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PROGRESS REPORT ON DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (OTHER THAN POPULATION CENSUS), 1962-1964

(Report by the Secretary-General)

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PREFACE

1. Activities in the field of demographic statistics since the twelfth session of the Commission are reported in five papers. A review of the impact of the 1960 World Population and Housing Census Programmes is given in E/CN.3/329. Plans and progress in connexion with corresponding programmes to promote the 1970 censuses are set forth in E/CN.3/337, and draft "Principles and Recommendations" for the topics to be investigated in the 1970 population censuses, their definitions, and the tabulations most likely to meet the needs of planning for economic and social development are given in E/CN.3/330. Work in the field of population projections carried out by the Population Branch, Bureau of Social Affairs, is reported in E/CN.3/333. This report will be limited to progress in areas other than population census and projections, with special reference to the promotion of development of vital records and statistics.

I. METHODOLOGICAL STUDIES

A. Survey of current vital statistics systems

2. The Statistical Commission has repeatedly emphasized the need for the establishment of integrated systems of statistics which would produce the data needed for formulating national plans and policies for social and economic development. Pursuant to this general principle of statistical development, the Commission at its twelfth session recommended that a new^{1/} study be made of methods of obtaining and improving vital statistics in countries where the conventional registration methods are yet able to supply reliable data on population growth rates.

3. According to the studies on The Situation and Recent Trends of Mortality in the World^{2/} and Conditions and Trends of Fertility in the World^{3/}, carried out

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, para. 80, resolution 8 (XII), operative paragraph 2, and para. 139 (19). The previous systematic study on the methodology of vital statistics was made in 1951.

2/ Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No. 6 - 1962 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 62.XIII.2).

3/ Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No. 7 - 1964, (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.XIII.2), (in press).

in the Population Branch of the Bureau of Social Affairs, only 36 per cent of the World's population is able to supply reliable birth and death statistics from civil registers. The regional distribution of this percentage is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Crude birth and death rates from civil registration systems
 (per cent of population able to supply)

	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>
World	36	36
Africa	2	4
America, North.	100	99
America, South.	40	42
Asia	8	7
Europe	98	98
Oceania	84	76
USSR	100	100

For the studies mentioned, birth and death rates for the remaining 64 per cent of the world's population had to be estimated by one technique or another, among which, sample household survey data, reverse-survival and other methods were resorted to. Rates obtained by the sample survey method may be found in Table 2 below.

4. In view of the situation revealed by the studies mentioned in paragraph 3, an international survey was initiated in May 1963 with an inventory of present holdings of current methodology in civil registration and vital statistics. This survey showed that much of the information at hand related to the situation in civil registration as of 1950; accordingly, in July 1964, a request was sent to Governments for information on the current status of vital records and statistics in each country.

5. In making this request, the position of effective vital-statistics systems as an integral part of the 1970 World Population Census Programme was emphasized. It was pointed out that the various methods of demographic data collection should be considered as part of a composite system which consists of periodic basic measurements accompanied by continuous up-dating activities, rather than as discrete

and isolated operations of population enumeration, demographic sample surveying and civil registration. Attention was drawn specifically to the following subjects on which up-to-date information was needed:

- (a) New uses found for vital records.
- (b) Record linkage as a source of demographic information
- (c) Experience with the "tabulation area" concept for improvement of vital statistics
- (d) Experience with retrospective household surveys for demographic data
- (e) Problems of confidentiality encountered
- (f) Methods of evaluation employed and results
- (g) Use of sampling
- (h) Promptness of registration

6. The request was sent to 137 countries and territories; as of January 1965, forty-four replies had been received. Steps will be taken to obtain missing material and the whole will be subjected to detailed methodological study in 1965-66.

B. Revision of standards

7. The study mentioned above will be designed to contribute to the revision of the Principles for a Vital Statistics System,^{4/} issued in 1953, and of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods,^{5/} published in 1955. These projected revisions will draw heavily also on the regional studies made during the last two years, in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

(1) Latin America

8. Regional work on vital statistics began in 1960 in Latin America when a review of civil registration and statistical processing of information collected on vital events, based on the standards recommended in the United Nations Principles and Handbook mentioned in paragraph 7, was undertaken by the Inter American Statistical Institute. Information provided by twenty of the twenty-two American nations

^{4/} Principles for a Vital Statistics System (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 53.XVII.8).

^{5/} Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XVII.1).

was published in a volume entitled Inventario de las Estadísticas Nacionales: Estadísticas Vitales^{6/} and this together with a working paper on Elements for the Formulation of a Basic Program of Vital Statistics in the American Nations^{7/} was considered the Vital Statistics Sub-Committee of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) of the Inter American Statistical Institute at its first session, 27 February-10 March 1961. The report of the Sub-Committee^{8/} came before the VIII session of COINS held in Panama, 2-14 September 1964 and the Sub-Committee's views were integrated into the vital statistics part of the Inter American Program of Basic Statistics^{9/}. It should be noted that the above recommendations deal primarily with statistical series or tabulations. Additional material concerning the civil registration system has been generated in connexion with the Second Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration, discussed in paragraphs 18-19.

(2) Asia

9. In Asia and the Far East, the deficiencies of vital statistics in the region were discussed at the fifth session of the Conference of Asian Statisticians in 1963, as a result of which the Conference recommended that countries which did not have a reliable vital statistics system might consider organizing sample surveys or sample registration areas, as well as taking long-range measures towards improving the entire system. It was suggested that, as new experience was being gathered in the field, it would be appropriate to discuss this subject at a future

6/ Inventario de las Estadísticas Nacionales: Estadísticas Vitales, Washington, D.C. Pan American Union, November 1960 (Inter American Statistical Institute document 4156 Esp. - 11/2/60-250).

7/ Elements for the Formulation of a Basic Program of Vital Statistics in the American Nations, Washington, D.C. 1961 (Inter American Statistical Institute document 4223a-2/1/61-25).

8/ Report of the Vital Statistics Subcommittee to the Committee on the Improvement of National Statistics, Washington, D.C. Pan American Union, 1961 (Inter American Statistical Institute document 4358a-2/12/62-125).

9/ Conclusions of the VIII Session of COINS. Inter American Statistical Institute, VIII Session of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics, Panama, 2-15 September 1964 (Inter American Statistical Institute document 4921a-9/12/64-75).

session of the Conference with special reference to the principles and methods recommended by the United Nations from the point of view of their adaptation to conditions in this region.^{10/} In its programme of future work, consideration of vital statistics was recommended for 1965 to 1967.

(3) Africa

10. The methodology of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa was studied by the Economic Commission for Africa and reported in a paper for the third Conference of African Statisticians (1963) entitled Methods and Problems of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa.^{11/} This comprehensive review has been supplemented by the papers prepared for the African Seminar on Vital Statistics, discussed in paragraphs 20-22.

C. Handbook of household surveys

11. The use of the household survey to obtain information on the demographic characteristics of population has been advanced by the publication of the Handbook of Household Surveys; A Practical Guide for Inquiries on Levels of Living,^{12/} a joint project of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Handbook which was published in English in October 1964 "is intended to serve as a practical guide for persons concerned with general (multi-subject) sample household surveys aimed at measuring several different aspects of the levels-of-living conditions of population".^{13/} The Handbook comprises separate, self-contained chapters on the following topics: The household as a unit of enumeration; Demographic characteristics; Health; Food consumption and nutrition; Housing conditions and facilities; Educational characteristics and cultural

^{10/} Report of the Conference of Asian Statisticians (Fifth Session) to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (Twentieth Session), Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Twentieth Session, 2-17 March 1964, Teheran, (United Nations document E/CN.11/630), para. 23.

^{11/} Methods and Problems of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Collection in Africa (United Nations document E/CN.14/CAS.3/8).

^{12/} Handbook of Household Surveys, A Practical Guide for Inquiries on Levels of Living (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.XVII.13).

^{13/} Ibid., Introduction, p. 1.

activities; Employment; Economic level of the household; and Conducting the household survey.

12. The English version and the French translations of the chapters on "Employment" and on "Conducting the household survey" were used at the African Seminar on Labour Statistics, convened in November 1964 in Addis Ababa^{14/}, and the French of "Demographic characteristics" together with the English edition of the entire Handbook were distributed at the African Seminar on Vital Statistics (see paragraph 20).

13. A Spanish edition of the Handbook was published in January 1965 and it is being used as the textbook for the Latin American Workshop on Household Surveys being conducted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI) with the co-operation of the United Nations, in Mexico from 15 February to 9 April 1965.

D. Continuous population registers

14. At its twelfth session, the Commission had before it a provisional report on the methodology of continuous population registers and an evaluation of their usefulness as statistical mechanisms (E/CN.3/293). This report constituted the findings of a study undertaken in accordance with the request of the Commission in resolutions 18 (IX)^{15/} and 15 (XI).^{16/}

15. After consideration of the report, the Commission requested that the document be circulated for review of the statements made and for other comment, that changes be made in the draft as required, and that the final document be issued as a technical study.^{17/}

16. Accordingly, a request for corrections in the draft and for additional data was circulated early in 1963 to 123 Governments. To date, fifty replies have been

^{14/} Report of the African Seminar on Labour Statistics, Addis Ababa, 3-12 November 1964, Economic Commission for Africa (United Nations document E/CN.14/330-E/CN.14/CAS.4/LS/15).

^{15/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 115.

^{16/} Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 12, para. 138.

^{17/} Ibid., Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, para. 66.

received. However, since information on record linkage as a source of demographic information was also requested in connexion with the survey of current vital statistics methodology described in paragraphs 4-6, it was decided to defer the revision of "Continuous Population Registers" until advantage could be taken of information from other sources, including not only the vital statistics study, but also those connected with the 1960 population census methods. It is expected that the technical study, based on E/CN.3/293 and revised in accordance with the comments of the Commission and the additional information mentioned above, will be published during 1965.

II. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Seminars

17. The Commission has been informed at previous sessions of the seminars and training centres carried out under United Nations auspices, for the promotion of development of vital statistics through the civil registration method. During 1962-1964, two important regional seminars in this field were organized, one for Latin America and one for Africa, in accordance with resolutions 18 (IX)^{18/} and 8 (XII)^{19/} of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which recommended that developing countries be advised and assisted in improving their demographic statistics in every possible way, including, inter alia, regional seminars on registration practices for the direct exchange of national experience.

(1) Latin America

18. The Commission was informed at its twelfth session of the meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee for the Improvement of Civil Registration in the Americas convened by the Instituto Interamericano del Niño in 1961.^{20/} One of the projects proposed by that Committee was the organization of a second Inter-American Seminar

^{18/} Ibid., Twenty-Second Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 115.

^{19/} Ibid., Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 13, para. 80.

^{20/} Informe del Comité para el Mejoramiento del Registro Civil en las Américas, 12 al 16 de junio de 1961, Montevideo, Uruguay, Instituto Interamericano del Niño.

on Civil Registration.^{21/} Responsibility for the organization of such a Seminar was delegated to the Statistical Office of the United Nations in collaboration with the Inter American Statistical Institute and other interested regional bodies. An inter-agency preparatory committee was named to draw up detailed plans for the Seminar, and funds were found to provide for the participation of forty civil registration officials from the countries of the region. The Seminar took place from 30 November to 11 December 1964 in Lima, Peru, with sixty-five participants from twenty-five countries and territories in the region and representatives from the Latin American Demographic and Research and Training Centre (CEIADE), Instituto Interamericano del Niño (IIN), Inter American Statistical Institute (IASI), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA). A report has been issued in English and Spanish for the consideration of the Economic Commission for Latin America at its eleventh session.^{22/} It will be published by the United Nations Statistical Office in the Statistical Papers, M series, but for the convenience of the Commission, the "Conclusions" of the Seminar are reproduced in Annex I. 19. Perhaps the most important result of the Seminar was the development of a regional programme to improve civil registration services in Latin America, the first stage of which would take place between 1965 and 1969. Detailed guidelines were established but it was agreed that the initiative and main responsibility would rest with the Governments themselves. However, it was also emphasized that aid from international and regional agencies would be needed and to this end certain suggestions were made. The means of co-ordinating the work at the international and regional level is being investigated by the United Nations Statistical Office.

^{21/} The first seminar was held in 1954, see Final Report of the First Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration, Santiago, Chile, 1954 (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XVII.7).

^{22/} Report of the Second Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration (United Nations document E/CN.12/704), 15 January 1965.

(2) Africa

20. In accordance with a recommendation of the third Conference of African Statisticians, a second^{23/} African Seminar on Vital Statistics was organized in Addis Ababa from 14 to 18 December 1964, by the Economic Commission for Africa with the co-operation of the Statistical Office and the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations.

21. The aims of the Seminar were (a) to study the methods, techniques and problems of obtaining immediate measures of the principal vital rates in Africa, whether by retrospective inquiries or by other devices implemented as substitutes for a fully functioning system of civil registration and (b) to discuss methods, devices and procedures for establishing, extending and improving civil registration of vital events in the region. In the planning of the Seminar, particular emphasis was placed on certain experiments at present being conducted in African countries where the combination of a number of technical devices would, it was hoped, provide a basis of experience of great value in assessing possible future development in this field in the context of local conditions. A description of two of these experiments is given in paragraphs 32-34.

22. The meeting was attended by participants from twelve member or associate member countries and by a group of expert consultants, supplemented by representatives of outside organizations with particular interests in the development of African demographic statistics. A report^{24/} on the Seminar has been issued in English and French for consideration of the Economic Commission for Africa at its seventh session. For convenience, the "Conclusions" of the Seminar are reproduced in Annex II.

23. It should also be noted that the Seminar on Population Problems in Africa^{25/} discussed the need for extending, improving and assessing the quality of existing

^{23/} An African Seminar on Vital and Health Statistics was held in the Congo (Brazzaville) 19-24 November 1956, convened under the joint auspices of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (CCTA) and the Regional Office for Africa of the World Health Organization (document CCTA/WHO/Stats.SEM/35 (Rev.1)-WHO/HS/85).

^{24/} Report of the African Seminar on Vital Statistics, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, 14-18 December 1964 (United Nations document E/CN.14/333-E/CN.14/CAS.4/VS/14).

^{25/} Reported in Commission document E/CN.3/329, paragraph 25.

vital statistics from civil registers, from household surveys and from census-type data.^{26/}

(3) Europe

24. A European Conference on Vital and Health Statistics was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 4 to 9 June 1962 under the auspices of the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. It was attended by thirty-four representatives from sixteen countries in the region as well as a representative of the United Nations. One of the recommendations of the Conference was "to make vital and health statistics of greater practical use and appeal".^{27/}

(4) Asia

25. Another WHO Regional Seminar on Vital and Health Statistics was convened in Damascus, Syria 19-26 October 1963.^{28/} Twenty-five participants from twelve countries of the region attended. Emphasis in the agenda was on "Statistics for health programming", principal of which are vital statistics. The need for, and availability of, vital statistics was discussed, as well as present organization and plans for the future. The civil registration side of vital statistics was not explored.

III. TRAINING IN STATISTICAL CENTRES

A. Courses in statistical centres

26. As the Commission was informed at its previous session (E/CN.3/294), some instruction in demographic statistics continues to be given at the internationally sponsored statistical training centres in Achimota (Ghana), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Yaoundé (Cameroon). No new centres were established in 1963 or 1964, but a middle-level training centre is expected to be established in East Africa some time during 1965. The demographic research and training centres in Cairo, Chembur and

^{26/} Report of the Seminar on Population Problems in Africa, Economic Commission for Africa, Cairo, 29 October-10 November 1962 (United Nations document E/CN.14/186-E/CN.9/CONF.3/1), paras. 20-22.

^{27/} European Conference on Vital and Health Statistics (World Health Organization document EURO-217), p. 3.

^{28/} EMRO: Seminar on Vital and Health Statistics (World Health Organization document WHO/HS/Nat.Com./168/Add.1).

Santiago also include demographic statistics in their syllabus, as does the centre organized by the International Statistical Institute in Beirut. In addition, national centres such as those affiliated with universities in the Philippines, Morocco, and Ghana, give some instruction in this area.

27. It is not appropriate here to evaluate the adequacy of this instruction, but it has been suggested in connexion with the 1970 World Population Census Programme that training be intensified in the centres to meet national needs for census statisticians (see E/CN.3/337, paras. 21-24).

B. Fellowships

28. It is difficult to evaluate the United Nations fellowship programme as a tool for improving demographic statistics because most of the awards (sixty between 1962 and 1964) are for training in demographic research centres. However, it may be noted that three additional fellowships were awarded in 1962 and one in 1963 for study in vital statistics.

IV. EXPERT ADVICE

A. Advisers

29. As the Commission was informed at its previous session, a regional adviser in demographic statistics has been attached to the Economic Commission for Africa since April 1961 and to the Economic Commission for Latin America since August 1962. Arrangements are being made to assign a similar regional adviser to the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, beginning 1965.

30. Aside from the work of the regional advisers, four United Nations advisers in civil registration and vital statistics were assigned during 1962-1964, one each to Kenya, Peru, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago. Those in Kenya and Senegal were involved with the experimental work reported in paragraphs 32-34 below.

B. Assistance in experimentation in vital statistics methods

31. At its previous session, the Commission was informed of plans to initiate two experiments in the use of sampling techniques for obtaining statistics of births and deaths and for developing a civil registration system. The use of

sampling in the collection of vital statistics was first proposed in the United Nations Principles for a Vital Statistics System: Recommendations for the Improvement and Standardization of Vital Statistics,^{29/} and further spelled out in the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods^{30/} in terms of "area sampling" for the most efficient use of limited resources in developing a national civil registration system. Experiments with these techniques have been conducted primarily in India and in Africa, those in Kenya, Senegal and Turkey having been established with United Nations assistance while those in India, Pakistan and Thailand are sponsored by the United States Government, supplemented by non-governmental aid. A brief description of the experiments under United Nations auspices is given below.

(1) Kenya

32. In August 1962, an adviser in civil registration was assigned to Kenya under the auspices of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, and, working with officers of the Kenyan Government, the expert drew up a scheme for the development of demographic statistics in Kenya. The scheme had two main facets: (a) the obtaining of current registrations of African births and deaths as they occur in a sample of registration areas, and (b) sample household interview surveys for obtaining retrospective data which would provide a check on accuracy of registration and furnish independent estimates of birth and death rates in the areas under observation. Both parts were put into effect in 1963 with the objective of testing the methodology in pilot zones. Credible birth rates were obtained for areas under observation but the mortality data were obviously understated. Despite this, plans for the continuation and expansion of the project are going forward. A fuller description may be found in a paper prepared for the African Seminar on Vital Statistics.^{31/}

^{29/} Principles for a Vital Statistics System, op. cit. Principle 107.

^{30/} Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods, op. cit., p. 167.

^{31/} Experiments in Vital Registration and Sample Surveys of Births and Deaths in Kenya (United Nations document E/CN.14/CAS.4/VS/8).

(2) Senegal

33. As the Commission was informed at its previous session, a consultant in civil registration and vital statistics was assigned to assist Senegal beginning July 1962. United Nations assistance was replaced by that of the Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-mer (ORSTOM) in July 1964, but it is assumed that the project is continuing according to the plans laid down at its inception. In this experiment, as in Kenya, attempts are being made to enforce registration and also to obtain interim estimates of vital rates.

34. The Demographic Sample Survey of Senegal in 1960-61 had produced estimates of the birth and death rate of 43.3 and 16.7 respectively (see Table 2), based on retrospective inquiry. When data for Dakar obtained by the survey method were compared with those from the civil register in that city, it was obvious that the survey understated at least the deaths. Accordingly, when the new project was undertaken in 1962, emphasis was placed on improving the public administrative side of civil registration and steps were taken to strengthen and control the system of registering and reporting from the national to the local level. The performance of each Département is being studied month by month. To obtain estimates of birth and death rates for rural areas while civil registration is improving to a determined level of excellence, a continuous system of observation is in operation in purposively selected pilot zones covering about 40,000 persons. Details are set forth in a paper^{32/} prepared for the African Seminar on Vital Statistics (see paragraphs 20-22).

(3) Turkey

35. In 1963, the United Nations adviser on sampling assigned to the statistical service of Turkey, assisted in the drawing up of a proposal for the "Establishment of a Continuing Demographic Survey Project" to be conducted by the Ministry of Health to get estimates of the birth, death, infant mortality rates and migration on a continuing basis in each of the six Health Regions of Turkey. Since that time, the scheme has been substantially changed in sample design, and questionnaire

^{32/} Sources of Data on Birth and Death Rates in Senegal (United Nations document E/CN.14/CAS.4/VS/9).

format and it is to be limited initially to one of the six Health Regions. A pre-test was carried out on 15 October 1964 in a village near Ankara and in an urban area of the city. Additional testing is continuing and the first round is scheduled to begin March 1965. The plan is for an interviewer (school teacher) to visit the same sample areas for five years, interrogating the informant for the desired data at the first visit and up-dating this information in subsequent visits. Verification of a sample of villages will be done by inspectors. No effort will be made to improve civil registration.^{33/}

V. DISSEMINATION OF DATA

A. Publication

(1) Demographic Yearbook

36. The Demographic Yearbook continues to be the major vehicle for disseminating international demographic statistics. As indicated in the Report on the 1960 World Population and Housing Census Programmes (E/CN.3/329), population census results have been the feature subject of the 1962, 1963 and 1964 issues. Plans for the feature of each of the next ten issues of the Demographic Yearbook are as follows:

- 1965 Natality
- 1966 Population trends, including migration
- 1967 Mortality
- 1968 Marriage and divorce
- 1969 Natality
- 1970 Population trends
- 1971 Mortality
- 1972 Population census I
- 1973 Population census II
- 1974 Population census III

37. These plans are subject to change, but it will be noted that the objective of the series is to repeat featured subjects, where possible, in the same order within different decades. For example, "natality" was last featured in the 1959 issue;

^{33/} Unpublished report on "Programme for the Establishment of a Continuing Demographic Survey Project (Revised)", 11 pp. Mimeo.

emphasis will return to it in the 1965 and 1969 issues. Mortality was featured in 1957 and 1961; it will again be shown in the 1967 and 1971 issues. Marriage and divorce statistics were the feature in the 1958 issue; they will be featured for the second time in the 1968 Demographic Yearbook. Although it may not be possible to adhere strictly to such a schedule, every effort will be made to do so because of the advantage it provides in a rotation publication programme which, for extended time coverage, requires reference to a number of different volumes.

38. In addition to the pages devoted to the feature subject, issues of the Demographic Yearbook have continued to include annually a nucleus of demographic statistics of current utility, including (a) the table showing area, current population figures and rates of population growth for every country in the world; (b) the summary table showing the "best estimate"^{34/} of the birth, death, marriage and divorce rates, (c) the five trend tables showing ten-year series of birth, death, infant mortality, foetal mortality, marriage and divorce, and (d) tables showing the distributions (i) of births by age of mother, (ii) of marriages by age of participants, (iii) of deaths by age and sex, (iv) of deaths by cause, as well as (v) life expectancy by age and sex.

39. It will be noted that migration statistics are scheduled for publication in the 1966 Demographic Yearbook, as a component of population change. As has been noted in E/CN.3/336, international migration statistics were previously scheduled for publication biennially, but the inadequacy of the statistics being collected annually has led to their being published only sporadically and in limited detail. For example, during 1962-1964, only four of the seven available series of migration statistics were published in the 1962 Demographic Yearbook but even these are not included in the 1964 issue now in preparation, nor are they scheduled for inclusion in the 1965 issue. It is hoped that by 1966, they will merit inclusion, as a result of increased attention to this area, as suggested in paragraphs 52-53 below.

40. The text of the Demographic Yearbook continues to be presented in two chapters. Chapter I is devoted to a special topic of interest in connexion with the feature subject; Chapter II comprises "Technical Notes", that is, a detailed account,

^{34/} "Best estimates of rates" were shown for sixty-three countries in Table 3 of the 1963 Demographic Yearbook. Those known to be derived from the results of retrospective sample survey inquiries are set forth in Table 2 of this document.

table by table, of the definitions on which the data are presumed to be based and the limitations of the statistics. The subject of Chapter I in the various issues is given below.

- 1948 -
- 1949/50 World Population Trends, 1920-1949
- 1951 Development of Statistics of Cause of Death
Recent Mortality Trends
- 1952 Urban Trends and Characteristics
- 1953 -
- 1954 -
- 1955 Background to the 1950 Censuses of Population
- 1956 The World Demographic Situation
- 1957 Factors in Declining Mortality
- 1958 Uses of Marriage and Divorce Statistics
- 1959 Graphic Presentation of Trends in Fertility
- 1960 How Well Do We Know the Present Size and Trend of the World's
Population?
- 1961 Notes on Methods of Evaluating the Reliability of Conventional
Mortality Statistics
- 1962 Notes on Availability of National Population Census Data and Methods of
Estimating their Reliability
- 1963 Availability and Adequacy of Selected Data Obtained from Population
Censuses taken 1955-1963
- 1964 Availability and Adequacy of Selected Data obtained from Population
Censuses taken 1955-1964

41. Together, these combine to illuminate important facets of demographic statistics, especially the 1963 and 1964 issues which analyse the availability and adequacy of census results.

(2) Population and Vital Statistics Report

42. The quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report (Statistical Papers, Series A) continues to provide a medium for disseminating the results of population censuses for every country in the world with a maximum time lag of three months after their receipt in the Statistical Office. It also provides a

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means of publishing the most recent official estimates of population and vital statistics rates available for each country of the world as well as an official or United Nations estimate for the year previous to the current one. In this capacity, the Population and Vital Statistics Report serves as a quarterly up-dating of Table 1 of the Demographic Yearbook.

(3) Monthly Bulletin of Statistics

43. The Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, limited to a ten-year trend of population estimates, together with quarterly rates of birth, death and marriage, serves as a source of data, often provisional, required on a strictly current basis.

(4) Compendium of Social Statistics, 1963

44. The Commission was informed at its previous session that a Compendium of Social Statistics was in preparation and that it contained eleven tables of population and vital statistics. The Compendium 1963^{35/} was published as planned in April 1963; proposals for a second issue in 1967 are set before the Commission in document E/CN.3/335.

45. The objective of the second issue would be to have the Compendium published in time for the tabular data to be available for use in drafting the Report on the World Social Situation planned for late 1967.

B. Evaluation of accuracy

(1) Population estimates

46. The reliability of the total population figures is indicated by the code which accompanies the latest estimate of population in Table 1 of the Demographic Yearbook and is described in the "Technical Notes" of each issue. No change has been made in the structure of this code since 1958, but the method has been systematically applied to each official estimate of population for a current year, as these are obtained. It has also been extended to the evaluation of the time series of population totals, as described in the 1963 Demographic Yearbook.^{36/}

^{35/} Compendium of Social Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 63.XVII.3).

^{36/} Demographic Yearbook, 1963 (United Nations publication, Sales No : 64.XIII.1), pp. 20-23.

The reliability of age reporting at the population census has been evaluated since 1950. Most recently the index of reliability has been applied to the single-year-of-age results available as of 31 December 1963 from censuses held 1955-1962, and the results have been published for sixty-two distributions in the 1963 Demographic Yearbook.^{37/}

(2) Vital statistics

47. No new methods of evaluating the accuracy of tabulated vital statistics at the international level have been introduced, except for the publication of such estimates of birth and death rates as may be available from other than civil registration sources. Birth rates, obtained from sample surveys, from reverse-survival of population data or by other means and death rates from surveys or analysis of population census returns have been published in the Demographic Yearbook in juxtaposition to recorded rates to show the presumed inadequacy of the recorded rates. Rates estimated from sample surveys are available for twenty-five countries, twenty-one of which are in Africa. These are set forth in Table 2, together with such recorded rates as are available, so as to give some indication of possible levels of the birth and death rates.

VI. FUTURE PLANS

48. The Commission has before it E/CN.3/336, which includes a section on demographic statistics. The plans for stimulating countries to take a population census between 1965 and 1974, and the means proposed for assisting them in this undertaking to the end that the census results may be useful in planning economic and social development, have been set forth in E/CN.3/337. The following paragraphs are concerned with plans for non-censal work in demographic statistics, with special reference to vital statistics.

^{37/} Ibid., p. 20.

Table 2. Crude birth and death rates, estimated from results of retrospective sample household surveys and recorded in civil registers (Rates per 1,000 population)

	Date of survey	Birth rate		Death rate	
		From surveys	From registers	From surveys	From registers
AFRICA					
Basutoland	1955-56	40	...	23	...
Burundi	1957	47	...	17	...
Central African Republic	1959-60	48	9 <u>1/</u>	30	1 <u>1/</u>
Congo (Brazzaville)	1960	42	...	27	...
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	1955-57	43	38 <u>2/</u>	20	12 <u>2/</u>
Dahomey	1961	54	23 <u>3/</u>	26	9 <u>3/</u>
Gabon	1960-61	36	...	30	...
Guinea	1954	62	...	40	...
Ivory Coast	1957-58	55	18 <u>2/</u>	35	4 <u>4/</u>
Mali	1960	62	8 <u>3/</u>	29	4 <u>3/</u>
Morocco	1962	46	...	19	...
Niger	1959-60	52	5 <u>3/</u>	27	2 <u>3/</u>
Rwanda	1957	52	...	14	...
Senegal	1960-61	43	15 <u>3/</u>	17	3 <u>5/</u>
Southern Rhodesia	1953-55	45	...	14	19 <u>6/</u>
Sudan	1955	52	...	19	...
Tanganyika	1957	42	...	23	...
Togo	1961	55	35 <u>7/</u>	29	13 <u>7/</u>
Uganda	1959	42	...	20	12 <u>8/</u>
Upper Volta	1960-61	49	11 <u>3/</u>	31	6 <u>3/</u>
Zambia	1950	57	...	32	...
ASIA					
Cambodia	1958-59	41	...	20	...
India	1959-60	39	33 <u>9/</u>	15	14 <u>9/</u>
Iran	1963	45-48	44 <u>4/</u>	20	9 <u>4/</u>
Pakistan	1962	43-46	20 <u>8/</u>	16-17	12 <u>8/</u>

1/ For 1953.
2/ For 1958.
3/ For 1954.
4/ For 1959.
5/ For 1956.
6/ For 1948.
7/ For 1955.
8/ For 1950.
9/ For 1961.

A. Collection and publication of current data

49. Collection, annotation and publication of statistical series in natality, mortality, foetal mortality, nuptiality, divorce and migration (internal and external) will continue along the lines indicated in paragraphs 36-47, but studies will be initiated on the use of electronic computers for storage, retrieval, testing and dissemination of these statistics. The first phase of this will be in the area of developing a data bank of national census data from censuses taken during 1955-1964. The proposal on this is set forth in the "Review of International Statistics, 1962-1964" (E/CN.3/311). If this project proves feasible, the method could be applied to earlier census results and vital statistics, with the objective of storing all available data on tapes. A second phase would concern itself with the possibility of producing manuscript by automatic means for the Demographic Yearbook and the quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report, and the use of the computer to facilitate production of bibliographies.

B. Historical series

50. It is also planned to study the feasibility of compiling a volume of historical series of selected demographic statistics. This project was first brought to the attention of the Statistical Commission by the Population Commission at its ninth session in 1956. The Statistical Commission agreed with the special emphasis which the Secretary-General's Committee of Experts (appointed to identify the most important gaps in knowledge in the relationships between population trends and economic and social conditions) had placed on the need for preparing an international reference volume of basic population statistics covering as long an historical period as possible. However, nothing has been able to be done in this area aside from the continued efforts to extend the scope of the historical series shown in the Demographic Yearbook. With the completion of the 1960 cycle of censuses, and in view of the request of the Economic and Social Council^{38/} that developed countries develop or expand the "analysis of the historical records of population trends and social and economic change", it seems opportune to plan such a study.

^{38/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1, resolution 933 C (XXXV), operative para. 5(a).

C. Revision of standards

(1) Vital statistics

51. As noted in paragraph 4, there is under way in the field of vital statistics, an intensive study of all methods of producing the data required for the measurement of population growth rates, for demographic research and for the formulation of programmes in housing, health, education, etc. This will be completed and the Principles for a Vital Statistics System and the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods will be revised with additional emphasis on methods other than civil registration

(2) Migration statistics

52. In 1949, the United Nations published the results of a study of methods of collecting migration statistics in sixty-nine countries.^{39/} Recommendations for improving these statistics were approved by the Statistical Commission at its seventh session in 1953^{40/} and by the Economic and Social Council at its fifteenth session.^{41/} Since statistics in this area have not improved markedly, it appears that some resources should be devoted to revising the 1953 recommendations. Accordingly, it is suggested that a project be undertaken to collect information on the current contents and methods of national programmes of external migration statistics.

53. The objectives of the project would be to revise the 1953 recommendations with perhaps a simpler system of international migration statistics which would meet national needs and also provide the statistics required for international studies of population trends and structure. This project could be broadened to include consideration of internal migration statistics as well.

D. Bibliography of demographic sources

54. It will be recalled that, beginning with the first (1948) issue and continuing through that for 1955, the Demographic Yearbook included a "bibliography of primary sources of national official [demographic] statistics". This was in accord with

^{39/} Problems of Migration Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 50.XIII.1).

^{40/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifteenth session, Supplement No. 5, paras. 89-93 and Annex 4.

^{41/} Ibid., Supplement No. 1, Resolutions, resolution 469 E (XV), 27 April 1953.

the plan for the Demographic Yearbook set forth by the Population Commission at its second session (document E/571, chapter III and Annex A) and approved by the Statistical Commission at its second session (document E/577, para. 28).

55. Because of the pressure on available pages, which began with the 1956 Demographic Yearbook, the bibliography was omitted in that and succeeding issues. However, the need for it has grown more insistent since that time, culminating in a request by the Population Commission at its tenth session "that the practice of including a bibliography of demographic statistics be reinstated"^{42/} in the Yearbook.

56. In response to this request, negotiations were undertaken to secure funds for undertaking the compilation and publication of a new bibliography. The amount authorized proved completely inadequate, however, and since no other means could be found, the project languished. In 1964, it was decided to attempt again the re-introduction of the bibliography as an integral part of the Demographic Yearbook and to this end a request for appropriate references was transmitted to Governments with the annual Demographic Yearbook questionnaire in May 1964. As of 1 January 1965, seventy-eight countries had answered the request. It is hoped that some means of publishing these entries, together with others, can be found during the second half of the decade.

E. Promotion of civil registration of vital events

57. Promotion of civil registration of vital events as a source of vital statistics has been the concern of the Statistical Office since its inception.

58. The need for national registration of births and marriages has also received international recognition as a protective measure in connexion with "Right to a Nationality",^{43/} "Right to a Name"^{44/} and "Rights Relating to Marriage and the Family".^{45/}

59. During the past two years, recognition of the public administration aspects of civil registration, in such a way as to promote its improvement as part of a

^{42/} Ibid., Twenty-Seventh Session, Supplement No. 3, para. 48.

^{43/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Resolutions (A/810), Resolution 217A (III), Article 15.

^{44/} Ibid., Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/4354), resolution 1386 (XIV).

^{45/} Ibid., Third Session, Part I, Resolutions (A/810), resolution 217 A (III), Article 16.

larger common good, has also received belated attention. For example, participants in a Seminar on Central Services to Local Authorities, held 29 June-10 July 1964 in Zaria, Northern Nigeria concluded that although the registration of births, marriages and deaths could be discussed with reference to statistics, "it is, however, much more than a statistical problem because with increasing mobility it is vitally important for good administration that every person should be able to prove his or her civil status by an internationally accepted document".^{46/} The Seminar recommended that guides or comparative studies, followed by meetings of officers with responsibilities in the fields concerned, be prepared on a number of subjects of immediate interest to many African countries among which "Problems of registering births, marriages and deaths; especially the division of functions between central government and local authorities; action to fill gaps in the register and to replace missing registration certificates; international co-operation in this field."^{47/}

60. Another field in connexion with which civil registration of birth, marriage and divorce is being promoted internationally is that of social defence, especially as it pertains to juvenile delinquency. In line with this interest, an Expert Group Meeting on Social Defence, held in Monrovia, Liberia, 18-31 August 1964, recommended "that machinery for the proper registration of births and the issue of birth certificates should be set up where adequate provision for such purpose has not already been made".^{48/} The group went on to note that high priority should be given to maintaining and strengthening the cohesiveness of the family as a unit and the measure mentioned as being conducive to this end was "compulsory registration of all forms of marriage (including marriage by native law and custom), and the enactment of more rigid rules for separation and divorce".^{49/}

61. This newly recognized interest, on the part of widely separated units of the United Nations Secretariat, in civil registration as a function of responsible

^{46/} Seminar on Central Services to Local Authorities, Economic Commission for Africa, Zaria, Northern Nigeria, 29 June-10 July 1964 (United Nations document E/CN.14/UAP/37), 23 September 1964, para. 17.

^{47/} Ibid., para. 126 (a) (viii).

^{48/} Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Social Defence, (Development of National Programmes for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Treatment of Young Offenders), Economic Commission for Africa, Monrovia, 18-31 August 1964, (United Nations document E/CN.14/328-E/CN.14/SODE/30/Rev.1), para. 22.

^{49/} Ibid., para. 24.

government and of citizenship, is encouraging. Attempts will be made to foster this interest in addition to the statistical side in order that more forces may be brought to bear to improve the completeness of registration of births, deaths, marriages and divorces where a system exists, and to promote establishment of official registers where the system is lacking.

F. Technical assistance

62. As noted in paragraph 30, four advisers in civil registration and vital statistics were assigned to four countries in 1962-64, in addition to the regular regional advisers in Africa and Latin America. As of 1 January 1965, nine additional requests for assistance in this area were at hand. Candidates have already been put forward for several of the posts and it is anticipated that all will be filled in the first half of 1965.

63. A new area of technical assistance which it is hoped to explore in co-operation with the regional commissions is that of "case studies" to evaluate the accuracy of vital statistics in selected countries. This project has not progressed past the planning stage, but it is anticipated that, with the completion of the population census work in a number of countries, time would be ripe to apply the principles of indirect evaluation to the vital statistics available from registers and surveys.

Annex I. Conclusions of the Second Inter-American Seminar
on Civil Registration 1/

"The discussions at the Second Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration lead to the following conclusions:

"(a) The juridical function of civil registration is as important as ever. At the same time, the statistical function is also of great importance because of the data furnished for development planning and the study of social change. To facilitate the full performance of both these functions, civil registration should represent a felt need for the whole community, and should be an institution that forms part of the national process of development planning.

"(b) The resolutions of the First Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration are still fully applicable. Consequently it is desirable that countries should do all they can to carry them out.

"(c) The international agencies that have an interest in the efficient functioning of civil registration, including the United Nations Statistical Office, the Latin American Demographic Centre, the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter American Statistical Institute and the Inter American Children Institute, could co-ordinate their activities in order to make the best use of any resources that may be made available for this purpose. To this end it is suggested that a committee should be set up consisting of representatives of the agencies concerned, which will undertake to promote an integrated programme for improving the civil registration services in the Americas.

"(d) Countries that are without modern legislation on civil registration should review and amend their laws in the light of the indication and recommendations of the present Seminar.

"(e) Similarly, the civil registration services must revise and redefine their aims in accordance with the functions they should perform as part of the modern organization of government, and with the activities they carry out in co-operation with other institutions.

"(f) It is an urgent task to evaluate the degree of omission from the registers and carry out studies to determine the cause. Such studies should be made regularly and should take the form of a co-operative undertaking by the institutions that participate in the production of vital statistics.

1/ Report of the Second Inter-American Seminar on Civil Registration (United Nations document E/CN.12/704), para. 60.

"(g) It is advisable that countries should try out methods of organization and operation that could be used by the national committees on vital and health statistics that, it is suggested, might more appropriately be called national committees on civil registration and vital and health statistics, because of the part that they can play in promoting an improvement in civil registration.

"(h) A competent organization should prepare and publish a statistical manual for registrars, describing in simple terms the elementary technical principles involved.

"(i) Countries should work out a five-year programme to cover the period 1965-1969, for improving their civil registration services, in line with the suggestions and the outline put forward at the present Seminar. This programme should form part of the country's development plans. Although the chief responsibility for the formulation and development of such programmes falls to the Governments, their success cannot be assured without co-ordinated, full-scale and prompt assistance from international organizations."

Annex II. Recommendations of the African Seminar on Vital Statistics
for Future Action 1/

"The Seminar recommended that:

"i. Recognition be given by governments to the fundamental importance of establishing a comprehensive civil registration system in each country of the region at the earliest possible opportunity. In the light of limitations of resources in ~~ce~~ certain countries, suitable priorities should be adopted for phasing the implementation of registration schemes.

"ii. Recognition be given to the equally fundamental need for sustained efforts both by governments and international agencies in all projects aimed at obtaining reliable vital statistics on a continuing basis.

"iii. The United Nations should give the fullest possible support to the promotion of civil registration in Africa including material contribution and technical assistance in personnel.

"iv. Pending the achievement of complete coverage of vital events through registration, the United Nations should assist to the fullest possible extent in schemes, such as those discussed at the Seminar, for obtaining temporary substitutes for the vital rates.

"v. Experimentation and analytical studies should be continued (a) to improve the efficiency of sample design through suitable variability studies and (b) to improve the quality of data by adopting methods for detecting and adjusting for non-sampling errors and biases, including use of demographic models.

"vi. The Economic Commission for Africa through working groups or other means, should take up studies aimed at standardizing the classification and definition of substitute measures for civil registration, taking account of the provisional list supplied at the Seminar by one of the consultants."

1/ Report of the African Seminar on Vital Statistics, Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, 14-18 December 1964, (United Nations document E/CN.14/333-E/CN.14/CAS.4/VS/14), para. 69.