African Regional Office. The Conference will be attended by political leaders who will be in positions to influence government policies on the national support of health research and by senior scientists involved in health research. The overall purpose is to promote national commitment in African nations, to health research including family planning research. CRR-2 had approved a budget of US\$50,000 to meet the expenses of this conference. Other international agencies may also cosponsor this activity.

6.2.7 Training on microcomputer applications for the analysis of research data scheduled for 1987-88

Following the consultant visits to institutions (see 6.3) to assess needs for the strengthening of biostatistical and computing resources it was felt that short intensive training in microcomputer applications was required for staff from each of the institutions that were visited. The training should occur in synchrony with the purchase of microcomputers for the institutions. Three possible approaches to such training were considered, i.e. workshop to be held in WHO/HQ, Geneva; workshop to be held in a supported institution in Africa and training on site through consultant visits. It was decided that more staff would benefit if the training occurred on site and also it was the least expensive of the three approaches. A sum of US\$46,000 was approved to implement the training during 1987/88.

6.2.8 Workshop on Research Management scheduled for 1988

A Workshop on Research Management, based on the principles underlying the workshop that was held in Jakarta (see 5), was approved for implementation in 1988 and for which a sum of US\$50,000 was allocated.

6.3 Strengthening biostatistical and computing resources

Noting the paucity of human and material resources for carrying out data processing in institutions being strengthened in sub-Saharan Africa, secretariat staff from the statistical and computing section of the Special Programme made site visits to the supported institutions in Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Zambia to make an assessment of needs and to advise on how each of these institutions could develop their biostatistical and computing facilities. Based on the report of these visits, CRR-3 recommended the allocation of resources necessary for acquiring relevant microcomputing equipment and for training staff within the context of the institutional grants being awarded to these institutions.

6.4 Coordination of institution strengthening activities

CRR-2 highlighted the need for coordinating the multiple inputs now being made by many international programmes into the countries of the sub-Saharan region for the purpose of strengthening research capacities. The presence at the meeting of representatives from IDRC, FHI and UNFPA provided an opportunity to review progress in the strategies for coordination and to make recommendations for the future (Annex 4).

7. STAG REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME ON STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF LABORATORY PROCEDURES

The report of the recent in-depth review done by STAG of the activities related to the provision of matched reagents for hormonal assays was discussed. This was the first such review of this aspect of the Special Programme during its existence. Currently there was a total of about 120 laboratories collaborating with the Special Programme in these activities. They are located both in developed and developing countries and they receive reagents mainly for research, although a few receive reagents for services, for which a nominal fee is charged. In the past, decisions on policy and budget allocations regarding the provision of matched reagents and related activities have been made by a Steering Committee and subsequently ratified by the CRR. The budget for these activities, which is about US\$1 million for the biennium, is added with the CRR recommended budgets for institutional support when reckoning the 2:1 ratio between the budgets allocated for the Special Programme's activities in Research and Development (R&D) and Resources for Research (RfR).

The main policy decisions that have resulted from the STAG review and subsequent discussions and which are of direct relevance to the work of the CRR in the future are as follows:

- The training of scientists in the field of hormonal assays and related techniques will be the responsibility of the CRR.
- The development of regional and national programmes for the production of reagent kits and the maintenance of comparable results from the use of such kits will be the sole responsibility of the CRR. This policy is in keeping with the general policies for creating self-reliance in research in the developing countries and thus reducing dependence in the future on the Special Programme for the supply of such kits.
- Technical and operational decisions related to the actual production and supply of reagents; the development of new assay methodologies and the maintenance of quality control schemes will rest with a separate small committee which will be convened for the purpose when necessary from a panel of experts.

8. WHO EXECUTION OF UNFPA PROJECTS

The CRR was informed of the manner in which UNFPA projects in general are identified, formulated and implemented. Specific projects funded by UNFPA are derived from UNFPA country programmes for population assistance which are formulated in close consultation with national authorities and are based on the findings of one or more needs assessment missions. The UNFPA projects for the strengthening of research capacities in China, Indonesia and Malaysia are executed by WHO through the Special Programme. Secretariat of the Resources for Research

section of the Special Programme have direct responsibility for the day-to-day management of these projects. The CRR is responsible for the assessment of the progress being made in these projects for strengthening research capacities and is free to make specific recommendations to UNFPA with respect to the overall funding of projects.

The UNFPA practice of committing itself to a 5 year budget, with the provision to change the budget for the individual years based on availability of funds and progress, requires careful detailed programming. The total 5 year budget which is decided at the beginning of the 5 year period usually remains the same throughout the 5 years but there may be a rephasing to subsequent years of funds allocated to specific planned activities depending on the extent to which the plans have been implemented in any one year. When the CRR is revising its grant application forms and also when revising the practices for the award of LIB grants (see section 15), attention should be paid to some of the positive aspects of the UNFPA mechanisms for funding institution strengthening projects to see whether these mechanisms could be incorporated into the Special Programme funding practices. When decisions are made on UNFPA funded training activities the prevailing CRR policies are applied. For example, when the TRC makes recommendations on UNFPA funded RTGs, the first criterion for selecting a training institution would be academic excellence and suitability of training facilities, but within this context priority should be given to training within the country and also in institutions within the region and in institutions which have been previously strengthened by the Special Programme.

The representative of UNFPA, Dr N. Dodd, stated that, in general, UNFPA was very satisfied with WHO's execution of projects for the strengthening of research capacities in China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

9. REVIEW OF REPORTS FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1986 FROM INSTITUTIONS THAT HAD RECEIVED "CORE FUNDING" FOR THAT YEAR

Fourteen institutions which had received "core support" for the last time during 1986 submitted reports of progress in Task Force multcentred and single centre studies and also reports of other institution initiated research and research training activities that were carried out during the period January to December 1986 under "core support". Each of these institutions, which are listed in Annex 5, was reviewed and in all instances progress was considered to be satisfactory. There were no further major funding implications for 1988 because these institutions are funded directly from Task Forces for collaborative research with WHO or from national or other international agencies. An additional three institutions which had received "core support" during 1986 had not submitted their reports at the time of the meeting.

When discussing the report of the Reproductive Endocrinology Research Unit in the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, the CRR noted that Dr E. Diczfalusy would be retiring from the position of Director of that institution. On the occasion of his retirement, the CRR wished to convey to him its appreciation and gratitude for the important role he has played in the strengthening of research capacities in human reproduction and in the training of scientists from developing countries.

10. NATIONAL REAGENT PROGRAMMES FOR REPRODUCTIVE HORMONAL ASSAYS

The strengthening of national reagent programmes for reproductive hormonal assays is one of the strategies that was endorsed by CRR-1 for increasing the self-reliance of the developing countries to carry out human reproduction and family planning research. In August 1984, the former Committee on Institution Strengthening reviewed proposals from the Ministry of Health in China and from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Subsequently, CRR-1 reviewed a proposal for a bi-national programme between Cuba and Mexico. All three programmes share common objectives, to wit, the production and distribution of RIA kits for the 6 standard reproductive hormones and for cortisol, the development and maintenance of external quality schemes and also internal quality procedures, the development of more robust assay methodologies for the future and the implementation of training programmes required to carry out the above functions.

A broad review was done of the current status of the three programmes.

10.1 China

Considerable progress has been achieved towards producing reagent kits, and it seems likely that prototype kits for progesterone, estradiol and cortisol could be distributed for evaluation by mid-1987 and for prolactin before March 1988. The facilities and expertise required for the development of this programme exists in a total of 13 institutions located in Shanghai, Tianjin and Beijing. The programme is being coordinated by the Ministry of Public Health. It is envisaged that on completion of the developmental stages only two institutions, one for the production of kits and the other for maintaining quality control, would be directly involved. As regards progress towards the objective for developing new assay methods, refinements to RIA methodology using monoclonal antibodies were being developed. At present, it may be inappropriate to embark on developing entirely new assay methods. An amount of US\$15 000 for the purchase of small items, four consultants in 1987/88 and one research training grant for training in monoclonal antibody techniques was recommended for funding (see section 13.3.38).

10.2 Cuba-Mexico programme

This programme will be coordinated by staff of the two institutions currently being supported by the Special Programme, the National Coordinating Network for Human Reproductive Research in Cuba and the Department of Reproductive Endocrinology of the Instituto Nacional Nutricion in Mexico. The plan is that Mexico would develop the reagent kits for steroid hormones and Cuba for the peptide hormones. The programme in Mexico has progressed to the stage where animals are being immunised, with varying degrees of success, for the production of antibodies to estradiol, progesterone, testosterone and cortisol. Arrangements have been made with some national pharmaceutical plants to make available production facilities for the kits.

In the Cuban part of the programme, prototype kits for prolactin assays have been produced and are undergoing limited field trials. A staff member from one of the institutions collaborating in this effort has recently returned to Cuba after training in the U.K., bringing with him pure pituitary hormones, which he learnt to extract from pituitaries collected in Cuba. Other aspects of the programme were proceeding well. Based on grant applications made by the respective institutions, the Mexican part of the programme was awarded a Capital (CAP) grant of US\$50,000 for the purchase of a gamma-counting system, and the Cuban part US\$40,000 for equipment and supplies as part of their LID grant (see sections 13.3.17 and 13.3.18).

10.3 India

CRR-1 reviewed an outline proposal from the ICMR, and funds for the purchase of equipment and supplies required for developing the programme and support for a workshop were recommended for approval. The transfer of the approved funds is awaiting official approval of the proposal from the Government. A WHO/ICMR workshop for senior scientists was held in 1985 based on teaching material produced by three Indian scientists, who were supported through training grants. The original proposal envisages progress towards programme objectives through three phases of development and involves some eight institutions. The activities will be coordinated by a full-time scientist based at the ICMR in New Delhi.

The current status of the programme cannot be assessed, as no report has been received and no consultant visit has taken place recently. Steps should be taken to re-establish contact with the ICMR's reagent programme.

11. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF BIOSTATISTICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND DATA-PROCESSING FACILITIES

With the ultimate objective that all institutions that are being strengthened through LID grants should possess the human resources and facilities required for designing, managing and analysing research in family planning and human reproduction CRR-1, in 1985, had identified some targets towards which strengthening activities in this field should be aimed. The targets were identified at institutional, national and inter-country levels and the approximate costs of strengthening an institution had been worked out. Based on these targets, reviews were done of the strengthening activities in Africa and China.

11.1 Africa

Site-visits made in March 1987 to 7 institutions (see section 6.3) being supported through LID grants revealed a paucity of biostatistical and computing facilities in all of them. Plans were worked out with each of the institutions as to how best their biostatistical and computing facilities could be improved. The plans essentially consisted of providing microcomputer equipment and appropriate software, and, at the same time, scheduling relevant training for institutional staff. In some institutions, staff for further training in biostatistics were identified and were encouraged to submit applications for research training grants. With the provision of the equipment, each of the institutions will be visited by consultants to conduct short courses for institutional staff to assist them in the use of microcomputer applications for research.

11.2 China

An overall plan for strengthening biostatistical, epidemiological and computing facilities was endorsed by the former Committee on Institution Strengthening in 1984. The plan involved both the UNFPA and Special Programme-supported institutions. In the training component of the plan, the following have been implemented: two courses in statistical and epidemiological methods were given in 1985 and were attended by staff from all 8 institutions; an epidemiology workshop was conducted in Chengdu in August 1986 and seminars in advanced statistics were given in three institutions in December 1986. By 1988, a total of 26 staff from the supported institutions would have received training overseas in the relevant disciplines. As regards the provision of equipment: Chengdu, Shanghai and Hangzhou will be getting their equipment in 1987, and Beijing and Tianjin in 1988. Plans have been made for further training activities to occur in 1988 and 1989, and these will be scheduled in accordance with the schedule for institutions acquiring the necessary equipment. The implementation of the strategies in the original plan are scheduled to be completed by 1989. The costs, as identified in the 1984 plan, have been substantially reduced, due to the elimination of 2 institutions that were in the original plan and to the decline in the costs of computing equipment. The original plan was well thought out and the lessons learnt during its implementation should be of use to the African programme.

12. BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR GRANTS IN THE RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME AREA

Table 1 is based on an expected income level for the Special Programme of a total of US\$37 million for the biennium 1986-1987. A total of US\$6,867,000 has been allocated for grants and operations in the Resources for Research programme area for the biennium and will be allocated as follows:

TABLE 1

	Research capability strengthening, including training (in US\$1,000)	Provision of matched reagents and quality control
Allocations 1986-1987	5,867	1,000
Less expenditures for 1986	<u>3,063</u>	<u>494</u>
Balance available for 1987	2,804	506
Less funds recommended for 1987 by CRR-2	<u>1,212</u>	
BALANCE AVAILABLE	<u>1,592</u>	

The reviews for applications for support and the funding recommendations for 1988 (see 13) were made in the light of the above budget.

13. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR 1988

13.1 Change in reporting cycle

In order to synchronise the funding cycle and the reporting cycle, and also to review work carried out in the institutions soon after it is completed, CRR-2 decided to advance its annual meeting from the month of July to the month of April of each year. For those institutions receiving Long-Term Institution Development (LID) grants, this cycle of events means that in any 3-year period funding for year 3 will be based on work carried out during year 1. Those institutions which started their LID grants in 1987 were requested to submit applications for funding in 1988, based on their original 5-year plan of work.

13.2 Review process

As in the past, the Secretariat provided summaries of the individual proposals and also, in most instances, the Secretariat made suggestions for funding based on the requests that were made in the grant applications. Each grant application was assigned to two CRR members who were requested to make independent detailed written appraisals on a form which was developed specifically for that purpose. Although most of the applications deserved support to varying degrees, hard decisions had to be made to suit the funds (see Section 12) that were made available to CRR-3. As a result, only 39 of the 45 proposals that were considered were approved for funding and many of them at a lower level of funding than what was requested. One proposal was deferred and will be reviewed on an interim basis by a small committee of CRR at a later date (see 13.3.7). Five UNFPA funded institutions (four in China and 1 in Indonesia) were also reviewed and had their funding for 1988 ratified. These funding decisions had already been made following tripartite reviews (see Section 4) that were carried out in the respective countries.

13.3 Applications recommended for funding for 1988

WHO African Region

13.3.1 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Centre National Hospitalier Universitaire, COTONOU, Benin

The programme of work under the LID grant awarded for 1987 has just started. Under the research line of infertility, a study of infertile couples attending the hospital is progressing satisfactorily. Projects on the study of abortions and on trophoblastic diseases have also been started. The development programme has been implemented to support the research that is being developed. A total of US\$50,500 together with support for research training and consultants was approved for the second year of the LID grant.

13.3.2 Department of Obstetrics, University Centre for Health Sciences, YAOUNDE, Cameroon

This institution, which has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1983, is continuing its research activities under support from a LID grant starting in 1987. Twelve specific research projects are in progress in the fields of infertility, family planning and high risk pregnancies. These were identified as of high priority in the LID grant proposal. An amount of US\$84,500 together with support for research training and consultants was recommended for the second year of the LID grant.

13.3.3 Reproductive Biology Unit, Faculty of Science, NAIROBI, Kenya

This institution is part of the National Centre for Research in Reproduction. In 1986, CRR-2 recommended support for local salaries for 1987 and encouraged the institution to develop its own research programmes so that funding could be secured from Task Forces and other agencies. Its main strength lies in the development of animal models for research in reproduction. The unit is working on these recommendations. An amount of US\$3,000 was recommended for journals together with consultant support for 1988.

13.3.4 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, NAIROBI, Kenya

The institution has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1979 and has developed considerable capacity to carry out research related to family planning and human reproduction. Projects in fertility regulation, factors influencing contraceptive use, in

adolescent fertility, in behavioural aspects and in abortions are in progress. Two Task Force multicentred studies are also being conducted. The institution plays a key role as part of the newly established and nationally supported National Centre for Research in Reproduction. An amount of US\$112,586, together with research training and consultant support, was recommended for approval for 1988.

13.3.5 Institute of Primate Research, NAIROBI, Kenya

The institution, which is part of the National Centre for Research in Reproduction, is making rapid progress in building its research capacity under Special Programme support and also support from the European Community. The main research lines are in sperm antigens and in early pregnancy. It is proposed to start a regular course in Laboratory Animal Science. A second year of the LID grant was recommended for funding to an amount of US\$72,000. In addition, support for research training and consultants was also recommended for approval.

13.3.6 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Ibadan, IBADAN, Nigeria

CRR-2 recommended a sum of US\$50,000 for 1987 for the further development of a Fertility Research Unit (FRU). An additional sum of US\$28,000 was recommended for 1988 to cover the costs of acquiring microcomputing facilities and for journals. Eleven studies, some under support from other international agencies, are in progress and many regional scientific meetings were held in 1986 indicating that the FRU is also playing a regional role.

13.3.7 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Benin, BENIN CITY, Nigeria

This new LID grant proposal was elicited in response to CRR-2 recommendations for expanding the collaboration with Nigerian institutions. The proposal is to develop research programmes in infertility which is a major problem in the area. No research lines on contraception are identified. The proposal needs revision to include research on contraception and on other aspects of human reproduction. For this purpose, an amount of US\$5,000 was recommended for consultant support. In order to get the programmes started early it was recommended that the consultant visit the institution before September 1987 to revise the proposal. The revised proposal will be reviewed on an interim basis by a small committee of the CRR and, if found satisfactory, an amount not exceeding US\$25,000 could be recommended for approval.

13.3.8 Clinique gynécologique et obstetricale, Hôpital A. Le Dantec, DAKAR, Senegal

CRR-2 recommended a sum of US\$24,500 to develop a programme of research on infertility and on oral contraceptives during 1987 which is the first year of the LID grant proposal submitted by the institution. The annual report for 1986 and a request for funding for 1988 were not received from this centre. It was decided that no funds be allocated but that applications for research training from the centre could be considered by the Technical Review Committee and reported to the CRR at its next meeting. Funds for training should not exceed US\$25,000. In addition, US\$5,000 would be available for consultant support to review ongoing research and to evaluate managerial problems.

13.3.9 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Zambia, LUSAKA, Zambia

The institution has been collaborating with the Special Programme since 1975 and it submitted a LID grant application to CRR-2 to develop research of national importance related to family planning, infertility and maternal health. The institution is carrying out four Task Force supported studies on IUDs and vaginal rings, and one Population Council supported study of Norplant. A sum of US\$45,500 and consultant support for one year was recommended for 1988.

13.3.10 Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Zimbabwe, HARARE, Zimbabwe

A LID grant application incorporating a five year plan to develop studies related to the evaluation of contraceptives, development of male contraceptives, maternal mortality and infertility was considered. A staff development programme to develop expertise in reproductive endocrinology, biostatistics, cytology, andrology and medical technology has been planned. The development programme was considered worthy of support and a total amount of US\$54,000 was recommended for approval for the first year of a LID grant, together with funds for consultant support for one year.

13.3.11 Proposal from the African Fertility Society (AFS) for support of a conference on "Fertility in Africa"

A proposal for support of an inaugural conference where research papers on fertility in Africa will be presented and discussed was considered and an amount of US\$10,000 was recommended towards partially meeting the costs.

13.3.12 Training in microcomputer applications in human reproduction research

A proposal was submitted by the Secretariat containing three possible mechanisms for training the staff of African institutions which were being provided with microcomputers under their respective LID grants. After considering the alternatives an amount of US\$46,000 was recommended to meet the costs of on-site training.

13.3.13 African Research Management Meeting

An amount of US\$50,000 was recommended to meet the costs of the meeting which will be organized, planned and implemented by Secretariat and appropriate consultants in a manner similar to the Jakarta workshop (see section 5). The meeting is scheduled for 1988.

WHO American Region

13.3.14 Centro de Biologia de la Reproduccion, ROSARIO, Argentina

Implementation of the activities proposed to start in 1987 under a LID grant support had been held pending the approval of the Ministry of Health of the Government of Argentina. The approval has recently been obtained. A proposal for support for the second year of the grant was considered and approved to a total of US\$79,800, of which US\$25,000 was for the remodelling of existing buildings to accommodate new laboratories. Support for 12 months of training for staff was also recommended, as well as consultant advice. The main research lines are related to basic reproductive biology and to clinical studies of reproductive endocrine profiles of adolescents. The institution's research should complement the clinical research in the Centro de Reproduccion Humana (see 13.3.15) with which research collaboration should be promoted.

13.3.15 Centro de Reproduccion Humana, ROSARIO, Argentina

A Capital (CAP) grant of US\$40,000 was recommended for this institution to enable it to acquire equipment for clinical research in family planning, infertility and in adolescence. Research collaboration with the Centro de Biologia de la Reproduccion (see 13.3.14) should be encouraged. A more detailed description of the institution's proposed 5 year programme of research should be obtained.

13.3.16 Laboratorio de Endocrinologia, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, SANTIAGO, Chile

Starting in 1987 the institution will be developing a non-human primate facility mainly for Cebus monkeys by remodelling of an existing building in close proximity to the laboratory. CRR-2 when it approved the LID grant for this institution, which is well known for its research excellence, suggested that the facility should serve as a resource for all scientists in Santiago who are involved in human reproduction research. The original 5-year plan remains unchanged. A total sum of US\$40,000 was recommended for approval for 1988. Descriptions of the specific research projects in gamete and embryo interactions and in pituitary gonadotrophin regulation should be submitted to CRR-4. Support for 12 months of staff training was also recommended for approval.

13.3.17 National Coordinating Network for Research in Human Reproduction, HAVANA, Cuba

This network of institutions has acquired a good cadre of trained researchers and good infrastructure for research through collaborative institution strengthening efforts with the Special Programme since 1976. The four institutions in the network carry out Task Force multicentred studies in infertility and in contraceptive evaluation. Several institution

initiated studies in basic reproductive biology are in progress. An amount of US\$94,000 was recommended for 1988 which is the final year of the phase out period for institution strengthening support, together with consultant support. The institution, in collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Biology of the National Institute of Nutrition in Mexico City (see 13.3.18) is developing a regional programme for the production of reagent kits under Special Programme support. Based on a request for support an additional sum of US\$40,000 was recommended for acquiring equipment for the Cuban part of the programme.

11.3.18 Department of Reproductive Biology, National Institute of Nutrition, MEXICO CITY, Mexico

A proposal for a CAP grant was considered from this institution, which has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1972. The principal strengths of the institution lie in basic and applied research on contraceptive steroids and in the MSc programme in reproductive endocrinology by which many scientists in Central and Latin America have been trained to do research in human reproduction. The institution is developing a programme for the production of reagent kits for steroid hormone assays as a collaborative venture with the National Coordinating Network for Human Reproduction in Havana, which is producing the kits for peptide hormone assays (see 11.3.17). A CAP grant was recommended for a total value of US\$50,000 for the purchase of a gamma counter and other related equipment.

11.3.19 Hospital Universitario del Valle, Facultad de Salud, CALI, Colombia

The institution has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1980. In 1986, it submitted a LID grant proposal, which CRR-2 considered and recommended that it should be revised using consultant support. Following a consultant visit early in 1987, a new proposal was submitted to CRR3. The institution received 'core support' in 1986 and was requested to send a report for that period, but no report has been received. There has been a recent change in the leadership of the group of researchers. The new LID grant proposal is to develop further research in contraception, infertility, and in social and behavioural aspects of fertility regulation. Since no information was available on the research carried out in 1986, CRR-3 recommended for approval only those funds required for the continuation of the salaries of supporting staff, and funds for journals and laboratory supplies, all of which amounted to US\$18,500 together with consultant assistance.

13.3.20 Centre for Research in Human Reproduction, Ministry of Health, PANAMA CITY, Panama

After nearly five years of preliminary work, during which period the Special Programme provided intermittent consultant support to assist the institution in formulating a development plan, a new LID grant proposal was received and reviewed. The proposal aims to develop the appropriate infrastructure and human resources to carry out a research programme on service and social aspects of fertility regulation, safety and efficacy of contraceptives, infertility and hormonal assays. An amount of US\$81,000 was recommended for approval for the first year of a LID grant, together with funds for research training and consultant support.

13.3.21 Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, LIMA, Peru

The institution has already started work under support provided during the first year of a LID grant awarded to it by CRR-2. There are no major changes to the original LID proposal, which aims at expanding its ongoing research in fertility and hormonal changes at high altitudes. The institution's scientists have also submitted projects related to contraceptive evaluation, infertility and basic reproductive endocrinology. A total of US\$73,000 and funds for research training and consultant support was recommended for approval.

13.3.22 Workshop on Research Management for Latin America.

An amount of US\$50,000 was recommended for a workshop similar to the one conducted in Jakarta (see section 5). The workshop is tentatively scheduled for 26 May to 2 June 1988.

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

13.3.23 Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Shatby Maternity Hospital, ALEXANDRIA, Egypt

The institution has received institution strengthening support since 1972 and has collaborated in Task Force multicentred trials on long-acting systemic contraceptives and on oral contraceptives. Nearly 60 research projects are listed as being carried out with support from national sources. The institution needs no major institution strengthening support. A Small (SMA) grant of US\$5,000 was recommended to cover the costs of laboratory supplies and journals.

13.3.24 Centre for Research in Human Reproduction, TUNIS, Tunisia

The Centre has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1978, since which time it has received institution strengthening support. Currently, six Task Force studies related to infertility, IUDS, contraceptive vaginal rings and post-coital contraception are in progress. The LID grant proposal, which was approved by CRR-2, aims to expand the ongoing research programmes in contraception, reproductive endocrinology, infertility and abortion. A second year LID grant totalling US\$118,400 was recommended for approval. In addition, relevant support for the training of staff and for consultants was also recommended.

WHO European Region

13.3.25 Department of Public Health, School of Medicine, Hacettepe University, ANKARA, Turkey

The institution has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1972, mainly in social science and health services research. CRR-2 recommended US\$30,000 as part of a phasing out of core support and suggested that the institution, which has good capabilities for further development as a training centre for social science researchers, could submit a proposal for support of a masters degree course. Although the institution requested further support for salaries, CRR3 felt that it could only recommend a SMA grant of US\$5 000 as a stop-gap measure until the full proposal was seen.

13.3.26 Proposal for support of a workshop in Andrology in the USSR

The Secretariat submitted a proposal for partial support of a one-week workshop in andrology for scientists in the USSR. Under a general agreement made with the Special Programme, the Government of the USSR will meet the local costs of the participants and the teaching faculty and also part of the travel for the teaching faculty from outside the USSR. An amount of US\$5 000 was requested and approved to meet part of the travel costs of the faculty.

WHO South-East Asia Region

13.3.27 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), NEW DELHI, India

CRR-2 approved a LID grant for 3 years to build a network of four institutions that would be capable of carrying out research on services and behavioural issues. Support was approved for the second year, i.e., 1988, to meet half of the costs of staff salaries and other research and training expenses which amount to US\$65,000.

13.3.28 Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, CHANDIGARH, India

This institution has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1972, since which time it has developed a capacity to carry out both laboratory and clinical research. It collaborates extensively in Task Force research. During 1986, it carried out 9 WHO multicentred studies related to IUDs, vaginal rings, post-ovulatory methods and infertility. It has several nationally-funded projects, including those on vaccines, herbal contraception and the effects of vasectomy. A request was made for support for the second year of an LID grant for staff salaries and for other research expenses. A grant totalling US\$28,425 was recommended, together with training support for 12 months for selected institutional staff.

13.3.29 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS); NEW DELHI, India

The institution being strengthened is constituted by 6 departments, including a primate research facility of the AIIMS. Collaboration with the Special Programme has existed since 1972. Each of the 6 sections has developed its own research programme in a range of topics related to human reproduction. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Department of Surgery and the primate research facility have collaborative studies funded by Task Forces. The application made was for a CAP grant to purchase new RIA equipment to replace the defunct equipment supplied by the Special Programme more than ten years earlier. An amount of US\$50,000 was recommended to meet part of the cost of the new equipment with the condition that it be accessible to all the units of the institution collaborating with the Special Programme and that the institution provide evidence of having obtained at least matching funds from national and other sources.

13.3.30 Family Health Division, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, BANGKOK, Thailand

A LID grant application to develop a network of 7 institutions located in several provinces of the country was reviewed. Four of the institutions are linked to universities and three are Maternal and Child Health Centres. The developmental project will be coordinated from the Institute of Health Research in Bangkok and the National Family Planning Programme. Initial research will be related to the evaluation of Norplant and of drugs for the reduction of bleeding in OMPA users. A series of short, group-learning activities and other staff development activities are planned. A first year LID grant totalling US\$60,600 was recommended, including support for the research training of staff for a total of 24 months. Most of the training of staff should take place within Thailand, which has many well-developed training facilities.

13.3.31 Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University, BANGKOK, Thailand

The institution was originally part of Mahidol University's Faculty of Public Health and subsequently grew to become an independent research and training institution. The LID grant application is for support for the first few years of development of a masters degree programme in family planning and population research that would serve as a research training facility for both a national and regional level. The course consists of formal course work for the first year followed by a research project, the data for which will be collected in the trainees' home institution. The grant application gives details of each of the course units that will be taught in the first year. The CRR felt that it may be unnecessary for the trainee to spend a whole year collecting data in the home institution and that there should be sufficient flexibility to cater for the learning needs of individual students. A total of US\$43,700 was recommended for the first year of a grant for the development of the MSc course. Relevant consultant support for a two-week visit to further develop the curriculum plan was also recommended for approval.

13.3.32 Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chulalongkorn University, BANGKOK, Thailand

A total of US\$34 876 and 13 months of research training support for institutional staff was recommended for the second year of a LID grant for this institution, which has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1976. There are nine Task Force studies in progress and nine other investigator-initiated projects. The projects deal with a wide range of research topics varying from the evaluation of contraceptives under development to studies on the safety and efficacy of those in use. The institution normally conducts workshops both on the service and research aspects of family planning.

13.3.33 Human Reproduction Study Group, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia, JAKARTA, Indonesia

This institution's application for a LID grant to develop research programmes on the safety and efficacy of contraceptive method, pharmacokinetics of new drugs, reproductive endocrinology and in andrology had been approved by CRR2 and the work identified in the proposal was to start in 1987. In the application for support for 1988, there have been no changes in the original plan. Funds totalling US\$35,750 and research training support for one year for institutional staff were recommended.

13.3.34 Biomedical and Human Reproduction Study Group, Medical Faculty, Hasanuddin University, UJUNG PANDANG, Indonesia

CRR-2 had recommended a LID grant proposal to develop evaluation studies on long-acting systemic agents, research in andrology and research in endocrinology. The grant commenced in 1987. The application for support in 1988 does not indicate any changes to the original plan. A grant of US\$30,000 was recommended. One consultant visit and research training support for one year for staff development were also recommended for approval.

13.3.35 Biomedical and Human Reproduction Study Group, Medical Faculty, Airlangga University, SURABAYA, Indonesia

This institution had applied to CRR-2 for a LID grant to further develop programmes in clinical research and in endocrinology. The grant was recommended for the first year, and two Australian scientists had recently visited the institution to assist researchers in developing specific projects, many of which are in the field of male reproduction. A grant of US\$27,450, further consultant support and a one-year research training grant were recommended for approval for 1988.

Western Pacific Region

General Comments on China

The strengthening strategies used in the overall long-term plan for the strengthening of research capabilities in China, which included both the Special Programme and UNFPA supported institutions, were commended and it was observed that some of the experience could be useful for similar programmes elsewhere. It was noted that most of the research training had taken place outside China. The time was now appropriate to develop a plan for research training that would take increasing advantage of those centres within China that were becoming strong in the field of human reproduction research and with a lesser emphasis on overseas training. An attempt will be made to develop such a plan in consultation with the respective institutions. However, it should be noted that this trend has already been apparent during the past two to three years in the stronger institutions, such as the one in Shanghai where large numbers of scientists from other Chinese institutions are now being trained. The six Chinese institutions that were reviewed seemed to be progressing at different rates towards their goals for institutional development, even though they were receiving similar levels of assistance. This could be partly linked to the duration of external support that they had received so far. The developmental process could be accelerated, if there was more interaction between the directors of the different institutions. Such interaction could, for example, be achieved through annual meetings. At present, interaction between senior staff of institutions occurs at scientific meetings and also during those Special Programme-supported site-visits which include staff from other Chinese institutions. CRK-4 would consider an overall plan for China for the next five years and the costs of implementing the plan (see section 18).

13.3.36 Shanghai Institute of Planned Parenthood Research, SHANGHAI, China

This research capacity of the institution has grown considerably since its establishment in 1979, during which year collaboration with the Special Programme was also started. It is playing a significant national and even a regional role in research and research training activities. The 1986 report summarises progress in 31 studies in a wide range of topics related to human reproduction. The institution will become responsible for implementing a portion of the research planned in China's Seventh Five-Year Plan. The LID grant proposal, which CRK-2 reviewed in 1986, was highly rated and support was recommended for the first year. For the second year, a total of US\$113,813 was recommended, together with US\$19,000 for consultants and US\$20,000 for journals. In addition, 24 months of research training for developing the human resources of the institution was also recommended.

13.3.37 Family Planning Research Institute of Zhejiang, HANGZHOU, China

The LID grant proposal to strengthen its capacity to carry out research of importance to the Zhejiang province and to participate in national research programmes was recommended for funding by CRK-2. The institution's strength lies in research required for the development

of systemically administered long-acting contraceptives. The research programmes that were planned under the LID grant proposal remain essentially unchanged. A grant totalling US\$151,050 was recommended, together with US\$15,000 for consultants.

13.3.38 Chinese Programme for the development of reagent kits for hormonal assays

A brief review was done of this programme (see section 10.1) for the production of reagent kits for reproductive hormonal assays. An amount of US\$15,000 was recommended for the purchase of equipment required by three institutions participating in the programme. In addition, support for four consultants during 1987/88 and one research training grant was recommended for approval.

13.3.39 Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE

This large well-established institution in 1986 collaborated in eight Task Force multicentred studies dealing with the evaluation of contraceptives and with infertility. CRR-1 recommended that major research-strengthening support to the institution should be phased out and that it should draw its research funds from the respective Task Forces or other sources. An indication of its research capacity is reflected in the fact that the institution's report for 1986 lists 68 research projects in progress, all of which were related to fertility regulation. US\$32,600 was recommended for 1988 to meet part of the costs of salaries and journals.

13.3.40 Institute of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, HANOI, Vietnam

The institution has collaborated with the Special Programme since 1979. Two Force Force supported multicentred studies were carried out during 1986. CRR-2 had recommended a LID grant to develop epidemiological-oriented research in family planning, including studies on the safety and efficacy of contraceptive methods in use in Vietnam. Resources are required to build sufficient infrastructure support, including human resources, to implement the research programmes identified in the proposal. For the second year of the grant, an amount of US\$77,000 was recommended for approval. In addition, two one-year research training grants were recommended and continued consultant support.

13.4 Review of UNFPA-funded projects (see section 8)

WHO South-East Asia Region

13.4.1 National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN), JAKARTA, Indonesia

BKKBN is an independent Government body which is responsible for the national family planning programme and also for coordinating research activities related to family planning in Indonesia. The present project, which began in 1986, includes manpower development, improvement of physical facilities for research and support for both multi- and single-centred studies relating to family planning in 11 universities in Indonesia coordinated by BKKBN. In 1988 support is to be provided for three multicentred research projects, two single centre projects, consultant assistance for the development of research programmes, research training and the further development of endocrine assay facilities. Activities under the project are proceeding as planned and CCR-3 endorsed the project.

WHO Western Pacific Region

13.4.2 National Research Institute for Family Planning, BEIJING, China

The aim of this project was to build up the institution as a focal point for research and research training in family planning and to assist the Government in the planning and implementation of multicentred studies of importance to the national family planning programmes. The first 5-year cycle of UNFPA support was completed in 1984. During the current cycle, it is proposed to continue to develop research in 8 main areas: female methods, including IUDs and vaginal rings; epidemiology; clinical endocrinology and assay development; pharmaceutical chemistry; basic research in andrology; clinical research in men; reproductive immunology, and social and behavioural aspects. The institution collaborates extensively with the work of the Task Forces. It was noted that a total amount

of US\$418,000 had been allocated for the year 1987, which is the third year of the current 5-year cycle. Overall progress was considered to be satisfactory. The forthcoming workshop in research management is a significant step towards the further strengthening of the institution.

Some concern was expressed at recent unexpected changes in management and at lack of adequate overall progress. During the tripartite review, recommendations were made and agreed at overcoming problems that may arise as a result of the administrative changes.

13.4.3 Family Planning Research Institute of Sichuan, CHENGDU, China

UNFPA funds have supported the institution since mid-1982. The institution is currently in the third year of a 5-year cycle of institution strengthening support, for which year an amount of US\$400,000 has been allocated. The geographical location of the institution presents unique opportunities for large-scale safety studies. The main focus of the research is in andrology, particularly the follow-up of vasectomized men, in which it collaborates with the Male Task Force. In addition, there are ongoing programmes in reproductive endocrinology and in female methods. Progress in institution building was proceeding at an optimal rate and the project was endorsed.

13.4.4 Family Planning Research Institute of Guangdong, GUANGZHOU, China

The institution, was founded in 1976 and has a total number of staff of about 120. As with the institution in Chengdu, the purpose of the UNFPA support was to strengthen the institution's capacity to carry out research of relevance to the local province and to participate in national research programmes. The UNFPA will be providing a total of US\$1.5 million over a 5-year period. Ongoing research is concerned with IUDs, female sterilization, male fertility and birth control vaccines. The institution has made a successful start in its collaborative activities with WHO and UNFPA, but there is potential for improvement of collaboration with other institutions within the province. The proposed budget of US\$532,974 for 1988 was ratified.

13.4.5 Tianjin Municipal Research Institute for Family Planning, TIANJIN, China

The institution is linked to the Tianjin Medical College and serves as one of its research facilities. UNFPA support commenced in mid-1982 and the current cycle of support extends to 1989. An amount of US\$189,500 is allocated for 1988. There are five main institutional research groups related to different research fields, i.e: oral contraceptives; LHRH analogues; endocrinology; vaginal spermicides, and clinical research in women. While endorsing the current research and future research plans, concern was expressed at the poor management practices that prevailed in the institution. The recommendations of the site visit were also endorsed.

14. RE-ENTRY GRANTS

Funding of re-entry grants is done using the budget allocated to Resources for Research and, hence, comes under the purview of the CRR.

A brief review was done of the purpose and the current policies underlying the award of re-entry grants, and it was decided that the current policies should prevail for the award of these grants until a more detailed review is carried out at the next meeting, when more data will become available from the proposed survey of past trainees. A total of 88 re-entry grants have been awarded since 1972, and over the years there has been a gradual falling-off in the number of trainees who have been awarded such grants.

The current policy is that trainees who have recently returned to their home institutions after training which was supported by the Special Programme and, in some instances, by other sources are eligible to apply for these grants. They are meant to assist the grantee in carrying out a relevant research project in family planning and human reproduction using the knowledge and skills acquired during training. The research project proposal, which should be subject to the normal research review processes of the Special Programme, can be funded to a maximum value of US\$10,000.

15. REVIEW OF INSTITUTIONAL GRANT APPLICATION FORMS AND REPORTING FORMS

The current forms for obtaining profiles of institutions and forms for applying for LID grants were developed for the first time two years ago. Their use during this time had revealed some inadequacies which need correction. The present formats of these forms should be revised by the Secretariat and the revised formats should be presented at the next meeting of CRR.

The current formats for reporting on the individual research and research training activities in institutions seemed satisfactory and they should be incorporated into a reporting format that will include all the activities which were planned for implementation during the reporting year, as stated in the LID grant application form.

16. INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE MADE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME ENQUIRING ABOUT POSSIBLE INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING SUPPORT

As a result of the dissemination of information about the Special Programme's new system of institutional grants and training grants through various channels, including the WHO's Regional Offices and the Special Programme's newsletter, many institutions in developing countries have made initial contacts enquiring about the possibility of applying for such grants. Being aware of the limitation of the funds available for research capability strengthening activities, the Secretariat have responded to such requests in a manner so as not necessarily to raise expectations. CRR-3 briefly reviewed cases where initial contacts had been made by 11 institutions in developing countries. Some of these institutions had submitted completed institution profile forms. The CRR recommended that the Secretariat continue with negotiations, bearing in mind CRR policies with respect to a fair and balanced geographical distribution of institution strengthening activities. The possibility of collaborating with other international programmes, such as the IDRC, FHI and the Rockefeller Foundation (see section 1) in providing support for these institutions should be explored.

Where appropriate, institutions in this category should be included in the overall plans for each region that will be discussed at CRR-4 (see section 18). This would also be applicable to the two primate centres in China - Kunming and Fuzhou - which had been awarded Small (SMA) grants and research training grants in 1986.

17. MORE INVOLVEMENT OF CRR MEMBERS IN SITE-VISITS AND OTHER SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The members felt that they should be more involved in the implementation of the CRR's policies at the actual institutional level. With this in view, it was felt that more CRR members should be included in site-visits to institutions. Selection of CRR members to site-visit institutions should be based on the matching of the technical competence of the individual CRR members to the research programmes being developed in the institution to be visited. Since the detailed review of grant applications from any one institution over the years is the responsibility of the same two CRR members, it would be preferable that the respective members actually make site-visits to the institutions that they review. Wherever possible, CRR members should be included in Special Programme-supported research management workshops and other related activities. Arrangements for involving members in the implementation of CRR policies will be facilitated if members could intimate to the Secretariat, well in advance, their work schedules and travel plans for the year.

18. FOURTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH (CRR-4)

18.1 Date for CRR-4

The date for the fourth meeting of the CRR was fixed for 22 to 29 April 1988.

18.2 Agenda items to be included

- overall plans, by region, for research capability strengthening activities for the next five years, including costs;
- strategies for greater involvement of the Task Forces in the institutions that have completed their research capability strengthening programmes and in institutions that are currently being strengthened through LID grants.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
TRAINING IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION

Third meeting of the
Committee on Resources for Research (CRR-3)
24 April - 1 May 1987

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

Director HRP will open the meeting. This session will also be used to share with the CRR the initiatives being taken by the Rockefeller Foundation at strengthening research capacities of institutions in developing countries through a programme of "South to South" collaboration.

1. REPORT OF CRR-2 AND COMMENTS BY STAG AND PCAC

This report, which was earlier circulated to all members, was seen by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and by the Policy and Coordination Advisory Committee (PCAC). CRR-3 is requested to make observations, if any, on the documents.

2. SECRETARIAT REPORT ON SIGNIFICANT EVENTS SINCE CRR-2

- 2.1 Meeting on "Improving Institutional Research Programmes" held in Jakarta, 1-5 December 1986
- 2.2 Progress in implementing the regional programme in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 2.3 Progress in the evaluation of Research Training Grants (RTGs)
- 2.4 Grants recommended by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) during 1986
- 2.5 Procedures for the designation of WHO Collaborating Centres

These reports are for information. CRR-3 is requested to make comments, if any.

3. WHO EXECUTION OF UNFPA PROJECTS

The WHO is the executing agency for institution strengthening projects in China, Indonesia and Malaysia. HRP has day-to-day responsibility for their management in conjunction with the respective WHO Regional Office. Since the CRR is called upon to make recommendations on these projects (see agenda item 7.3) which are developed in a manner different to the normal CRR procedures, at the last CRR meeting a request was made for an explanation of the procedures involved.

4. PROGRAMME ON STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF LABORATORY PROCEDURES

This programme was recently reviewed in-depth by STAG. The three major activities of the programme are:

- (a) the supply of matched reagents for hormonal assays and maintaining an external quality control for these assays;
- (b) strengthening the development of national programmes for the production and supply of assay reagents; and
- (c) research into new assay methodology.

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A discussion on this agenda item is meant to facilitate the decisions to be made under agenda item 7.4 where the CRR is requested to recommend budgetary allocations for national programmes.

5. BUDGET

The budgeting procedure of the Special Programme will be explained. An estimate will be given of the funds likely to be available for training grants and institutional grants during 1987 and the 1988-1989 biennium.

6. *REVIEW OF REPORTS FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1986 FROM INSTITUTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY CRR-1 BUT WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY "PHASED OUT"

CRR-3 is requested to review and comment on these reports from institutions which were recommended for "core support" at the August 1985 meeting of CRR-1. They subsequently became ineligible to apply for major institution strengthening support because they either were located in developed countries or had institution strengthening support for well over 10 years or subsequently had their grant applications declined. These institutions are, however, eligible to apply for Small (SMA) grants and, if they are located in developing countries, for Capital (CAP) grants and a limited number of Research Training Grants (RTGs).

7. *APPLICATIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR 1988

CRR-3 is requested to review and make recommendations on:

- 7.1 the application for further institutional strengthening support for 1988 from institutions for which CRR-2 had recommended funds for the first year of Long-term Institution Development (LID) grants (see section 3 of the report of CRR-2). Secretariat summaries will be provided.
- 7.2 the applications for new LID grants and other institutional grants. Secretariat summaries will be provided.
- 7.3 UNFPA supported institutions
- 7.4 National reagent programmes
- 7.5 Strengthening of biostatistics, epidemiology and computing in China and in Sub-Saharan Africa

8. REVIEW OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE MADE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING SUPPORT

Some institutions which have previously not had any major form of institution strengthening support from the Special Programme have now approached the Special Programme for collaboration in strengthening their research capacities. Some of them have submitted completed Institution Profile forms and made requests for Research Training Grants and/or consultant support. CRR-3 is requested to review these institutions and make recommendations on each of them on whether the secretariat should pursue these initial requests further by trying to elicit relevant training and/or institutional grant applications from them. Institution Profiles and other relevant documentation such as duty travel reports will be submitted to assist the CRR review each of these institutions.

* These two agenda items involve the appraisal of individual institutions located in countries within WHO Regions. Hence, although the institutions in agenda items 6 do not require any funding decisions, it would be logical to take both agenda items together and work through each institution on a regional basis. Secretariat will give an overview of each Region before the consideration of the individual institutions within each of them.

9. RE-ENTRY GRANTS

Re-entry grants are intended to help the trainee who is returning to his/her home institution to carry out research using the newly acquired knowledge and skills. These grants are tools for strengthening institutions and hence come under the purview and the budget of the CRR. CRR-3 is requested to review the current guidelines for the award of these grants and to make recommendations on the future policy to be followed.

10. FORMATS FOR REPORTING ON LID GRANTS

CRR-2 wished to see a format for reporting on progress in institutions that receive Long-term Institution Development (LID) grants. Secretariat will provide a format for review by CRR-3.

11. REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON COORDINATING INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In the guidelines developed by CRR-2 (see page 32 of the report of CRR-2) for coordinating institution strengthening activities in Sub-Saharan Africa, it was proposed that an annual meeting be held among the collaborating agencies at the time of the CRR to review progress. The sub-committee is expected to meet outside the normal working times of CRR-3 and will make a report at plenary.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The dates of CRR-4 should be fixed and any other business not identified in this agenda will be considered.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
TRAINING IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION

THIRD MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH (CRR-3)
Geneva, 24 April - 1 May 1987
Salle A

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Dr J. Kasonde (Manager for Africa)

Mr E. Røed (Administrative Officer, HRP)

Dr F.T.G. Webb (Manager for China)

Dr E. Wilson (Manager for South-East
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Task Force Managers (as required)

Dr M.A. Belsey (Chief, MCH)

Institutions that were awarded Small (SMA) grants and Laboratory Supplies (LAB) grants in 1986

WHO African Region

International Medical Research Centre (CIRMF)
FRANCEVILLE, Gabon LAB

WHO American Region

Centro de Inv. Endocrinologias CEDIE
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina LAB

Centro de Biologia da Reproducao
JUIZ DE FOR, Brazil LAB

Clinical Research Center in Human Reproduction
SALVADOR, Brazil SMA

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
José Joaquin Aguirre Hospital
Faculty of Medicine
SANTIAGO, Chile SMA

WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
ALEXANDRIA, Egypt SMA

Dept. of Biological Sc.
Quaid-i-Azam University
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan LAB

WHO European Region

Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
University Medical School
PECS, Hungary LAB

Dept. of Anatomy, Histology & Embryology
PECS, Hungary LAB

Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
DEBRECEN, Hungary LAB

WHO European Region (Continued)

Andrology Ward 1st Clinic of Obstetrics & Gynaecology WARSAW, Poland	LAB
Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology WARSAW, Poland	LAB
Dept. of Embryology WARSAW, Poland	LAB
Laboratory of Animal Endocrinology & Tissue Culture KRAKOW, Poland	LAB
Institute of Animal Physiology & Nutrition JABLONA, Poland	LAB
Dept. of Embryology LENINGRAD, USSR	LAB
Institute of Experimental Pathology and Therapy SUKHUMI, USSR	SMA
Centre for Human Reproduction ZAGREB, Yugoslavia	LAB

WHO South-east Asian Region

Institute for Research in Reproduction BOMBAY, India	SMA
ICMR Regional Research Centre in Reproductive Biology LUDHIANA, India	LAB
Nuc. Med. & RIA Unit Pgnd Dept. of Medicine Col. AGRA, India	LAB
Central Research & Training Laboratory ULAN-BATOR, Mongolia	LAB
Reproductive Biology Research Centre Mahidol University BANGKOK, Thailand	LAB
Siriraj Family Planning Research Unit Faculty of Medicine Mahidol University BANGKOK, Thailand	SMA

WHO Western Pacific Region

Department of Physiology Beijing Medical University BEIJING, China	LAB
Primate Research Centre FUZHOU, China	SMA
Medical Primate Research Centre of China KUNMING, China	SMA
Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica Academia Sinica SHANGHAI, China	LAB
Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology Academia Sinica SHANGHAI, China	LAB
UP-PGH Reproductive Health Care Centre MANILA, Philippines	SMA
JFMH Comprehensive Family Planning Centre MANILA, Philippines	SMA
Institute of Reproductive Medicine & Population Seoul National University SEOUL, Republic of Korea	SMA

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

24 April - 1 May 1987

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COORDINATION OF
INSTITUTION STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

1. Introduction

The Subcommittee was appointed by the CRR to coordinate the activities of interested agencies in strengthening the capacity of institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to conduct research in human reproduction.

2. Family Health International Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa - Status Report

Family Health International currently works with programmes in fifteen countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The goals of FHI's programme in the Region are:

- 1) To develop and strengthen research capacity in clinical, epidemiological and behavioural aspects of reproductive health, including maternity care and maternal mortality issues, fertility, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases;
- 2) to assist programmes in the region to identify, develop and implement research activities to respond to national and local programmatic and policy needs related to the above.

To these ends, FHI provides funding and technical assistance to a wide range of activities including:

- 1) Clinical studies to introduce contraceptive technologies into national programmes and to assist investigators to obtain data on acceptability, safety and appropriateness of these technologies for local populations.

Examples: Introductory trials of Norplant^R contraceptive implants in Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal; of progestogen-only oral contraceptives for breastfeeding women in Ghana, Mali, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Senegal, Rwanda, Nigeria and Cameroon; and of TCU 380A IUDs in Cameroon and Nigeria.

- 2) Studies of problems and care for pregnant and parturient women. Examples: Pregnancy care surveillance studies in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; maternal mortality study in the Kaolack Region of Senegal; and an evaluation of training for traditional birth attendants in North Western Zaire.

- 3) Studies to determine factors influencing the provision and use of contraceptives.

Examples: Studies of factors affecting contraceptive discontinuations in Zaire, Senegal, and Gambia; studies of adolescent sexuality and contraceptive use in Nigeria, Liberia, Zimbabwe; studies of providers' attitudes to family planning in Nigeria.

While institutional strengthening is not the primary objective in these studies, they usually involve an element of institutional strengthening and training. For example, except in clinical trials where FHI protocols are used, collaborating investigators are expected (and often assisted) to develop their own protocols for studies. FHI staff and consultants provide technical assistance and training to collaborating investigators in the implementation of the studies. When local data processing facilities are available, investigators are encouraged and assisted to analyze their own data. When no local facilities are available, data are processed and analyzed at FHI, but often the collaborating investigator will be brought to FHI to participate in analysis and report preparation.

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In addition to these study-related activities, FHI is also engaged in several collaborative relationships in the region where institutional strengthening is the major focus. In Mali, with the Family Planning Association, and in Niger with the National Centre for Family Health, we have made a long-term commitment to develop and strengthen research capabilities within these two organizations, particularly as they relate to the introduction and effective use of contraceptive services in these countries; and in assessing the efficacy of barrier contraceptives (condoms, spermicides) on slowing transmission of STD's. Included in these broad programmes are training in research methodology, identifying research priorities, designing and implementing studies, processing and analyzing data, and assuring that study findings are used to strengthen service programmes. Emphasis is also placed on developing management of research programmes, including long-range planning and financial management and accountability.

In addition to the programmes in Mali and Nigeria, FHI continues to support and strengthen the data management capabilities of the Bureau National de Recherche in Dakar, Senegal. This Centre has a very competent staff of statisticians, demographers and social scientists who have served as a valuable resource for technical supervision for a variety of research activities sponsored by FHI and other agencies in Senegal. The microcomputer provided by FHI to the BNR in 1984 continues to be fully utilized for a variety of research activities.

FHI also provides technical assistance to strengthen data analysis capabilities at the Sahel Institute, based in Bamako, Mali, but serving needs of the Sahel region. A number of training activities have also been implemented or are planned in the Region.

A research methods workshop is planned for September this year in Niamey. Research methods workshops have been sponsored previously on a regional basis in Gambia, and FHI has cosponsored with the CDC and JHPIEHO a regional research methods workshop in Mombasa, Kenya.

The annual FHI budget for the sub-Saharan African region exceeds US\$1.2 million.

3. (IDRC) activities of institution-strengthening, relative to population/reproduction in sub-Saharan African countries since the last CRR meeting

It was not considered particularly useful to compile a list of all past activities as had been done last time. It would be for the most part repetitive; as had been explained it was in any case only an indication of indirect support of such a goal.

Since last time the only relevant activity worth reporting is as follows:

- a) There has been support of two projects, both multicountry, each supposed to involve an African institution and researchers, on the topic of pre-introduction studies for Norplant^R. The grantees are the Population Council and PATH/PIACT respectively. One project was funded through the Health Sciences Division only, the other jointly with the Social Sciences Division.
- b) A workshop was held in Mali, to benefit countries of the region, on the methodology of applied health research, using the SHDS materials. The major beneficiary was the Institut National de Recherche en Santé Publique (INRSP), Bamako.

The topic of institutional strengthening has been in the air at IDRC for some time. Only recently has it been formally grasped. The President has within the past few weeks indicated that senior management is now discussing this as a new modality, complementary to project support. The Office of Planning and Evaluation is involved. Meantime one case study, unfortunately not in Africa, is being undertaken.

4. Coordinating institution-strengthening activities in sub-Saharan Africa

As regards UNFPA three points of information should be noted:

1) UNFPA is supporting in Kenya a project which will carry out a number of operational research studies with the overall objective of improving the effectiveness of the national family planning programme. The first of those studies to be funded will investigate male motivation in regard to family planning practice.

The amount which is likely to be allocated to this project as a whole is about US\$600,000, but individual studies will be funded only after full research proposals have been received and reviewed. Since these studies will be carried out by existing institutions in Kenya, they do not have institutional strengthening as a fundamental objective.

2) UNFPA is presenting to its Governing Council in May 1987 a paper entitled "The strategy for UNFPA assistance in sub-Saharan Africa" (DP/1987/37). Amongst the areas identified and recommended for future support is the strengthening of regional and national population research organizations to carry out operational research, and to enable them to assist governments and NGOs to carry out their own research and to provide training in research techniques.

Results of the debate on this paper and the decisions taken by the Governing Council will be available in June 1987.

3) UNFPA has started a special initiative for MCH/FP training in sub-Saharan Africa. During 1987 a needs assessment will be made, an inventory of training opportunities will be prepared and a strategy will be developed. Training in Biomedical/Human Reproduction research will have to be considered within the context of all the other training needs of Africa. It may, however, be possible to provide some support under this initiative for training in the form of research management workshops. These have already been identified as an urgent need for both the francophone and anglophone countries of the Region.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 In view of the interest of the Rockefeller Foundation in promoting population science research in the subregion, the Foundation should be invited to the next CRR meeting.
- 5.2 There are possibilities for collaboration in the organization and sponsorship of research management workshops which should be explored when detailed proposals are ready.
- 5.3 HRP should seek information about other agencies working in this field in Africa and examine the possibility of holding a meeting to review in more depth the ongoing activities. The Secretariat should take the initiative in this exercise and include bilateral agencies.

Institutions which submitted annual reports for 1986
of activities carried out under "core support"

These have received institution strengthening support from the Special Programme for 10 years or more and, in some instances, for 15 years. From 1987 onwards, they would draw their expenses for research related to Task Force strategic plans directly from the respective Task Forces.

WHO American Region

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WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

National Research Institute for Fertility Control
KARACHI, Pakistan

WHO European Region

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
University Medical School
SZEGED, Hungary

Reproductive Endocrinology Research Unit
STOCKHOLM, Sweden

All-Union Research Centre for Maternal and Child Care
MOSCOW, USSR

Research Institute of Experimental Endocrinology & Hormone Chemistry
MOSCOW, USSR

Krupskaya Research Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
YEREVAN, USSR

Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
USSR Academy of Medical Sciences
LENINGRAD, USSR

Ginekoloska Klinika
LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia

WHO South-East Asia Region

Family Planning Research Unit
Siriraj Hospital
BANGKOK, Thailand

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WHO Western Pacific Region

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MANILA, Philippines

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SEOUL, Korea