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TO: UNFPA Representatives  
UNFPA Country Directors  
UNFPA Country Support Team Directors  
All UNFPA Headquarters Staff

FROM: Hirofumi Ando *H. Ando*  
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SUBJECT: Guidelines for UNFPA Support for Gender, Population and Development Activities

.... Please find attached the new Guidelines for UNFPA Support for Gender, Population and Development Activities. This document replaces the 1988 Updated Guidelines for UNFPA Policies and Support to Special Programmes in the Field of Women, Population and Development (circular UNFPA/CM/80/51 Rev.1, dated 17 May 1988).

The present Guidelines are part of the efforts of UNFPA to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). In line with the principles and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, the Guidelines reflect the broadening of UNFPA policy from a focus on women-specific activities towards increased emphasis on gender issues and concerns. Thus, areas of support are grouped under empowerment and status of women; equality for the girl child; and male responsibilities and participation.

We hope you will find these Guidelines useful and will ensure their proper application in UNFPA-funded programme activities.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

In other cases, assistance may be limited to advocacy efforts, such as support to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

9. The present Guidelines provide flexibility in developing local initiatives based on the conditions in each country. However, this should be done in consultation with the relevant Geographical Division and the Gender, Population and Development Branch.

#### A. Empowerment and status of women

10. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is an important end in itself. In addition, it is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. The full participation and partnership of both women and men are required in both their productive and reproductive lives. Yet, in most parts of the world, women still face threats to their health and well-being because of their lack of power, influence and education. Adolescent girls are a particularly high risk group who easily fall prey to sexual abuse, early and unplanned pregnancy and unsafe abortion. They therefore constitute a priority group for special attention. Achieving change in women's and adolescent girls status and empowerment requires policy and programme actions that will improve their access to education, remove legal impediments to their participation in all aspects of public life and enhance their decision-making capacity, especially in the area of sexuality and reproduction. Therefore, to achieve equality and equity based on a harmonious partnership between men and women and enable women and adolescent girls to realize their full potential, UNFPA may fund activities in the following areas:

#### Reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health

##### 11. Advocacy activities:

- advocacy for a holistic approach to women's health over their life span, including selected interventions (e.g., nutrition information and a range of quality reproductive health and family planning services, as indicated in the relevant guidelines);
- IEC efforts to eradicate practices that are harmful to the health of women and girls, such as female genital mutilation, discriminatory nutrition practices based on sex, pre-natal sex selection and child marriage;
- advocacy for the enforcement of existing laws, such as those relating to the minimum age at marriage for girls, pre-natal sex selection, the sexual exploitation of girls and women and female genital mutilation;
- promotion of women's legal literacy, i.e., promotion of knowledge about local laws, policies and regulations that deal with their rights and responsibilities in family life and reproductive health;
- IEC activities to create awareness about the extent of, and legal remedies for, violence against women.
- advocacy for the provision of reproductive health information and services for both girls and boys

##### 12. Action programmes:

- provision of quality reproductive health programmes that are sensitive to the socio-

managerial, supervisory and high-level positions and income-generating activities<sup>2</sup>;  
- the introduction of reproductive health, including IEC, and other population components into existing income-generating activities;  
- support for NGOs dealing with women and development issues, such as funding management and leadership training for members, recognizing that NGO participation is often the first step in bringing women into the political process.

15. Data collection:

- support at all levels for building and updating databases on women, in cooperation with other donors as necessary;
- working with national statistical offices and other appropriate entities to ensure that all data are collected and analysed on a gender-specific basis; to ensure that censuses and surveys are designed to elicit correct responses regarding female heads of household and female participation in the labour force; and to ascertain that national accounts are designed to permit the identification of the contribution of women to the gross domestic product;
- to collect and analyse data in order to ascertain the impact of domestic and occupational roles on maternity, including role conflicts and stress involved and their implications for economic and demographic outcomes;
- support to activities aimed at collecting baseline information prior to launching gender, population and development activities in order to facilitate subsequent measurement of progress.

16. Research:

- socio-cultural research on how to deal with customs and traditions that perpetuate gender inequality and inequity, and impede the empowerment of women especially in relation to their reproductive and sexual health and rights;
- operational research as part of larger action programmes being implemented to empower women;
- research on the specific linkages between fertility, mortality, effects of migratory trends and socio-economic development policies (e.g., the effects of structural adjustment programmes);
- research to improve guidelines for carrying out multisectoral macro and micro gender analyses that integrate economic, social and demographic issues;
- research on women, population and the environment;
- research on male involvement in reproductive and sexual health and family and household responsibilities.

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<sup>2</sup> On 28 June 1995, the UNFPA Programme Committee discussed the evaluation of UNFPA-supported income-generating activities for women. The Committee noted the evaluation conclusion that while data from UNFPA-supported integrated income-generating and micro-enterprise projects was not available to affirm a direct link between increases in income and increased control of women over their own fertility, experience suggests that projects which integrate income generation and family planning components can contribute to changes in reproductive behaviour and promote greater use of family planning services, if such projects are well designed, effectively implemented by agencies with a proven track record, and targeted to the appropriate groups.

- le renforcement des capacités dans les domaines de la formation, de la recherche et des échanges d'expériences en direction des adolescents/jeunes.

## 6.2 Sources de financement

Le sous-programme SR du FNUAP (1997-2001), en plus des centres conseils pour adolescents/jeunes de Dakar, Ziguinchor, Kaolack, et Mbour touche les neuf districts suivants:

- Diourbel et Touba (région de Diourbel)
- Louga et Kébémér (région de Louga)
- Guédiawaye et Mbao (région de Louga)
- Vélingara (région de Kolda)
- Tambacounda et Kédougou (région de Tambacounda).

En complément de l'intervention du FNUAP, d'autres partenaires appuient le gouvernement dans la mise en oeuvre de sa politique de santé.

Il s'agit au niveau des 5 régions citées :

- de l'Union Européenne qui, pour la période 1997-2001, appuie les programmes de soins de santé primaires et de lutte contre les MST/SIDA ;
- de l'UNICEF qui, pour la période 1997-2001, appuie les domaines suivants: le volet santé/sida/jeunes en milieu scolaire et associatif et l'enfance en situation difficile ;
- des Pays Bas qui interviennent dans les domaines de l'IEC en milieu rural, de la lutte contre le Sida et des mutilations génitales féminines ;
- du PNUD qui intervient dans les régions de Tambacounda, Diourbel et Dakar en appuyant le programme de lutte contre la pauvreté et le Sida ;
- de l'UNIFEM qui contribue au développement d'un programme pilote de plaidoyer contre les mutilations génitales féminines ;
- de la Coopération Française qui intervient dans la lutte contre les MST/Sida et la mortalité maternelle ;
- de l'Allemagne, à travers la KFW, qui pour la période 1996-1999, soutient les efforts du Gouvernement dans les domaines de la PF et des MST/Sida ;
- du FAC qui intervient dans la lutte contre les MST/Sida et la prise en charge des personnes vivant avec le VIH/Sida ;
- de la BAD qui intervient dans le domaine de la SR ;
- du Canada qui intervient dans la région de Diourbel dans le domaine des MST/Sida ;
- de l'OMS qui intervient en matière d'IEC en SR ;

- du PLAN INTERNATIONAL qui intervient dans le domaine de la SR, des MST/Sida, de la Survie de l'Enfant et des Enfants à besoins spéciaux ;
- des collectivités locales.

## VII. APPUI TECHNIQUE-SUIVI ET EVALUATION

### 7.1 Besoins en appui technique

Dans le cadre de la composante, il est nécessaire d'appuyer le Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports dans sa mission de coordination de la composante et les différents acteurs en vue du renforcement de leurs capacités et ressources humaines.

L'appui est attendu à quatre niveaux :

- appui stratégique par les experts du FNUAP au sein du groupe consultatif du comité de pilotage ;
- la formation aux procédures au FNUAP, à l'approche programme et à l'approche genre ;
- le recrutement d'un personnel technique et d'appui administratif pour la gestion de la composante (gestionnaire, secrétaires, etc.) ;
- l'appui à l'élaboration du plan d'action de la jeunesse, en accompagnant le MJS dans le processus d'élaboration du document.

### 7.2 Suivi-Evaluation des activités

Les activités de la composante vont faire l'objet d'un suivi permanent. Ce suivi est assuré par le groupe consultatif et la coordination de la composante.

Le comité consultatif effectue des missions de suivi et de supervision sur le terrain. Au moins une fois par semestre et chaque fois que le besoin est signalé par le coordonnateur.

Le coordonnateur présente un rapport/bilan annuel à l'occasion des revues techniques annuelles tenant compte, entre autres, des résultats des activités réalisées sur le terrain.

L'évaluation à mi-parcours de la composante est prévue en 1999 et l'évaluation finale en 2001. Elles sont organisées par le comité de pilotage à travers son groupe consultatif d'experts qui, au besoin, peut solliciter l'assistance des spécialistes externes. Ces évaluations sont faites sur la base des indicateurs objectivement vérifiables de la composante.