Chad: the Population and AIDS Control Project

The Chad Population and AIDS Control project became effective in 1995 and is due to close in mid-2001. The project objectives are: (i) to advance fertility decline; and (ii) to mitigate the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Plan and Regional Planning with the Ministry of Health providing technical support. The project addresses both population and HIV/AIDS issues through a two-pronged approach: policy-related activities are being implemented by the Ministries of Plan and Public Health, while local NGOs are being assisted through a social fund (FOSAP), to develop and implement grass-root activities. In addition, the Association for Family Welfare (an affiliate of the International Planned Parenthood Federation) is implementing, with co-financing from KFW (the German development bank), a successful social marketing of condoms program in urban areas. In 1998, the Quality Assurance Group of the World Bank recognized this project through an Award for Excellence.

Impact on the ground

- Population Commissions have been set up in thirteen of the fourteen prefectures.
- In the context of FOSAP, more than forty local NGOs have received training in project development, management, and implementation and are currently implementing population and HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives at the grass-root level.
- The government has adopted a multisectoral approach to HIV/AIDS prevention; seven ministries are implementing AIDS prevention activities.
- A good demographic base is being developed: a Demographic and Health Survey was completed in 1997, and a migration and urbanization study is being carried out.
- Knowledge about modern methods of contraception, the existence of AIDS (it is the best-known STD for women and the second best-known for men), and about the means of HIV/AIDS transmission is steadily growing.
- More than 300,000 condoms are sold every month, about 15 percent more than expected at the beginning of the program.
Lessons Learned

- Frequent contact with the Borrower helps in creating a constructive and non-threatening environment within which pragmatic advice can be offered for the timely identification of implementation problems. It also facilitates the smooth assumption by the Borrower of real ownership of the project.

- Continuity of the Bank’s point person, in this case, the Task Team Leader, is an important factor for effective project implementation.

- One way of addressing the weakness of local NGOs is to contract with the well-established local and foreign NGOs to assist in the supervision of the project. FOSAP did precisely this.

- Merely making funds available for grassroots activities is not sufficient. It is necessary to "advertise" the Fund (FOSAP) and disseminate information on how it works in order to encourage the development of projects.

- In order to correctly evaluate the national impact of FOSAP, indicators need to be included in the design of all the sub-projects in the social fund.

- Strong IEC programs are critical to the effective implementation of a population policy. In order to better design these IEC activities, Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys need to be systematically carried out and their findings factored into the IEC strategy.

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