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Filling buckets with well water in Gambia
UN PHOTO/A. Holbrooke

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Editorial

Water Supply and Sanitation: THE VITAL ROLE OF WOMEN

Two billion people in remote rural areas and urban slums of the developing world—half of whom are women—lack safe drinking water and even rudimentary sanitation facilities. These inadequacies affect women severely. As the primary water carriers and end-users in many developing countries, they may spend up to six hours a day hauling water as far as nine miles. The opportunity costs in terms of time wasted and energy expended in this drudgery are tremendous. Then, too, because of the intimate relationship between water and health—water-related diseases represent four-fifths of all illnesses in the developing world—women are particularly vulnerable: they are regularly in touch with water that is often polluted. And what affects women's health and economic wellbeing will likely affect that of their families and communities as well.

To make matters worse, development assistance is stagnant in most countries, and the economic crisis is taking its toll. As one of the UN's leading water experts points out in this issue of *INSTRAW News* (page 13), economic development experts have paid little attention to the impact of water scarcity on development activities, concentrating instead on experiences in the northern temperate zones, where water is generally taken for granted. However, the most poverty-stricken countries in the world are those in the drought-prone, semi-arid tropics. By the year 2025, 1.1 billion people in Africa—two-thirds of that continent's population—will face severe water scarcity.

INSTRAW News 13 focuses on women's present and potential roles in water and sanitation management and on efforts both within and outside the UN system to integrate women into development projects in the water sector. Foremost among these endeavours have been the activities fostered by the United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), including a Task Force on Women and the IDWSSD (page 6). Water resource projects during the early years of the Decade had a high failure rate, due in part to inappropriate and expensive technology and to inadequate international arrangements for management and follow-up. Development planners learned the hard way that to limit failures in the future, women would have to be more involved as the main managers and users of water and sanitation facilities (page 10). Suggestions for enhancing women's roles in water-related projects are discussed in detail on page 2.

The Water Decade has spawned a plethora of research, training and field projects aimed at cost recovery, self-sufficiency and sustainable development in the water sector. *INSTRAW's* contributions to this work include organizing workshops and producing training packages and publications. The UN regional commissions and a variety of non-governmental organizations have been involved, too: in collaboration with the Government of Mali, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in 1988 held the first-ever international seminar on women and water for French-speaking developing countries (page 15). And the interregional project for the Promotion of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services (PROWESS) of the UN Development Programme has been encouraging participation by women and communities in water and sanitation projects for more than six years, as described in the supplement to this issue. PROWESS's experience shows that strengthening the links between women and water projects will not only get the pumps built and used—it will help make development a reality in the fullest sense of the word. □

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Women, Water and Sanitation



Using community water faucet for daily chores in Zimbabwe

UN PHOTO/A. Rozberg

Inadequate water and sanitation facilities are one of the most critical problems faced by the developing world today. Statistics illustrate better than anything else just how devastating these problems are. In this decade, approximately 80 per cent of all sickness and diseases can be attributed to inadequate water supply and sanitation (WSS) facilities. Diarrhoeal diseases alone kill between 5 and 6 million children in developing countries every year and up to 18 million people in general. More than 400 million people have gastroenteritis, while dysenteries and parasitic worms infect nearly one-half of the entire population of developing countries. People suffering from water-borne diseases alone occupy half of all the hospital beds world-wide, and 25,000 of them die every day —representing some 15 per cent of all hospital deaths.

In 1980, three out of five persons in developing countries, excluding China, had no access to safe drinking water, and only one out of four had some sort of sanitation facility. In rural areas, which are significantly worse off than cities, some 30 per cent of the population had access to safe water but only 13 per cent had suitable sanitation facilities.

Women, as the primary water carriers, managers, end-users and family health educators, play a paramount role in WSS management. By virtue of their domestic functions, they are in constant contact with polluted water and are therefore the group most vulnerable to water-related diseases.

In developing countries, women and children often spend eight or more hours a day fetching polluted water from water supplies which, because of drought, become increasingly distant. Women and girls are also responsible for preparing and cooking food, clean-

ing utensils, washing children, disposing of babies' faeces and scrubbing latrines.

Involving women in the planning, operation, and maintenance of WSS facilities is therefore crucial. With a safe, reliable and convenient water supply, they will be able to rechannel vast amounts of time, energy and labour into more productive pursuits. With education and the provision of a clean water supply, women will learn that the suffering, disease and death caused by dirty water can be avoided and family health and hygiene improved by using pure water.

The onerous tasks of women in subsistence farming can also be alleviated with the provision of water supply and irrigation. They will be able to grow more diverse crops that offer better nutrition and supplemental income from the sale of excess food. Similarly, a reliable water supply will enable reforestation programmes to be implemented, which will eventually allow women to use the time and energy previously invested in gathering firewood to replant trees. And if water can be used by men to increase their traditional cash crop farming, there may be less need for them to migrate to urban areas in search of employment. Fewer women would have to struggle as the sole supports of their households, nor would they have to accept low-paid work on neighbouring commercial farms.

With the availability of water, too, livestock raising and dairy production are possible. Animals can then be used in the fields to reduce women's labour and improve family nutrition.

WSS development, in other words, is multidimensional. Its ramifications extend beyond matters of health and environment into the socio-economic, technical and scientific spheres. All these areas are interconnected: a problem that exists in one will often influence circumstances in the others.

The continued success of any water supply project involves community participation. Since women are the primary movers of water, they need to be trained in the basic maintenance of facilities and their surroundings. The main issue is not incorporating women into these activities: they are already

active participants. Rather, women's participation must be made more effective, easier and more productive.

These are the basic premises underlying INSTRAW's work in WSS projects and programmes, and also come into play in the activities of the UN Water Decade, discussed elsewhere in this issue.

Present Problems

Despite their important and multiple roles, women are currently not adequately involved in Decade activities. Present problems that must be dealt with include the following:

Not enough attention has been given to women as the primary human resource and the ultimate users of water. Their water-related work is taken for granted and denied an economic and social value. Most women do not have enough water for daily needs; even where it is in short supply, it might be polluted and cause ill health—both for women and for their entire families and communities.

Women are often excluded from the planning and implementation of WSS projects; such projects may lack elements of communication and information on women and the relation between water, sanitation and health, and on the complementary health practices needed if WSS facilities are to improve general health.

WSS technologies often do not consider the cultural context and level of know-how of the communities, nor are they cognizant of women's needs, interests and skills. Lack of consultation with women regarding technical aspects results in impractical solutions and the overall failure of expensive WSS facilities: pump handles, for instance, may be too heavy or placed too high for women and children to reach them.

Local women's customs, preferences and traditions are not considered in choosing the technical design and location of projects. For example, in some cultures women would not wish to wash themselves in full view of other villagers, and yet male engineers often place the pumps in the village square, thinking that was the most convenient location.

Women's Roles in WSS Projects

What are the traditional roles women play in community water projects, and how can they be enhanced, to benefit themselves and their communities?

○ **Assessing needs.** Although it might seem like common sense to assess the local people's needs before planning and implementing a project, this is not always done. In one project in Guinea-Bissau, planners took the trouble to do this, with great success. Villagers were trained as promoters to encourage others to use the safer water supply. Because the planners knew that promoters had to be respected in their communities, they chose women with children, or older women, instead of young women. In villages where promoters contacted women individually, more people used the new wells. The wells were also conveniently located, since the people had influenced their location. And the fact that some villages were more concerned with irrigation for their rice fields or vegetable gardens than with drinking water was taken into account. As a result, vegetable gardening has flourished to the extent that seeds are sold in the village, improving women's income.

○ **Identification of water sources.** Women should be consulted when investigations for development of water resources are undertaken in a community. Their knowledge of water sources and water quantity during dry and wet seasons, and their assessment of smell, taste, colour and convenience, can assist in the final choice of sites. They may be aware of alternative sources; in Panama, for example, village women led engineers to a fresh water source on the shore of an island which had not been identified in the initial survey.

○ **Choice of technology.** For projects to be successfully implemented, women must be consulted regarding their preferred choice of facilities for latrines, washing, watering animals, growing vegetables, etc. In rural Iran, communal laundry facilities built were large rectangular sinks, at adult waist height. However, Iranian women traditionally wash clothes and dishes in a squatting

position. As a result, the laundry basins were not used. In Yucatan, Mexico, engineers recommended a squat-plate latrine instead of a pour-flush latrine because they thought women would refuse to carry water from the standpipe to the latrine. However, the women in fact rejected the squat plate and preferred the pour-flush. Similarly, in Nicaragua, a latrine was not used by women because their feet could be seen from the outside. This could have been avoided if they had been consulted beforehand on the design of latrines.

◦ **Operation and maintenance.** Maintenance is an inevitable requirement of any water supply project which depends on mechanical equipment, and failure of water supply systems can frequently be attributed to constant breakdowns due to lack of proper operation and maintenance. These breakdowns have resulted in frustrations for women who are forced to walk even longer distances to another source or to revert to the traditional, often polluted sources. In addition, because many women are at home during the day, they are often the best suited to supervise the quality of maintenance work and to protect facilities against vandalism and unintended or mischievous damage by children.

In Angola, for example, where women have been recruited as water source monitors, the breakdown rate has declined significantly. And in India, a village handpump maintenance project for deep wells was developed. However, the young men trained as caretakers were not the ones to collect water, nor did the women know who the pump caretaker was. The most effective group of caretakers turned out to be a voluntary women's group.

Women have been successful managers of water systems, as the following example from Honduras

shows. *Barrio* women headed up a community action committee which got the city authorities to install four standpipes in their hillside slum. They put two standpipes near the top of the hill and two near the bottom, protected by little wooden shacks. One of each pair is open five hours each morning, and the other five hours in the afternoon. Community women, usually from a female-headed household, are hired by the committee on a rotating basis to be in charge of the standpipes, collect set fees for water and keep the water sites clean.

Government policy should, therefore, recognize the important role women can play in operation and maintenance and train them in those areas from the earliest stages of a project on, as they are the first to know when a system is malfunctioning and the most affected by breakdowns. Again, because of their traditional role as providers of water for the family, women caretakers have demonstrated interest, enthusiasm and ability to keep the water system working.

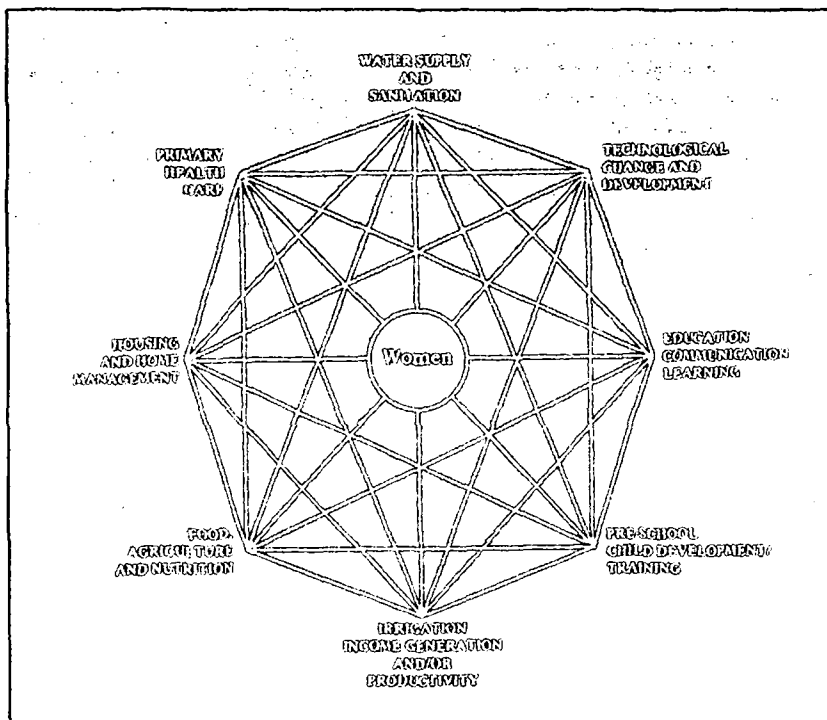
◦ **Back-up support.** In nearly all cultures, women provide back-up support to construction workers in the form of food, water and lodging. They motivate and support men to do un-

skilled voluntary construction work. In Latin America, Africa and parts of Asia, women have willingly volunteered labour in the construction of facilities, especially piped water supplies. In Malawi, women provide up to 70 per cent of the labour in most piped water schemes. In Panama, where a project trained and educated women to participate in the piped water system, the women contributed during construction by carrying heavy loads of sand and preparing food for labourers. They were also involved in maintaining the system and in several communities they collected water fees, and in the process emerged as local leaders.

◦ **Water conservation.** Water conservation techniques are crucial where water sources are scarce, which applies to much of the developing world, located in arid and subtropical regions. Because women have high stakes in seeing that there is sufficient water, they can be motivated to support water conservation techniques that will improve the supply. In Burkina Faso, for example, they helped build earthen dams by collecting the rocks and preparing the gravel and stones needed for construction.

◦ **Employment of women.** Women can benefit directly from employment possibilities created by a water supply project. In India, for example, some 200,000 women were registered as labourers in the construction industry, which provides much of the workforce involved in digging wells, installing pumps, etc.

◦ **Sanitation promotion and education.** The health benefits arising from improved water supplies may not be fully realized unless there are complementary inputs in the field of sanitation, since inadequate sanitation or sewage treatment plays a part in the transmission of many



WOMEN:
THE FOCAL POINT FOR DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES.

water-related infections. In Pakistan, integrated water and sanitation programmes have been successful, partly because women have been trained as sanitation promoters. Their duty is to motivate and help promote latrine building in the villages, and while male strangers are not allowed to enter houses and talk to village women, the women promoters are able to enter the houses with ease.

Not surprisingly, women are the most effective promoters and educators in programmes where they are the primary focus, as they generally understand more intuitively the problems and issues faced by other women and can communicate with them more openly. They are also more sensitive to social pressure from other women to do a good job. In one successful village water supply programme in Mexico, for example, the continued operation and improvement over two decades is due in great part to young women who assisted in the early planning stage and to local women whom they trained to become active members of the water committee.

Programmes which integrate water supply, sanitation and public health education have multiple benefits. A Bolivian project trained indigenous women to administer immunizations, provide information on child nutrition and lecture on the proper maintenance of WSS facilities. One result of this was that a number of these young women were reportedly in complete charge of repair and maintenance of the facilities.

○ **Sanitation acceptance and use.** In sanitation, demand for privacy is a determining factor in latrine acceptance by men and women alike, especially in densely settled communities. Women also maintain latrines or supervise maintenance by children, provide hand-washing facilities, take care of excreta disposal and hygiene of young children and assist and educate them in correct latrine use. Factors influencing latrine acceptance and use include the desire to avoid visibility, cost, acceptable arrangements for sharing, status location, appropriateness for children and ease of operation and maintenance.

○ **Funding sources.** While financing for WSS projects traditionally comes from governments, UN agencies, international development banks and national lending institutions, women's

organizations have begun to take an initiative in providing innovative approaches to funding. In many cases, voluntary groups take on tasks that are officially the Government's responsibility. In a Tamil community in India, for example, a nursery school teacher has been made the pump caretaker, and a women's group pays for the repairs. The voluntary agency that implemented the project has a cadre of women workers trained as pump caretakers based in about 40 villages. The agency also employs a mechanic to whom the women report more serious problems.

Where traditional funding is lacking, the women themselves make in-kind contributions of labour and possibly materials, particularly in small, rural areas. Women contribute to savings in construction costs both directly and indirectly. In Kenya, where women do much of the agricultural work of 311 "self-help" projects, 41 per cent of the contributors were women, and they contributed most of the labour – 5,000 hours in two water projects alone.

○ **Women's organizations.** National women's organizations can fulfill several functions on a large scale that would not be possible at the community level. They can monitor and campaign for increased Government commitment to WSS programmes, advertise programme goals and activities in the media, provide assistance in recruiting women managers, engineers and teachers, hold training workshops, raise funds and support local women's groups with funds, equipment, technical back-up and information materials.

Suggestions for Development Planners

Women can participate in the local management and maintenance of WSS projects in four major areas: 1) **Site management:** as individual users and as members of user organizations. 2) **Caretaking:** as members of male-female teams with culturally appropriate divisions of tasks. 3) **Local administrations:** as members of local management committees and in parallel management committees for men and women. 4) **Self-sufficient systems:** operating, managing and maintaining services.

In evaluating the impact of water projects on women, a number of basic

questions must be asked. Do women derive economic benefits from the time saved by the projects; how do they use the time for income-generating activities? Do women achieve health improvements, such as more time to care for children; more water for washing and bathing; more knowledge of, and changed behaviour in water usage, personal hygiene, food preparation, environmental cleanliness and waste disposal? Do they receive any income during the construction of the project, and do they learn new skills?

The involvement of women in WSS training programmes must include the following aspects:

1) Special provisions must be made for recruiting a certain percentage of women as trainees. 2) Special measures are needed to facilitate women's participation in training, such as locating training sites in their villages and providing simple child care facilities. 3) Women must be trained as trainers at the village level in order to reach other women. 4) Since more women than men work as community volunteers, the community should be mobilized to support them either in cash or in kind or exemption from obligatory labour. If this is not possible, they should be given recognition or appreciation. 5) In training community-level health workers, every effort should be made to promote collaborative activities integrating water and sanitation components in the primary health care and health and hygiene education programmes. Accordingly, institutional responsibility for training must be shared. And in this regard, women must be educated not only as users but also as promoters and educators; existing social structures must also be taken into account.

There are many examples of successful solutions to regional water supply problems that have also had a positive impact on the environment and the socioeconomic well-being of women and their communities. In virtually all of these projects women's participation has been given high priority. When properly trained, women have proven to be successful pump caretakers, latrine builders, pipe layers, fund raisers, educators, and so forth – all occupations that extend far beyond their traditional roles. Clearly, success depends largely on them. □

UN WATER DECADE: THE TASK FORCE ON WOMEN



The United Nations General Assembly at its 1980 session proclaimed the period 1981-1990 as the *International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD)*, during which Member States were to assume a commitment to improve substantially the standards and levels of services of water supply and sanitation by the year 1990.

The basic principle underlying the IDWSSD is that people cannot achieve a quality of life consistent with human dignity unless they have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and that such access is a basic human right. The Decade was to give priority to (i) rural and urban populations that are inadequately served, (ii) the formulation and implementation of self-sustaining programmes that emphasize

self-reliance, (iii) the use of socially relevant systems, (iv) the involvement of the community in all stages of programme development and (v) the complementarity of water supply and sanitation programmes with health and other programmes.

Aware of the significant impact that the success of the Decade could have on the roles of women, the 1980 World Conference of the UN Decade for Women adopted a resolution that mandated Member States and UN agencies "to promote full participation of women in planning, implementation, and application of technology for water supply projects".

In response to these mandates, the United Nations system established the *Steering Committee for Co-operative Action on the IDWSSD*. That Com-

mittee developed a strategy for promoting women's participation in water supply and sanitation (WSS) activities that envisages involving women at the policy-making, management and technical levels for programming, monitoring and evaluation of existing or future Decade activities. In 1982, it set up a *Task Force on Women and the IDWSSD* in recognition of the important role that women play in WSS activities.

Initially, UNICEF and INSTRAW had joint responsibility for the Task Force's secretariat. This role has now been transferred to the UNDP/PROWESS project *Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services*, working in close collaboration with INSTRAW. Represented on the Task Force are the UN organizations most directly concerned with the advancement of women: UN Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (UNDIESA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank. Ms. Siri Melchior (UNDP/PROWESS) has been chairperson since 1987.¹

The mandate of the Task Force is as follows: (i) to develop a strategy for enhancing the role of women within the Decade; (ii) to support Decade programmes and activities concerning the role of women; (iii) to collaborate on the development and implementation of activities at international and national levels; and (iv) to monitor, evaluate and report on implementation of Decade policies and programmes related to women, to ensure that they adequately reflect the concerns, needs and contributions of women and to recommend further action.

Between 1984 and 1986, Task Force member agencies carried out or proposed a number of specific activities to

UNDP Assesses Accomplishments

Since 1980, the Water and Sanitation Decade has seen striking developments in the area of women, water and sanitation, particularly at the community level. The advancement of women in many situations is facilitated by the availability of good water and sanitation services. Conversely, it has become clear that many water and sanitation projects will not work without women's involvement.

Community participation and women's involvement were seen as important from the beginning of the Decade, but recognition has grown much stronger and is now being translated into action. This was due in part to the fact that emphasis has shifted from centralized, high-cost services (such as piped-in water and sewage systems) to community-based, low-cost services (such as handpumps and latrines). At the same time high-quality technology has been developed that can be maintained at the community level. INSTRAW's participation in the Steering Committee of the UN agencies involved in the Decade, and its unflinching advocacy of women's involvement, have also been very important in this evolution. The development of field activities through PROWESS—an interregional project of the United Nations Development Programme for women and water—and others shows that it is in fact possible to facilitate and demonstrate women's involvement in sustained and largescale action.

As priorities for the future become clearer, women's involvement at the community level will take on new importance. Rural areas have had more experience than growing urban settlements, where methodologies for community involvement need to be refined. Women's role in environmental questions at the community level—such as water conservation and waste recycling—will also become more important. Clearly, environmental questions and people's actions are intimately related. □

By Arthur Brown, Associate Administrator, UNDP.

involve women in operational country-level programmes. One proposal called for developing training courses for women volunteers in Sri Lanka, while a project in Bangladesh trained women volunteers from urban slum areas on improved hygiene and health-related practices. A proposed study for India would look at community participation in low-cost sanitation schemes; in Yemen Arab Republic, a hygiene education strategy project is under way for use with rural development projects that include WSS components. A Kenyan organization is training community women in health education and handpump maintenance, and Niger and Senegal are training women in irrigation techniques and repairs. Jamaica offers training courses on water and waste management, while Colombia is preparing female health workers for leadership roles in the formal health sector.

Other areas of activity include workshops, publications of research and case studies, preparation of guidelines and training materials and evaluation of the impact of water projects on women.

At its 1987 meeting, the Task Force recommended areas for future work. Sufficient attention should be given to community participation and women's roles by all agencies funding or implementing WSS projects, they said. The bibliographical database on WSS technical information should be updated, and a roster of consultants prepared. Activities for involving women in operational country-level programmes, including development and testing of methodologies, should be undertaken.

The Task Force also found a need for a general strategy for carrying out its efforts, and suggested that agencies should use the training materials prepared by INSTRAW. Hygiene education should be reinforced and included in all WSS projects and programmes. Finally, the group discussed an evaluation plan involving case studies, process/summational evaluation and indicators and urged the development of innovative ways of assessing and reporting on activities in the field. □

1. Siri Melchior also authored the supplement to the present issue of *INSTRAW News* on "Women, Water and Sanitation: Making the Link Stronger."

The Quality of Life

T rue quality of life means a lot of freedoms, big and small: freedoms from a number of ills besetting human beings, freedoms to do many things which large parts of humanity still cannot take for granted. This includes freedom from hunger, from thirst, from exposure to the elements, from worries, from war and terror. It also means freedom to think, to work, to learn, to rest, to be with loved ones.

These freedoms are applied very unevenly to different parts of society, and often the greatest differences are between women and children, on the one hand, and adult men, on the other. One problem suffered particularly by women is the endless drudgery and tremendous waste of time and energy caused by inadequate water supply close to their homes.

In many areas of the world, the closely related question of sanitation is not-so-benignly neglected, to the great cost of women in need of privacy and convenience for their proper hygiene. Equally neglected are the important role of women as the prime educators of young children and their responsibilities for household and food hygiene.

These oversights were clearly recognized at the outset of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in 1980. That year, the United Nations system created a Steering Committee to co-ordinate and systematize efforts to support government programmes of water supply and sanitation.

The Committee has functioned in a very practical and —if such a word can be used in a United Nations context— even cozy way. There is a minimum of paperwork, but plenty of communication as to the joint policies and projects in which its members are involved. One of its major creations was the Task Force on Women, Water and Sanitation.

Decades and steering committees and task forces may sound forbidding and look like "typical" bureaucratic outgrowths of heavyweight international organizations, of doubtful benefit at best to consumers. But in the case of the Water Decade, not only the co-operation between the organizations has turned out to be extraordinary. The actual achievements in the field —even though the proud goal of water and sanitation for all was not reached (but who would set any other goal, excluding half of humanity from the good aims?)— are not modest. After all, during the 1980s some 500 million new users now have a safe supply of household water; sanitation still lags behind but is catching up fast.

One of the most encouraging signs is the increasingly active participation of women in many countries. The discreet but efficient work of the Task Force on Women, Water and Sanitation has contributed not only to keeping the issue alive in the minds of policy-makers but also to including it in official policy guidelines and from there to real-life communities. Providing safe and accessible water and health-preserving sanitation is a marvellous entry point for the advancement of women and a real and rewarding task for the Task Force. □

By *Martin A. Beyer*, Senior Adviser, Drinking Water and Sanitation, UNICEF.

New ideas for the 1990s

During an international meeting on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) in Interlaken, Switzerland, in October 1987, bilateral, multilateral, governmental and non-governmental organizations agreed to foster an International Framework for Global Co-operation to increase and extend Decade activities through joint action.

The Framework for Global Co-operation, comprising developing countries and external support agencies (ESAs), would systematically promote, review and mobilize resources for country and intercountry programmes. A Collaborative Council of ESAs would support developing country efforts to capitalize on past experiences and incorporate lessons learned into full-scale development projects.

Framework for Global Co-operation

The overall objective of the proposed Framework would be "to maintain Decade momentum beyond 1990 and accelerate the provision of water supply and sanitation (WSS) services to all, with emphasis on the unserved rural and periurban poor, by using a co-ordinated programme approach".

Specifically, the Framework would seek to ensure that WSS services are provided on an environmentally responsive and economically sustainable basis for the respective target groups, and increase co-ordination and collaboration among developing countries, ESAs and other concerned organizations with respect to water and sanitation issues. To accomplish these tasks, the ESA community must help to provide sustainable low-cost WSS services for poor communities, making effective use of domestic and external resources and

compiling realistic data on sector coverage. Agencies must review sector experience and broaden the scope of WSS to include sector activities that improve environmental quality.

Expert Panel on Mar del Plata Plan Meets in France

Three meetings were held in Europe in 1989 to set a strategy for dealing with women, water and sanitation issues now that the Water Decade is almost over. That strategy will be presented at the global consultation meeting of the ESA Collaborative Council, to be held in New Delhi in September 1990.

At the first of these meetings, a Panel of Experts was convened at Challes-les-Eaux, France, from 8-10 March 1989 to define an implementation strategy for the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, which was formulated by the United Nations Water Conference of 1977 and defined the guidelines and strategies of the Decade. Financed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the meeting identified constraints which have inhibited progress in implementing the Plan; main issues for the future assessment, development and management of water resources; new initiatives, technologies and approaches for sustainable development; and specific actions that might be taken by the United Nations system, governments, external support agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The Panel recommended that as part of the Plan's implementation strategy, developing countries, with the assistance of external support agencies, should be encouraged to:

1. identify problem areas and future needs related to water resources de-

velopment objectives and justify additional budgetary requirements;

2. mobilize financial resources through incentives and pricing policies wherever possible, to increase the efficient and equitable use of water resources and to promote cost recovery;

3. promote the sustainable development of land and water resources through integrated planning and efficient use of water resources, taking into account impending scarcities and the need to protect water quality;

4. establish human resources development programmes, including education and training, incentives and career development structures, which will ensure there is a core of qualified engineers and technicians who can sustain the water resources development programmes. Such programmes should prepare individuals to deal with anticipated changes in climatic and environmental conditions;

5. Establish institutional mechanisms to link water use agencies effectively with the national planning process, and review and update legislation to harmonize land and water use laws, based on equitable management of both resources;

6. Develop applied research programmes to test, demonstrate and promote the use of new or improved appropriate technologies and approaches.

Finally, the Panel called upon UN bodies to assess the implementation of the Plan since the 1977 Water Conference, taking into account the principles of sustainable development, population dynamics and differing climatic conditions, and elaborate a strategy for the future. A module simulating possible future water scarcity problems should be developed further using the best available information on renewable water re-

At a stand-pipe
in the village of Tenganan,
eastern Bali



UN PHOTO/Ray Witrin

sources, and then applied to as many countries as possible.¹

Applied Research

The ESA Collaborative Council established four temporary working groups to carry out certain tasks. One of these was the Temporary Working Group for Applied Research, comprising representatives of seven organizations; it met in London from 16-17 March 1989.

The major tasks of this Group were to review the key issues requiring applied research, provide a list of existing, completed and proposed applied research projects linked to those issues, identify gaps and develop a research priority list, including both topics and resources, and prepare draft terms of reference and proposed membership for a temporary working group on environmental pollution aspects linked to the water and sanitation sector.

Member organizations are the US Agency for International Development's Water and Sanitation for Health Project (WASH), the UN Development Programme/World Bank Programme, World Health Organization, the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, Canada, the German Technical Co-operation Department, the French Ministry of Co-operation and Development and the Commonwealth Science Council. INSTRAW was represented by the Chairperson of the Task Force on Women in the Decade, Ms. Siri Melchior, who gave a presentation prepared jointly by her and the Institute.

Communication of information

The second of the Council's temporary working groups concerns communication of information. At a meet-

ing in The Hague from 11-13 May 1989, Group members concluded that communication of information should play a key role in future plans for accelerating sustainable water supply and sanitation (WSS) programmes in developing countries. The Group has been assessing ways to strengthen the motivation and capacity of developing country Governments to give increased priority to the WSS sector in the 1990s, and to meet the new challenges which have emerged in recent years.

Discussion focused on four areas, summarized as follows:

• **Public Information and Promotion.** Mobilization of additional resources for the WSS sector in the 1990s will depend substantially on finding the right approach to promoting and marketing the sector. The first priority is to develop a global strategy in time for launching a WSS programme for the 1990s; it must be prepared, endorsed and ready to run before the planned Global Consultation in September 1990.

• **Technical Information Exchange.** A framework for collecting and disseminating technical information in developing countries was developed in 1987. This Framework which was endorsed by the IDWSSD Steering Committee and major donors, enables information exchange procedures to be introduced into a country incrementally, beginning with information components in individual projects and programmes.

• Project and Sector Information.

The major initiative in this area has been the exchange of project information among ESAs via the Country External Support Information system (CESI) operated by the World Health Organization. The Group sees CESI as a valuable springboard from which developing countries can be helped to develop their own systems of national data collection and dissemination, covering both project information and country-specific sector data.

Management Information Systems: Technical and project/sector information acquires critical importance in the planning, design and implementation of WSS programmes at the national level in developing countries; accordingly, the Group recommended that support for information systems should focus on increasing policy-makers' awareness of the value of various types of information and on identifying successful tools and methodologies for sector management.

INSTRAW was represented at The Hague meeting by its Director, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, who took part in the Public Information and Promotion Group discussions and presented a proposal on the "Production and Dissemination of Promotional Materials on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation". □

1. An adapted version of a paper on water scarcity in African development that was presented at the Panel appears on page 13.

INSTRAW ACTIVITIES ON WATER AND SANITATION

As part of its activities in the field of women, water and sanitation, between 1987 to 1989 INSTRAW organized several seminars and workshops and produced modular training packages for "training the trainers".

C REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINARS: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The first regional training seminar, entitled *Women's Contribution to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade*, was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 23-27 January 1989 and organized in co-operation with ESCAP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (see *INSTRAW News* No. 12).

The seminar was geared at creating an awareness of the need to enhance women's involvement and ensure their effective participation in all levels of planning and implementing WSS projects and programmes. Most participants were women professionals from national governmental organizations in the ESCAP region involved with water, sanitation and public health. The seminar consisted of a five-module package prepared by INSTRAW covering the role and participation of women in planning, choice of technology, implementation,

training and evaluation. Following presentation of the modules, groups met to formulate recommendations.

Module I covered the goals of the United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD) as well as lessons learned during the Decade. The Decade's original goal had been access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities for all by 1990. The emphasis was on national targets, national plans and technical solutions. The World Bank estimated that it would cost US\$600 billion to reach all people over the course of the Decade. Each country set targets and launched individual Decades. Most of the projects were expected to be financed by the countries themselves.

Unfortunately, such lofty goals were unrealistic in the face of the economic crisis of the 1980s. The world-wide recession during the first half of the Decade; the crippling external debt faced by Latin American, African and a number of Asian countries; and the inadequate assistance provided by external support agencies (ESA) left most countries far short of their goals. Other problems included the fact that the ESAs were providing inappropriate and too expensive technology and that institutional arrangements for management and follow-up were lacking.

As mentioned, during the course of the Decade some very important lessons were learned from the inability to achieve coverage goals. Not only was money lacking, but systems installed were often not functioning properly. Emphasis shifted from coverage to sustainable development, and from initiation of projects to responsibility for effective use of water systems. It was hoped that the decade of the 1990s would be one in which sustainability and efficient use of scarce water, human and financial resources would be stressed. The high rate of failure of water resources projects during the early 1980s had to be reduced through the concerned involvement of women as the main managers and users of water resources and sanitation facilities.

Module II of the seminar covered women's participation in planning water supply and sanitation (WSS) projects and raised the issue of what women can do to help ensure that global water resources are not disrupted any further. The following recommendations were made:

1. **Planning.** Qualified female personnel should be involved at various stages of the planning process.
2. **Project formulation.** Qualified women should be put

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION: COVERAGE, EXCLUDING CHINA

	Served Millions	%	Unserved Millions	%	Total Millions
URBAN WATER SUPPLY					
1980	517	74	182	26	699
1990(a)	777	76	252	24	1,029
change	+260	+50	+70	+38	+47%
URBAN SANITATION					
1980	398	57	301	43	699
1990(a)	663	65	365	35	1,029
change	+265	+67	+64	+21	+47%
RURAL WATER SUPPLY					
1980	492	33	998	67	1,490
1990(a)	837	48	898	52	1,745
change	+345	+70	-100	-11	+17%
RURAL SANITATION					
1980	194	13	1,296	87	1,490
1990(a)	238	14	1,496	86	1,745
change	+44	+22	+200	+15	+17%

Notes: (a) estimates.
Total population, developing countries, excluding China:
1980: 2,189 million
1990: 2,775 million (estimate).

in charge during the project formulation stage to ensure better assessment of socio-economic conditions.

3. Execution. Since water for domestic needs is arranged by women, project implementation should be supervised by their representatives in order to execute the project on need-based criteria.

4. Project maintenance. Even a well-designed programme may fail in the long run if facilities are not maintained with adequate spare parts, financing and technical personnel. Since women are the end beneficiaries, they are better able to assess the supply and quantity of water required.

The group also felt that once a system was operational, the beneficiary community needed motivation to conserve the source by checking waste and pollution of water. Here women could contribute by educating the community. To enhance the economical utilization of resources, waste water might be used for gardening and other purposes. Women could contribute to the conservation of natural resources of water by planting (afforestation and reforestation) and motivating society to conserve trees and forests.

Module III stressed the importance of women's involvement in the choice of technology and implementation of WSS projects. Many development projects have failed either because they did not involve women or did not understand their dual role as the primary users and managers of domestic water supply and sanitation and as guardians of their environment.

Seminar participants concluded that the benefits of WSS projects could be maximized by incorporating them into sectoral developments in food, energy, housing and transportation. This new approach would involve not only commitment by governments and international agencies but also by the people themselves at the community level, especially women. Each project must begin with women, involve them at all stages and belong to them.

Module IV discussed education and training activities for water supply and sanitation for facility users and community members, especially women, and concluded that such activities were always the weakest element in WSS programmes, due to shortage of funds, lack of facilities and other logistical problems. But the hurdles must be overcome, and this type of education should be included in all WSS projects right from the planning stage, the seminar suggested.

Training materials should be carefully selected, relevant, interesting to and understandable by the participants. They should also be culturally suitable, well-written, well-presented, reproducible at low cost and, if possible, available in local languages.

The importance of health and hygiene education was emphasized. Training in WSS services should be linked with health education and other community development programmes through extension courses, co-operative programmes and adult education.

Module V covered the evaluation of WSS projects and focused on the "Minimum Evaluation Procedure" used by the World Health Organization. Four possible approaches to evaluation were discussed: technical, administrative, health impact and village level. Managers responsible for constructing, operating or maintaining water supply and sanitation could use evaluation as a tool, defining it by geographic area, technology, agency or socio-economic group. □

○ NATIONAL WORKSHOP: NIGERIA

From 10 to 16 May 1989, INSTRAW held a national workshop on *Women, Water Supply and Sanitation* in Lagos. It was co-sponsored by INSTRAW and ZONTA International, a Chicago-based non-governmental organization working on development projects, in collaboration with Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports.

Thirty participants represented 17 Nigerian states. There were also 18 representatives from seven federal ministries, departments and agencies, and 31 representatives of 10 United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The workshop was co-ordinated by Victoria N. Okobi, Assistant Director of Women and Children's Programmes in the Federal Ministry of Social Development, Youth and Sports. Ms. Okobi is also an INSTRAW Board Member.

The following agenda items were covered: introduction to INSTRAW and the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade; women's participation in planning water supply and sanitation (WSS) projects; women's activities in health/hygiene education and sanitation projects and programmes; women's role as participants and beneficiaries in the choice of technology and training for WSS projects; women's activities in the operational stage of WSS projects; communication/information strategy in WSS projects and programmes; and project evaluation. □

○ NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINARS: EAST AFRICA

Prior to the Bangkok seminar, INSTRAW used the modular approach at four national training seminars in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan on *Women, Water Supply and Sanitation* designed to "train the trainers". Based on the evaluation of those modules by seminar participants, the Institute concluded that the multi-media training packages on WSS were applicable and useful in East Africa. The training modules are now being evaluated in the Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) region.

In Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, 23-28 November 1987), participants agreed that evaluation should identify women's concerns about the installation of WSS facilities and should highlight those areas where no attempt had been made to focus on women as users and decision makers *vis-à-vis* those facilities. The evaluation team should include women members who should be trained in evaluation techniques as well, they stressed.

In Kenya (Nairobi, 9-13 November 1987), participants established criteria for evaluating WSS projects on a long-term basis, concluding that all projects should have built-in continuous evaluation methods and procedures. They called for deliberate action to involve women actively in evaluating WSS projects at all stages in order to make those projects more effective.

In Somalia (Mogadiscio, 13-18 February 1988), participants discussed the evaluation process and presented four case studies. They agreed that evaluation should be part of the total programming process and that women must be taken into account in the following stages of project devel-



Drawing water from a well near Bandiagara, Mali

UN PHOTO/John Isaac

opment and evaluation process: situation analysis, acceptability of facilities to women, resource distribution, monitoring and evaluating the specific impact on women, involvement of the community, especially women, and effects of the programme on women.

In Sudan (Kadugli, 16-21 January 1988), participants called for evaluation of the role of women in the functioning and utilization of WSS facilities. Such an evaluation should reflect women's involvement as a positive contribution in all aspects of the project, including its impact on women. □

○ WATER MODULE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

In co-operation with the Fondation de l'Eau, INSTRAW prepared in 1989 a training module on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation aimed at an illiterate audience. This package complements the INSTRAW-ILO/Turin Centre multimedia training package on the same subject, prepared in 1986.

The Fondation de l'Eau, established in Limoges, France in 1976, offers technical and professional training on water-related problems as well as advisory services, with a particular emphasis on developing countries.

The training module, available in English and French, uses the participatory approach and consists of a trainer's manual, a set of 10 modules for the trainers and a set of 80 large drawings with simple captions.

The trainer's manual comprises a user's guide, guidelines for carrying out a training session and the outlines of each of the 10 modules, which are presented in booklet format. The 10 modules cover the following areas: gathering water from deep wells and hand pumps; water from stand posts; village water supply: the well; water transport and storage; hygiene and cleanliness; hydric diseases and contamination; hydric disease propagation: bilharziosis (or schistosomiasis, a severe parasitic infection); interrelationship of water, sanitation, hygiene and health; sanitation by means of latrines; and village committees. □

Water Scarcity in African Development

Given the fact that life is based on a myriad of water flows, access to water is a necessary —although in itself insufficient— condition for livelihood security and socio-economic development. Yet economic development experts have never paid attention to the impact of water scarcity on development options. Present thinking —a disastrous form of “water blindness”— is dominated by perceptions based on experiences in the northern temperate zones, where water is generally taken for granted. However, the most poverty-stricken countries in the world are those in the drought-prone, semi-arid tropics.

What is the link between water availability and development under conditions of rapid population growth, particularly in Africa? In densely populated areas, various types of water scarcity tend to combine into a risk spiral, fueled by population growth and manifested as crop-failure-driven famines during intermittent droughts. Since two-thirds of the African population is threatened by water-scarcity-related development problems, it is urgent that national and international donors and policy-makers be made aware before population growth consumes the present potential of water for socio-economic development. In that context, the question is not

“How much water do we need and where do we find it?” but rather, “How much water is there and how could it best be used to secure socio-economic development?”

Two phenomena are involved in the present “hunger crescent” in Sub-Saharan Africa: scarce rainfall limits the wetting of the soil, making crop growth possible only during a very limited growing season; and only very small amounts of rainwater remain after evaporation to recharge land water systems in aquifers and rivers. Land degradation adds to the environmental stress in densely populated or overexploited areas, and the resulting deterioration in land fertility produces an additional form of water penury: a man-induced lack of water both in the root zone and in local wells.

Too much water can also cause tremendous problems: floods, for example, take heavy tolls on human life. Where water is in short supply and financial and technological resources for water transfer are lacking, development encounters considerable problems. Today, these problems are identified as drought and desertification, although the core of the problem is water scarcity.

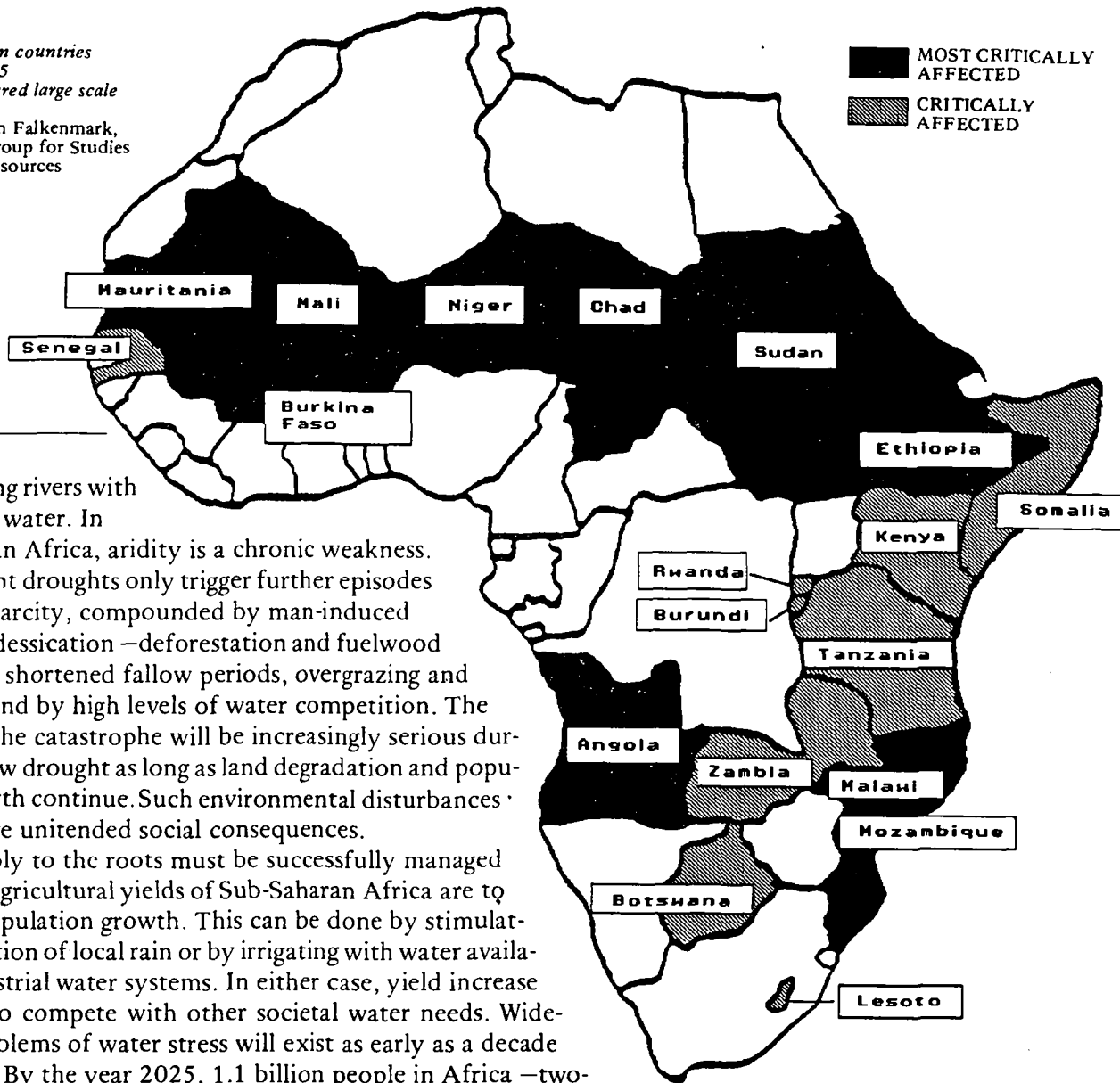
If easy access to water is fundamental for development in poverty-stricken developing countries, and water is a finite resource, the rapid population growth in many

African countries should be an issue of great concern. It is, however, alarming that the population-driven water penury now threatening semi-arid Africa tends to be a “non-issue”: neither the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) nor the World Commission on Environment and Development (commonly known as the Brundtland Commission) has discussed the link between water and population or the problem of sustainable development in the tropics. There may in fact be a conspiracy of silence as experts are unwilling to address the problem of controlling galloping population growth.

The predicament of Sub-Saharan Africa can be discussed in terms of four different and interactive modes of water scarcity: aridity; intermittent droughts; landscape dessication; and water stress —otherwise known as high levels of water competition. The first two are of natural origin, and the latter two, induced by man. Landscape dessication and water stress interact to disturb land productivity and to produce the risk of famine and local conflicts over water.

In order to increase local food security under water scarcity conditions, the effects of aridity, intermittent droughts and landscape dessication must be alleviated, particularly in undulating upstream areas that are far away

Belt of African countries where 1984-85 drought triggered large scale food deficits.
 Source: Marlin Falkenmark, Stockholm Group for Studies on Natural Resources Management,



from passing rivers with exogenous water. In Sub-Saharan Africa, aridity is a chronic weakness. Intermittent droughts only trigger further episodes of water scarcity, compounded by man-induced landscape dessication – deforestation and fuelwood harvesting, shortened fallow periods, overgrazing and the like – and by high levels of water competition. The effects of the catastrophe will be increasingly serious during each new drought as long as land degradation and population growth continue. Such environmental disturbances in turn have untended social consequences. Water supply to the roots must be successfully managed if the low agricultural yields of Sub-Saharan Africa are to support population growth. This can be done by stimulating infiltration of local rain or by irrigating with water available in terrestrial water systems. In either case, yield increase will have to compete with other societal water needs. Widespread problems of water stress will exist as early as a decade from now. By the year 2025, 1.1 billion people in Africa – two-thirds of the population on that continent – will face severe water scarcity.

How can the dilemma be solved? Migration from water-scarce regions is one possibility, already occurring; importing food is another. Stable food prices on the international market would be the best support industrialized countries could give the poverty-stricken countries in Africa, enabling them to use their water for more economical purposes and lessening the severity of the water scarcity. But the present goal of self-reliance in food production is probably not realistic in the long term and will have to be abandoned. The technological approach in the North is now giving way to a new philosophy: adapting to the “safe yield” of regional fresh water systems. Because of the growing public interest in environmental issues, a new reluctance has developed to export water to water-scarce regions willing to pay for that water, which in turn makes imported water an unreliable resource.

In summary, a more integrated, interdisciplinary view on water is needed that would simultaneously address all forms of human dependence on land and water, and to water scarcity – whether caused by aridity, intermittent droughts, landscape dessication or desertification or societal water stress. □

This article is adapted from a paper presented by *Malin Falkenmark* to the Panel of Experts Meeting on the Mar del Plata Plan, held in Challes-les-Eaux, France, from 8-10 March 1989. Ms. Falkenmark is Executive Secretary of the Swedish Natural Science Research Council in Stockholm.

Ed. Note: The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of INSTRAW.

NEW PERCEPTIONS FROM MALI

Women are shifting priorities and redefining their focus as major actors in water resource development. They want to ensure that their role in the sector is not limited to providing voluntary labour and attending women's meetings, but also defined in terms of formulating and managing water resource programmes. Moreover, they want to be sure that water supply is not regarded exclusively as a women's problem or right—even though women are prime users of water—but as a development need of the entire community. The entire community, properly trained and equipped, should therefore participate in water resource activities to ensure a reliable supply of potable water.

These were some of the conclusions reached at the first-ever international seminar on women and water held for French-speaking developing countries*. Organized by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) in collaboration with the Government of Mali, the seminar took place in Bamako from 14-18 November 1988 and brought together over 80 women and a few men from 20 francophone countries in Africa and other developing regions, international organizations and banks, donor countries and non-governmental organizations. Most of the African participants were from the public sector: social workers, water and sanitation department staff members, and women's affairs and health ministry staff.

Eight years into the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), the seminar reviewed new approaches developed over the course of the Decade, including

technologies and non-technological measures; participation of women and the community in the operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation facilities; self-financing of water facilities; income-generating opportunities derived from access to water; and training techniques to improve domestic water quality and health.

One issue that was treated in depth was the fact that developing countries—particularly in Africa—are dotted with far too many dry, abandoned wells. According to Claude Sauveplane, who attended the meeting as DTCD's technical adviser on groundwater, a major reason for this is poor design of wells or faulty assessment of water resources. "Often villagers are not told that the water resource is limited—that they should only be pumping four hours a day, for example. As a result, wells run dry and communities move back to their original source of water, which is frequently contaminated," he said.

"During the drought in Africa, many well-intentioned groups would come to communities, drill holes and leave—without investing the time and resources needed to train villagers in pump maintenance and water resources management. We now understand this was a recipe for failure," he added.

The relationship between water quality and sanitation and the need for health education were also addressed by seminar participants, who urged that chemical and bacteriological testing of drinking water be carried out regularly. "Water, a source of life, can become an agent of death if contaminated," concluded one working group.

The appropriateness of technologies should be determined on the basis of water quality as well as quantity and community participation, the seminar recommended. It called for a permanent dialogue between trainees and

beneficiaries of water resource projects regarding water quality, sanitation and hygiene issues.

Given the stagnation of development assistance in most countries, seminar participants also recommended increasing reliance on simple, locally produced water resource technologies in rural areas and on standardized equipment in similar geographical or administrative regions.

With self-reliance a goal of most developing countries and "cost recovery" of projects a priority of the World Bank and other lending institutions, the seminar called for the creation of community funds for setting up and maintaining pumps and other water resource technologies. Training for managing these funds was also considered essential.

Because of the economic crisis in many of the countries represented at the seminar, participants were quite concerned about cost recovery and financing of water resource activities, which are so central to the sustainability of water resource development. Safe, properly designed and functioning wells and pumps can do a great deal to relieve the burden of women in developing countries, but women cannot be expected to maintain water resource facilities and equipment without adequate support networks. The seminar recommended that community be provided with ongoing technical training in the use and management of these technologies. In addition, local technicians and artisans require more specialized training. Only when this is achieved, the seminar suggested, can the participation of women and the rest of the community in water resources make a meaningful contribution to sustainable development in the sector. □

By Judith Brister, United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation.

* For copies of the seminar proceedings, contact Marcia Brewster, Water Resources Branch, DTCD, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

UNDP launches new publication on water and sanitation

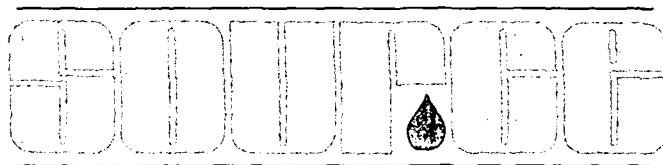
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a new quarterly publication entitled *Source* to facilitate the flow of information about world-wide efforts to improve water, sanitation and health education services in the developing world.

In the first issue of *Source* (June 1989), the lead story discusses UNICEF's programme for providing half the rural population of Guatemala with access to safe water by 1990. The article focuses on the remote department of Huehuetenango, where only about 20 per cent of the communities have water, and on Guatemala City, less than 70 per cent of which has adequate refuse collection service. Both UNDP and the World Bank are involved in projects to address the capital's urgent water and sanitation needs.

Other articles in *Source* deal with balancing

tourism and water supply in Grenada; latrine building programmes in Zimbabwe; efforts to eradicate the guinea worm, which afflicts some 20 million people world-wide, by the year 1995; battling diarrhoea in Bangladesh; and Canada's water and sanitation strategy.

News briefs and publication reviews are also part of *Source*, which replaces the agency's previous periodical, *Decade Watch*. The magazine is published in a glossy, four-color format by the Division of Information, United Nations Development Programme, One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. □



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- , *Participation of women in water supply sanitation; roles and realities*. By Christine Van Wijk-Sijbesma. The Hague. Technical Paper 22, 1985.
- International Women's Tribune Centre, Inc. *The Tribune; women and water*, v. 20, 3rd Quarter 1982.
- PROWESS/UNDP. *Dhaka; volunteers against diarrhoea*. By Elsie Shallon, December 1988 (English). 27 p.
- , *Kenya: people, pumps and agencies*. By Deepa Narayan-Parker. September 1988 (English). 34 p.
- Technology Advisory Group (TAG). *Involving women in sanitation projects*. By Heli E. Perrett. Discussion Paper No. 3.
- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT). *Water-supply and waste-disposal management; impact-evaluation guidelines*. 1987. 44 p. (HS/109/86E).
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). *Programme field manual, Book E; water supply and sanitation*. 7403L (Rev. 3), August 1985.
- Water and Sanitation for Health Project (WASH). *The role of women as participants and beneficiaries in water supply and sanitation programmes*. By Mary L. Elmendorf and Raymond B. Isely. WASH Technical Report No. 11, December 1981.
- World Bank, Economic Development Institute. *Multimedia training materials for water and supply and sanitation*. 32 p.
- World Health Organization. *Identifying women in the global strategy for health for all by the year 2000*. 1983.
- , *Human resources development handbook; guidelines for ministries and agencies responsible for water supply and sanitation*. Neil Carefoot and Howard Gibson. Eds. WHO/CWS/ETS 84.3, September 1984.
- , *Community Water Supply and Sanitation Unit of the Division of Environmental Health. Four case studies on human resources development in the water and sanitation sectors*. □

For a list of INSTRAW publications on water, see "Bookshelf" in this issue.

POST NAIROBI STRATEGIES

Convening a joint conference on gender, development planning and programming was among the recommendations made at a *Subregional Seminar for Central America and the Caribbean on Women in Development: Post-Nairobi Alternative Approaches*. The event took place at INSTRAW Headquarters from 11-14 July 1989.

The conference was among the recommendations made by participants in a working group charged with assessing guidelines and checklists for designing national development programmes and projects. That group suggested that the conference be held under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and INSTRAW.

The working group also identified the following priority issues for policy design and action, among others: inter-relationship between issues linked to development, women and ecology; strengthening grass-roots organizations through training and education; and the impact of macro-economics on women, including the debt crisis and condition of women in the free zones, international trade and export orientation.

Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) by more Member States should be encouraged, said members of another working group whose deliberations focused on the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). They noted that most UN Member States had not yet drawn up national policies for integrating women into the political, social and economic spheres on an equal basis with men, although some governments had legislation pending in that regard. The Convention should be more widely disseminated to facilitate implementa-

tion at the national level. Governments should be encouraged to allocate both human and financial resources for modifying or introducing legislative provisions in accordance with the Convention. Caribbean countries that had completed their initial Country Reports to the Committee should be encouraged to assist other countries in the same process through such international mechanisms as Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. Finally, governments should involve all national organizations—particularly those dealing with development and women—in the process of consultation for preparing their reports.

General trends, prospects and obstacles to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and relevant national experiences were presented at the conference. Participants considered statistical issues in development planning, the United Nations System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for the Advancement of Women (1990-1995), communication technologies applied to WID and training and evaluation methodologies.

The Nairobi strategies were drafted at the 1985 World Conference on the International Decade for Women and subsequently adopted without a vote by General Assembly resolution 40/108 (1985). The strategies, which cover the period between 1986 and 2000, call for concrete steps to be taken in overcoming obstacles to the advancement of women.

The seminar was attended by some 45 representatives of governments, non-governmental and women's organizations and academic and research institutions from Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nevis-St. Kitts, as well as the host country, the Dominican Republic. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations De-

velopment Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and CARICOM were also represented.

Speakers included Hilikka Pietilä, Secretary-General of the Finnish United Nations Association, which funded the seminar; Pauline Eccles, Research Officer of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace, representing the Women in Development Europe network (WIDE); Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW; and Krishna Ahooja-Patel, INSTRAW Deputy Director. A Seminar report is available upon request at INSTRAW. □

INSTRAW BRIEFS NGOs

New York, 18 May 1989

INSTRAW Director Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic addressed about 200 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at UN Headquarters in New York last May. The briefing consisted of an update on INSTRAW activities, with particular emphasis on statistics in the informal sector, access to credit for women and new communication technology as applied to women in development.

The briefing was preceded by the screening of INSTRAW's film, "Women: a New Dimension in Development". A question-and-answer period followed, which led to many subsequent inquiries about the Institute.

Ms. Pastizzi-Ferencic's briefing was rated as one of the best received of the year. NGOs are briefed weekly by senior officials of the UN system. □

Women, Population

A Training Seminar for Central America and the Caribbean on Women, Population and Development

sponsored jointly by INSTRAW and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was held at INSTRAW Headquarters in Santo Domingo, 22-26 May 1989.

This intensive, participatory seminar was attended by more than 20 representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations. Participants discussed the linkages between the reproductive and productive roles of women, between fertility and employment and between work and family. The impact of migration on women; family planning programmes; and social problems related to teenagers' pregnancy were also addressed. Despite the historical and cultural differences among the various English, French and Spanish-speaking countries, participants found there were many similarities. The seminar set a precedent by being the first seminar linking women, population and development in which the target group is mixed and consists of policy-makers and development practitioners. A constructive dialogue was established between women and men from different backgrounds and fields of activity, and it is hoped that they will further encourage the inclusion of women's concerns at appropriate stages of programming and project cycles upon return to their country. Barbados, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nevis-St. Kitts, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago were all represented. □

INTERVIEW



VIRGINIA OFOSU-AMAAH, technical officer in the Special Unit for Women, Population and Development at UNFPA Headquarters in New York, represented the Fund at the seminar. Following are excerpts from an interview conducted with Ghanaian-born Ms. Ofosu-Amaah who, prior to joining UNFPA in 1988, worked for Ghana's Ministry of Financial Economic Planning for 21 years as a regional and health planner and subsequently as a consultant for several UN organizations.

INSTRAW News: Could you tell us about UNFPA's training activities on women.

VIRGINIA OFOSU-AMAAH: Training is one of our main areas of emphasis because we feel this is the only way to create awareness and explain the concepts of gender and the methodologies for improving programming. The UN's strategy on women, population and development includes a provision for training UN staff, field staff and Government officials on how to incorporate gender issues into all programmes and projects that UNFPA funds. To that end, we at UNFPA have organized a number of workshops in conjunction with other UN agencies, including the first-ever workshop at UN Headquarters for staff.

After the workshops, follow-up activities are held at the country level and in the field. For example, Tanzania organized an awareness creation workshop for Government officials, women's groups and popular organizations. While it is difficult to assess the results of our work, and it takes time to internalize new concepts about gender, I think awareness has been created among the staff as to the importance of women's issues and of improving the status

of women in population activities.

IN: How does the Women's Unit of UNFPA work?

VOA: We have two professionals, one secretary and one research assistant in the Unit. It's a lot of work for a small unit, but we expect that after training staff within the UN, they will be sensitive to the issues. Our job is to co-ordinate, to advocate and to provide technical support.

IN: How would you evaluate this particular seminar?

VOA: It was the first seminar we have organized for senior Government officials, WID officials, women's studies specialists and NGOs. It's important to create a network in a country that will link university researchers, who make the results of their research available, with those in the Government who prepare the programmes. I would have liked, however, to see more participation by people from planning ministries, since they're the ones who prepare plans and allocate resources. It's very important that we get through to them.

Nonetheless, this seminar was extremely participatory and involved substantial exchange of views and experiences. □

and Development

INTERVIEW



DENIS McINTOSH, programme officer for the UNDP station in Barbados whose immediate responsibilities are for Antigua and Barbuda and Nevis-St. Kitts, as well as for women and development issues, was also interviewed by INSTRAW during the seminar. Excerpts follow.

INSTRAW News: What led you to attend the seminar? Has it been useful to you, and if so, how?

DENIS McINTOSH: We at UNDP have just identified four areas for priority treatment: the environment, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and women. My attendance at this seminar—and at the previous workshop held here in Santo Domingo in November 1988*—had a lot to do with efforts to provide as much training as possible not only for myself, as the focal point for women in development at the UNDP office, but for programme officers in general, because we have a mandate to address the gender issues in all projects.

I believe that population is a very critical and key issue in the whole development question; in the Eastern Caribbean in particular, which has a population census coming up, the question of population has great implications. Over the past 30 or 40 years, there's been a lot of migrations to Britain, Canada and the United States. We also have a high percentage

of female-headed households, and there's been great concern about teenage pregnancies. All of these things have implications for economic development, and this seminar is putting them in perspective, giving us the tools to interpret and understand the necessary approaches so that we can be effective in serving the societies.

IN: How do you transmit the training you had here back to other officers? What, in other words, is the impact of our seminars?

DM: When I returned to Barbados after the previous INSTRAW/UNDP/UNFPA seminar, I organized a similar workshop there and invited participants from economic planning and women's departments in all the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which include Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, Nevis-St. Kitts, St. Vincent, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat. These are people who deal directly with the projects and programmes we have in place.

We also had participants from UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, PAHO, WHO and the World Food Programme. I think it was a very successful event, because many of these people had no

prior exposure to the issues, and we were able to articulate the gender question in an atmosphere where people were basically sensitive to the issues but did not really understand much of what was meant by it or how things have changed. I think the workshop had a tremendous impact, and it will make all our jobs easier.

IN: Tell us about some of your other work on women's issues.

DM: I've been working in this field ever since I've been in the UN system. However, my first involvement with a WID project was in Montserrat in 1981. We put together what was called a "small garment industry". We brought together some very poor women from the rural areas who used to do a little sewing in their homes, and we set up a small factory for them, provided them with training and even a subsistence allowance to get them back and forth to the factory. We even took some of the women overseas to work with fairly large garment manufacturing companies, then back to Montserrat to apply what they'd learned.

IN: You say you've always shown some interest in gender issues. Why is that?

DM: Well, for the simple reason that I tend to be a pragmatist, and I do not see any wisdom in excluding or omitting a very significant component of the world's economic activities. It makes no sense to deny a group the opportunity to make a full contribution to the entire development process.

IN: Do you find there is still resistance within the UN system to dealing with women's issues?

DM: Yes, there is. I believe that resistance has a lot to do with ignorance of the issues, ignorance of what it is we are attempting to put into place when we talk of women in develop-

(Continued on page 37)

* INSTRAW/UNDP/UNFPA Joint Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Women in Development, Santo Domingo, 28 Nov.—2 Dec. 1988.

*Women in the developing world
are hauling, drinking and working
with often contaminated water.*

UN PHOTO/A. Rozberg



Using municipal water supply in Lome, Togo



*Children also participate in water collection tasks.
Here in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.*



*Fighting back the encroaching desert in a traditional
Burkina Faso.*



Sagrada Bujosa/CIPAF

A water faucet in Pokhara, Nepal, serves local needs

UN PHOTO/John Isaac



...e at Ouabigouya,

UN PHOTO/John Isaac

Women are also the key users and managers of water projects. This role must be acknowledged by development planners.

USERS AND PRODUCERS OF STATISTICS

Saly, Senegal, 26-30 June 1989

This national workshop was held as part of INSTRAW's long-term project to improve the collection, compilation and analysis of data concerning women, as well as to reinforce the dialogue between users and producers of statistics and indicators on women and development. The Division of Women and Women's Rights of the Ministry of Social Development of Senegal was the co-sponsor.

A review of data sources and availability of statistical on women; adequacy of data collection methods and relevance of concepts for assessing women's socio-economic contributions; identification of data needs; and strategies for compiling and using

statistics were among the topics considered by participants. They recommended that still-unused information, including reports prepared by regional services of the Ministry of Social Development, surveys from the National School of Applied Economics, papers prepared by interns at training schools and other monographs should be exploited, and that data should be analysed in greater depth and disaggregated by sex.

A statistical unit should be created within the Ministry in order to centralize and exploit the data on women and establish collaborative relations with other government bodies, they said. Questionnaires should be created

for collecting data, to be fed into a resulting data bank. They called for Ministry staff to be trained in data collection and processing as well as in the quantification of women's activities, and for opinion polls to be carried out, particularly for such informal sector activities as commerce, sewing, truck farming and domestic activities. The time factor in women's activities should be quantified, and the rates and causes of women's failure to attend school calculated.

Seminar participants included Marie Paul Aristy, INSTRAW's Senior Social and Economic Affairs Officer, and France Cavaillet, an INSTRAW consultant. □

WOMEN'S VISIBILITY IN STATISTICS

Bombay, India, 3-7 July 1989

INSTRAW, in collaboration with the Indian Government's Department of Women and Child Development and the S.N.D.T. Women's University of Bombay, convened a training workshop on the *Visibility of Women in Statistics and Indicators: Changing Perspectives*. One of its major goals was to develop better tools and methods for adequately reflecting women's activities.

Participants focused on existing data bases on women's work and development and on employment and unemployment statistics. As the second pre-testing of the questionnaire for India's 1990 census is ongoing, discussions also centred around conceptual and definitional issues that should be

taken into account during the census-taking.

Recommendations on the national level included developing a list of suitable alternative indicators, such as nutrition, leisure and work patterns, to reflect the emerging economic and social status of women. Development agencies and Government ministries should alter the concept of housework to reflect the household as an arena of activity. Time budget allocation surveys should focus on gender relations in society, and surveys of female workers should be undertaken to provide an estimation of under-enumeration in the 1991 census.

On the international level, workshop

participants recommended that before the system of national accounts is revised, work on defining boundaries between productive and non-productive work of women should be disseminated. INSTRAW and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) should undertake further seminars and workshops to disseminate new concepts and methodologies at the international and regional levels.

The workshop was attended by 40 people representing the national statistical office, various Government offices involved in data collection, researchers on women and development and non-governmental organizations. □

WID issues in the UN: the debate continues

Women, Health and Development for Central America

Washington, D.C., 10 July 1989

Agencies of the UN and inter-American systems were invited by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to participate in an interagency meeting on 10 July regarding the Sub-regional Project on "Women in Health and Development in Central America, Panama and Belize". In addition to exploring possibilities for co-operation and support in implementing the project, they defined their own activities and experiences in the area of women as well as those areas in which they could lend assistance to the

project. The four-year project was formulated in 1988 by PAHO with the goal of helping to improve the socio-economic condition of women and to facilitate women's integration into the development process by taking actions in the areas of employment, education and health.

The general consensus to emerge from the meeting was that not all the agencies include "health" as a direct mandate. More concrete proposals are required on how individual agencies can co-operate with PAHO on the

project, but in the meantime it was agreed that interested agency representatives would form working groups to focus on employment and education.

Vera Gathright of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reported on INSTRAW's interest in helping with planning, preparing country studies, supporting women's groups and the subregional forum on women and integrated development and disseminating the problem through social communica-

CENTRAL AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN ODPPE UNITED FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROJECTS

The PAHO project is a timely response to the serious health problems in Central America, where drinking water and sanitation deficiencies are linked to a high infant mortality rate caused by intestinal infections. As indicated in the June 1989 subproject entitled "Comprehensive Health of Women in Central America, Panama and Belize", Central America since the colonial era has been marked by social and economic injustice and inequality among different social strata. Impoverished women suffer from double discrimination: social and sexual. In addition, the political and economic crisis of the 1980s has had a major impact on Central American women, whether or not they are heads of households. Women have tended to assume responsibility for the household economy and for the steadily deteriorating family income.

UN studies have confirmed there is a positive correlation between women's level of education and health, family size and employment. The relationship between the age at which women give birth and the incidence of health risks to women and their children has also been

well documented: the younger the mother, the higher the risk of painful and premature deliveries and neonatal mortality. Maternal mortality rates in Central America — 5.8 for every 10,000 live births between 1983-1985 — were between six and ten times higher than the corresponding rates in Canada, Cuba, Costa Rica and the U.S. Adolescent women in Central America have a very high fertility rate: 60 per cent of women aged between 15 and 17 years are sexually active but are either unaware of, or do not have access to, contraception.

One manifestation of the subregion's underdevelopment that directly affects the infant mortality rate is the scarcity of water, obliging women in particular to engage in the arduous task of carrying water long distances. These women are generally poorly nourished to begin with, and if they are pregnant as well, their children may be born with low weight, if they survive at all. The lack of water supply and sanitation within the community is therefore directly related to the serious health problems of the entire subregion and plays a major role in the mandate of the PAHO project. □

tions media. INSTRAW could also assist those areas of the project concerned with aging women and with water and sanitation. The Institute's module on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" could be made available as well.

Convened by PAHO—the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO)—the meeting was attended by representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (ICW/OAS), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agricul-

ture (IICA) and the Higher Council of Central American Universities (CSUCA). The group's discussion focused on the basic "umbrella" subregional project and on its sub-project on the "Comprehensive Health of Women in Central America, Panama and Belize", presented to and approved by the international community in June 1989. These two projects have been elaborated within the context of the *Plan for Priority Health Needs in Central America and Panama*.

The basic project includes the following specific goals and strategies:

- to improve the availability and quality of information on women and measure changes in women's socio-economic and health conditions;
- to promote changes to overcome

legal, cultural and ideological impediments that limit women's participation and equality;

- to strengthen women's role in taking decisions within the family, the community and the nation as a whole;

- to promote and reinforce women's groups and organizations;

- to increase equal access to employment, education and health opportunities; and

- to promote alternative daycare systems for children, encourage men's participation in household work and in child-rearing and develop the appropriate technologies to free up women's time and facilitate their development as human beings and their incorporation into the socio-economic process of each country. □



World Food Programme endorses food aid for third world women

The World Food Programme (WFP) has adopted a set of guidelines on women and development to ensure that food aid will increase women's productivity in income-earning activities. The guidelines caution against women-only projects that lock women into traditional female activities which are often of marginal economic value, and reflect the Programme's growing commitment to orient development activities towards women.

A substantial portion of the WFP's annual US\$1 billion in aid to the developing world is channeled through food-for-work projects reaching the very poor, the hungry and the unemployed—most of whom are women. In many countries, the majority of labourers in those projects are also women. Traditionally responsible for meeting the family's basic survival needs, women are often more interested than men in working for food in order to provide an added income they can control more directly and use for the family welfare.

Women are also major beneficiaries of WFP's health and nutrition projects associated with mother and child health centres. Women and children tend to be the major beneficiaries in emergency relief operations as well, since they are the most vulnerable when disaster strikes.

Thus, WFP seeks to assist projects that take into account women's specific roles as producers and reproducers. From the early stages of planning, projects consider the socially and culturally determined differences

between women and men beneficiaries: first, the patterns of male and female work, in the farm or at home, and secondly, the differences in access to and control over land, labour, time, capital, skills and income.

The general guidelines specify ways to assess each type of project in terms of its impact on female producers as compared to male producers; its provisions to ensure the adequate access of women to project resources, services and activities; its anticipated effects on women's income and production; and its response to women's needs, demands and priorities.

Sectoral guidelines cover projects for agriculture and rural development, land settlement, crop diversification, animal and dairy production, forestry, food security, economic and social infrastructure and human resources development. They stress the importance of assessing how food, labour and income are allocated in the family, especially when distributing food rations in health and nutrition projects. The guidelines caution against the narrow view of giving food to women only to improve their nutrition, recommending instead the inclusion of health, training and income-generating elements in these projects. In this way, women will gain access not only to more food and adequate nutrition, but also to new assets, be it improved skills, more productive land or higher incomes.

The guidelines were presented in a report to WFP's governing body at a June 1989 meeting in Rome. □

FAO Agriculture Committee

Rome, 26 April-5 May 1989

The Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), meeting recently in Rome, expressed regret for the impact of resource constraint on activities related to women in development (WID) and hoped that more resources would be made available for them. These remarks were part of the Committee's report adopted at its tenth session (26 April to 5 May). INSTRAW was represented by consultant Marina Vaccari, who provided the basis for the summary that follows.

In reviewing FAO's work in 1986-1988 in the food and agricultural sector, the Committee welcomed efforts made to assist member States in the production of staple foods and in the transfer of technology with regard to food legumes, cereals, roots and tubers,

rice, fruit and vegetables. It endorsed activities in the areas of fertilizers, water development, on-farm water management and irrigation policy. With regard to women, the Committee commended work initiated on gender issues in planning, monitoring and evaluating different rural development projects and the models for staff training in WID. The development of field activities with special focus on rural women was also supported.

Women in development was among the main priority areas endorsed by the Committee for FAO's agriculture programme. It noted with concern that women's participation in co-operatives in developing countries was generally low, and that women were even more underrepresented at the decision-making level. In certain

countries, social conditions and sometimes legislation prevented their full involvement. However, in such enterprises as savings and credit unions and dairy co-operatives, women played an important role, according to the Committee, which was also pleased by the fact that women's interests had been the objective of a number of rural workers' organizations which had successfully grouped landless and self-employed female workers.

The Committee decided to include an agenda item on the integration of women in agricultural and rural development in its next session. The current session was attended by representatives from 91 member States and observers from non-member States, non-governmental and international organizations. □

African Women's Assembly

Harare, 5-9 February 1989

The African Women's Assembly on Sustainable Development, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, decided on actions to ensure women's participation in African development and to hold a series of meetings was organized by the Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Assembly was aimed at bringing women together as managers of national resources to discuss sustainable development in support of the Cairo Plan of Action approved by African ministers of the environment in 1985. The main priorities of that Plan were the halting of environmental degradation, enhancing food-producing capacity; and achieving self-sufficiency in energy.

The Cairo Plan grew out of "a strongly felt need among African Governments that the severity of the environmental crisis in Africa demanded collective action", explained Zim-

babwe Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ms. V.F. Chitepo. If they are to succeed, they must first enlist the co-operation of the African people, she added.

"This is particularly relevant to the women of Africa who traditionally have borne the primary responsibility for providing water, food and energy for their families," said Ms. Chitepo. "Women are responsible for about 70 per cent of food production and 100 per cent of its processing; childbearing; fuel wood gathering and water fetching. These activities, when inappropriately carried out, are a primary cause of environmental degradation."

The Assembly was officially opened by the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Ms. Sally Mugabe. She stressed the importance of African women coming together to discuss how best to put the continent on a sustainable development path, since women are the providers of food, water and energy and the overall

managers of natural resources.

Ms. J. Mujuru, Zimbabwe's Minister of Community and Co-operative Development and Women's Affairs, gave a synopsis of environmental problems in Africa and stressed that solutions lay within Africa itself. It was therefore important, she said, for women to be involved in planning and decision-making of all development projects, as they were the natural implementors of such projects.

The Assembly was attended by representatives from 20 African countries. Canada, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States sent observers, as did UNEP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN's Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), non-governmental and grass-roots women's organizations in Zimbabwe and several international organizations.

The general Rapporteur and UNEP representative was Dr. Shafika Nasser, who is also an INSTRAW consultant. □

WID Data Bank in Africa

Addis Ababa, 15-19 May 1989

Establishment of a regional information network on women in Africa, to be called AFRIFEM, was recommended by the Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of a Data Bank on Women and Development in Africa, held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa.

The meeting was organized by ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) and its Pan African Development Information System (PADIS), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Additional funding was provided by the International Development Research Centre (Canada) and the Ford Foundation.

The ATRCW serves as a regional resource centre for dissemination of data and information and promotes exchange of experiences in the field, explained a representative. Its activities include maintaining a periodical reference unit and publishing a biennial *Update*. PADIS, in turn, develops bibliographic, statistical and referral data bases on African experts, development research and institutions, among others, according to its Director. He added that printed material was employed too much in Africa and that more appropriate means of communication to reach women should be utilized.

At the meeting, experts and observers made presentations on information needs and resources on women and development that should be included in the proposed data bank. Many African producers had been producers of raw data, without the infrastructure to process, analyse and disseminate the information, they said. In almost every country represented at the meeting, documentation systems concerned with women were either absent or inadequate, usually hampered by lack of resources. Poor co-ordination among various documentation services was another barrier frequently cited.

In the debate that followed, they stressed the importance of the contri-

bution of non-governmental organizations to the collection, analysis, organization and dissemination of data on women and development. They underscored the need to include data from the humanities, including history (oral and written), art and philosophy,

in information collections on women. Data collection and dissemination must be two-way flows, they emphasized, with data producers and users being found at all levels of the economic spectrum. Thus, efforts must be made to reach as many women as possible,

(Continued on page 29)

Women, Population and Development

Rome, 16-17 May 1989

The strong emphasis placed on women in the 1989 *State of the World Population* report, which was published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on 16 May, was warmly welcomed by 60 representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attending the 15th NGO/UNFPA Consultation in Europe.

The meeting focused on women, population and development — the theme of the UNFPA report. In that document, Dr. Nafis Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director, stressed that "The extent to which women are free to make decisions affecting their lives may be the key to the future, not only on the poor countries but of the richer ones too. As mothers; producers or suppliers of food, fuel and water; traders and manufacturers; political and community leaders, women are at the centre of the process of change."

During discussions, an NGO representative pointed out that women did not really have a free choice in many countries, not because the policies were not there, but because cultural and religious values prevented them from exercising it. Another NGO participant added that in some countries, a woman can have contraceptives only if her spouse agrees.

The UNFPA report's reference to the need to raise men's awareness was also welcomed by participants, who said that men also have a responsibility in family planning.

Another NGO representative, allud-

ing to the need to promote greater awareness of population issues, suggested that probably the most efficient approach is to use international NGOs, because they have a clear view of what needs to be done and the way to do it. The UNFPA has always played a very useful role by remaining flexible and by facilitating NGO initiatives, he observed.

In addition to reviewing the Fund's plans and policies and discussing how co-operation between it and NGOs can best be promoted, the meeting also heard presentations by three women experts. Pietronella van den Oever, head of the Population, Women and Natural Resources Programme at the World Conservation Union (IUCN), spoke of her group's efforts to integrate population concerns into national conservation strategies. Kaval Gulhati, who founded the Washington-based Centre for Development and Population Activities, discussed the Centre's training activities for women managers. Anita Spring, head of the Women's Unit at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), described the priority areas within the FAO plan of action for the integration of women and development.

The meeting was hosted by the Associazione Italiana Popolazione e Sviluppo (Italian Association for Population and Development), an organization of parliamentarians, academics, media and other personalities who are concerned with population and development. □

Briefing on Women in Development

Washington, D.C., 21 June 1989

Recent efforts concerning the integration of women in development and the impacts on various women's issues of UN strategies adopted at the Nairobi conference on women in 1985 were the topic of a recent briefing by John Mathiason, Deputy Director of the Vienna-based UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

Speaking at a luncheon in Washington, D.C., last 21 June, Mr. Mathiason presented the five years that have elapsed since the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies adopted at that conference as being somewhat successful. He said the movement had progressed and the issues of women in development (WID) had gained both national and international attention.

However, he pointed out that the UN's vision of complete equality for women and of their incorporation in the development process had met with many obstacles, including inadequate resources and political controversy.

To overcome those obstacles, he presented several ideas for the future. In terms of UN strategies, he argued for increased review and appraisal of policies to ensure that goals are being met. Non-governmental organizations should also play a greater role. On the grassroots level, Mr. Mathiason recommended that women become more involved in both political and economic decision-making, since they play a key role in the struggle for their advancement. He also stressed the importance

of social services to support those women.

In mentioning other UN agencies specifically concerned with WID issues, Mr. Mathiason characterized INSTRAW as a "think tank" for new ideas in the international public sector. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) was catalytic but under-financed, he said.

The briefing, which was held at the World Bank headquarters, was attended by 15 representatives of various UN agencies, consultants and intergovernmental organizations, including the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). □

Commission on the Status of Women

Vienna, 29 March-7 April 1989

The Commission on the Status of Women, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN's major intergovernmental body for women's issues, approved three draft resolutions concerning the advancement of women in Latin America. One of these texts recommended that the UN take into account the problems women face in the debtor countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, it recommended that the Council appeal to the appropriate sectors within the debtor and creditor nations to aid implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. By a second resolution on women, human rights and development in Central America, ECOSOC would encourage Governments, UN bodies and non-governmental organizations to support programmes to strengthen women's organizations demanding the fulfilment of their rights as citizens, to support activities and research on Central American women's problems and would urge the international community to support the need for greater participation by women in finding a

political solution to regional conflicts.

The third draft would have the Council exhort Central American Governments and the Contadora Group to ensure the full participation of women at all levels in the search for peace, pluralism, democracy and overall development.

Reports before the Commission asserted that, after a decade of significant progress leading up to 1980, the advancement of women had slowed or even stopped in the 1980s. If the goal of equality of opportunity by the year

2000 was to be reached, "something dramatic" must be done now to revive the pace of progress. By another draft, on the improvement of the status of women in the UN Secretariat, the Council would request the Secretary-General to continue efforts to increase the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts to achieve an overall participation rate of 30 per cent by 1990.

The Commission's resolutions will be submitted to ECOSOC for consideration at its session this fall. □

WOMEN IN ENERGY PROJECTS

The importance of taking women's needs into account, and of assuring their full participation in energy projects, was affirmed by the Inter-Agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) at its 1989 session in Geneva, 9-10 March. INSTRAW consultant Marina Vaccari presented the Institute's activities and training programmes in the field of Women and NRSE—particularly regarding improved stoves—at a follow-up meeting in Rome, 27-28 April, of the UN's Consultative Group on NRSE.

The Inter-Agency Group "agreed that women's needs should be taken into account and their full participation assured, in the planning and implementation of projects in new and renewable sources of energy and in the development of technologies in these areas", according to its report. □

News from the regions

ECA Economic Commission for Africa

The Second International Conference on *Socio-Economic, Policy and Environmental Aspects of Water Resource Management* was held at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 3-8 July 1989, and organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Africa.

The purpose of the forum was to realize the full potential for development of Africa's water resources by promoting communication and a free exchange of information and ideas among users, planners, decision-makers, academics and researchers. Interaction among participants was intended to create avenues for co-operation in the search for a national approach to water resource management for the socio-economic development of African nations.

The UN Task Force on Women, including INSTRAW, was represented by Aminata Traore, PROWESS/Africa Co-ordinator. PROWESS is an interregional project of the UN Development Programme for the Promotion of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Service. □

Nations organizations and international non-governmental organizations, including a representative of INSTRAW.

Also on the subject of water, the ECE has adopted a Charter on Ground-Water Management at its 1989 session, which calls on Governments to protect ground water by preventing pollution and over-use. Under its terms, Governments are urged to introduce effective permit and penalty systems. Qualified personnel should carry out drilling and sinking of wells and boreholes and inventories should be kept of all ground-water aquifers. Land-use policies should take into account the need for natural recharge and protection of ground water; and the widespread use of chemicals in agriculture should be carefully controlled. Education and information should make the public more aware of inherent ground-water problems and international co-operation should be strengthened, the Commission recommended. □

ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

INSTRAW intends to organize a series of training seminars on "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" in co-operation with ECLAC and the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) in 1991.

The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC hosted the ninth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean in Guatemala City, 26-27 September 1989. A small meeting of experts will also be held at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago, Chile, 22-24 November, to discuss the priorities, needs and substantive topics concerning women in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of ECLA's regional programme and the Medium-Term Plan.

The Unit is actively supporting two seminars, one on women's political participation and the other on the transition to democracy and public policy regarding women. □

ECE Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD), in co-operation with the Government of Poland, organized an Interregional Seminar on *Water Quality Management in Developing Countries*. It was convened in Warsaw, Poland, 18-22 September 1989.

The seminar analysed the nature of pollution in developing countries and identified institutional, economic and technical measures for managing water quality on the basis of guidelines from market-oriented and centrally planned developed and developing countries. It was attended by water planners, policy makers, technical specialists and senior officials from developing countries, as well as United

ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD), in co-operation with the Government of Fiji, the University of the South Pacific and the Commonwealth Science Council, organized an Interregional Seminar on *Water Resources Development Techniques for Small Island Countries*, in Suva, Fiji, 26 June-1 July 1989.

The seminar's main objective was to present the range of solutions currently available for solving the different water problems faced by island countries. It marked the first time such matters were discussed in an international forum. Participants with broad experience in the assessment, planning, development and management of water resources shared their experiences with others from Pacific islands which have only recently embarked on water resources development programmes. The agenda covered two major areas. The first, technological solutions, included rainwater catchments; pumping and extraction of ground water; use of non-conventional water resources techniques; use of microcomputers; operation and maintenance of water systems; and water quality. The second area, institutional issues, focused on management of financial resources; human resources development; and legal and organizational issues. □

ESCWA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized an Expert Group Meeting on *Manpower Training Needs in the Water Sector in the ESCWA Region* in Amman, Jordan, 5-8 June 1989.

Among the main objectives of the meeting were to assist ESCWA member States in three areas: improving their manpower situation by enhancing education and training facilities in the field of water resources; launching a programme for manpower education and training needs; and developing a long-term policy for manpower requirements at all levels in the water sector.

Participants also reviewed experiences gained and activities planned for training in water resources development and contributed to upgrading the training capabilities and programmes of existing training water institutions to meet national and regional needs. Finally, they studied the feasibility of establishing a manpower training centre at the regional or subregional level that could be developed later on to handle regional studies, research and development.

INSTRAW's contribution on "Innovative Training Methodologies" in the water sector was presented by Mary Johnson, Deputy Director, International Labour Organization (ILO), Office for the South Pacific. □

WID DATA BANK...

(Continued from page 26)

including those not organized into groups.

Grace Bediako, Technical Adviser to INSTRAW and the UN Statistical Office, addressed the meeting in an observer capacity. She said that both those organizations regarded the compilation and use of statistics on women as a vital element in the development of an African regional data bank on women and development. The Statistical Office had developed a statistical data base on women as well as a data base of statistics and indicators on women in the African region, which were available for wide distribution, for utilization on microcomputers. She stressed the need for co-ordination at national, regional and international levels in the undertaking of further work in the development of an African regional information network for WID.

In a discussion, participants suggested that gender-specific statistics needed not only to be collected, using

questionnaires relevant to Africa, but should be further disaggregated and also analysed and interpreted. Classification and indexing standards should be adopted throughout the network, to facilitate exchange and collation of data. Law and the legal status of women was another area of information need.

Subsequent working groups at the meeting recommended expanding the list of potential information network users to include non-governmental organizations for women, teachers and researchers, the mass media, information agencies and information specialists, as well as bank and credit institutions. The groups detailed information gaps on women and development in the region as well as the need for continuing to update bibliographies. They urged that attention should be given to the special needs of the East African countries, none of which had been included in a study of regional needs and resources.

Finally, the experts recommended that ECA should establish a regional co-ordinating unit to carry out the identified functions, drawing upon the existing data and information resources located within ECA's various offices and other UN bodies. All countries in the region should be called upon to give priority to the establishment of national women's information networks and to make available the necessary human, physical and financial resources. Following the production by ECA of a document summarizing the meeting's recommendations, UNIFEM would approach donors to secure funding.

The meeting was attended by 18 experts from Botswana, Comoroes, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Observers were present from several UN regional commissions, offices and agencies as well as from intergovernmental and bilateral agencies and the Italian Government. □

NEW IDEAS OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM

Aging Women in Latin America

Acapulco, 17-18 June 1989

The effects of rapid social change on older women and their families in Latin America and the Caribbean, and effective programmes for providing support to older people and those who care for them, were examined at a conference in Acapulco, Mexico, last June entitled *Coping with social change: programs that work*.

Margaret Anstee, Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna and head of its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, spoke on the implications for policy-makers and practitioners of population aging in the region. "Informal Sectors of the Economy: Developmental Potential for the Aging" was the subject of a presentation by INSTRAW Director Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic. A concern with aging, particularly as it applies to women, is very much a part of INSTRAW's work, Pastizzi-Ferencic explained. The Institute has been preparing the very first data base on women and aging in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). INSTRAW also produced a paper for AARP in August 1988 entitled *Las mujeres de edad madura en América Latina*.

Conference workshops focused on health promotion and prevention; community-based care; providing shelter; improving the economic situation of older persons; and new roles for older persons. The conference was organized by the International Federation on Aging, AARP, the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. It was followed on 20 June by a meeting on establishing a Collaborating Network on Information Exchange, sponsored by the UN International Institute on Aging and by the XIV World Congress of Gerontology. □

DOMINICAN AMBASSADRESS TO UN HONOURED FOR WORK ON AGING



On 18 June, at the XIV World Congress of Gerontology in Acapulco, Mexico, Julia Tavares de Alvarez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, was among four individuals and organizations honoured with a testimonial award in recognition of dedicated service in support of the UN's programme on aging. This was the first time in the history of the United Nations that such an award was made, said Margaret J. Anstee, who delivered the awards on behalf of the Secretary-General. Anstee is Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna

and heads its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

"Many individuals and organizations throughout the world have worked tirelessly to help the UN and its States Members to improve the well-being and status of the elderly," Ms. Anstee continued. "Their leadership, energy and vision are essential to the implementation of the international plan of action and to the work of the UN bodies and agencies. It is only the combined efforts of individuals, governments and non-governmental organizations that will ensure that the expanding global aging population will be able to live productively and in dignity."

Ambadressess Tavares de Alvarez has been active in the creation of the UN World Foundation on Aging and participated in the 1982 World Assembly on Aging, among other activities in the field of gerontology.

The other recipients of the testimonials were Vincent Tabone, President of the Republic of Malta; Professor Gary Roberts Andrews of the Centre of Aging Studies at the University of South Australia; and Help Age International, a British NGO. □

Integrating Women in to the Development Process

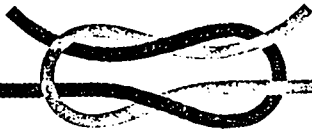
Lagos, 26-27 May 1989

The African Development Bank organized this two-day workshop for Ministers of Women's Affairs in Lagos, Nigeria. Entitled *Forging Stronger Links between the Ministry of Finance/Planning and Women's National Machineries with a View to Including Women's Projects among National Priorities*, the workshop discussed strategies and means for integrating women into the development process through the financing of women's projects and programmes by the African Development Bank.

INSTRAW was invited to attend the meeting in an observer capacity. □



Enjoying retirement age in China



Women and Solidarity

Rome, 21-25 May 1989

A seminar on *Women and Solidarity* was held by the Insieme per la Pace association in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Noi per Loro, both based in Rome. Sessions covered women's roles in international and supranational organizations; women in governments and institutions; women in non-governmental organizations and in voluntary service; and women and research for humanitarian aims.

Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW, presented a paper on "Solidarity as the Foundation for Peace: The United Nations and the Advancement of Women", in which she surveyed the role of the UN since its founding, focusing on the work of the Institute. □

Women, Law and Development

Washington, D.C., 13 June 1989

This symposium on *Women, Law and Development: A Cross-Cultural Dialogue* was sponsored by Overseas Education Fund (OEF) International. African, Asian, Latin American and North American women's rights advocates discussed legal issues faced by women throughout the world. Participants represented the regional networks established by OEF's Third World Forum on Women, Law and Development in Nairobi, 1985. Following are summaries of their reports:

- **India:** While the Indian Constitution provides a guaranteed bill of rights for women's absolute equality, a vast number of women remain in a state of servility because cultural oppression pervades Indian society.

- **Ghana:** The linkages between custom, culture, religion and civil law cause many problems. Women in Ghana have, however, been trying to use law for the betterment of women's status by getting uniform laws passed on the distribution of property after divorce.

- **Asia:** That region is witnessing an alarming increase in prostitution and transnational trafficking of women. Women's groups must strengthen regional mechanisms in order to protect women's rights; they should also network with women's groups in industrialized nations.

- **United States:** Women in the U.S. face similar legal and social constraints and challenges as do women in the Third World. For women immigrants in particular, these problems include isolation and the resulting lack of knowledge and access to information. Concerted efforts are needed to educate judges to minimize gender-biased decisions. There is also concern about employment inequalities and the growing impoverishment of women.

- **Brazil:** The Brazilian Constitution is one of the more advanced in terms of women's rights, but judicial reforms are still needed to enforce the written law.

In their conclusions, participants stressed that progress will result from the co-operative efforts of both women and men; however, all aspects of the system—legal, political, cultural, etc.—must be changed. Equality before the law does not necessarily imply equality in practice, they observed, adding that trans-cultural systems must also be addressed. □

North-South, South-South Co-operation



Bled, 5-7 April 1989

An international workshop on *Innovative Approaches to North-South and South-South Co-operation: New Development Consensus* was organized by the Centre for International Co-operation and Development in Bled, Yugoslavia. The purpose was to present different views and proposals for improved global co-operation, particularly between North-South and South-South.

In a session on global structural changes, participants discussed the implications for North-South co-operation of the growing internationalization, privatization and indebtedness of the world economy. They also looked at the impact of technology transfer, deregulation vs. regulation of national economies and science and technology developments on the efficiency of the factors of production.

The role of multilateral international institutions; complementary approaches to debt relief, such as partial write-offs and debt-for-equity swaps; and multilateralism vs. bilateralism were the topics of a second session on revitalizing North-South co-operation.

The workshop also re-examined South-South co-operation, with a special emphasis on integration processes among developing countries. The main obstacles to South-South co-operation, participants noted, are inadequate production structure, lack of financial resources, technological dependence, underdeveloped transportation and insufficient marketing and information infrastructure, among others. In that regard, participants shared experiences of regional regimes for joint investment promotion ventures.

The need for an integrated approach and better co-ordination of activities between the Group of 77 Developing Countries and the Non-Aligned Movement, and the institutionalization of

South-South co-operation as a means to improve the efficiency and bargaining position of developing countries in international economic relations—particularly in such non-traditional areas as services, information, technology, science and the environment—were among the innovative approaches to South-South co-operation discussed at the workshop.

More than 40 participants from research institutes, universities, UN bodies and the regional commissions attended. INSTRAW was represented by its Director, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, who presented a paper on "Women's Work in the Informal Sectors of the Economy: An Untapped Resource for Development". □

WOMEN IN THE U.S. WIN FIGHT TO END EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Following the adoption in 1979 by the UN General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention was ratified by 93 countries as of 31 May 1987. Under its terms, States Parties to the Convention agree to "take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment". Various countries are now relying on the machinery established by the Convention to see that its terms are implemented. One case of violation involves an agency of the United States Government, which has not ratified the Convention: in 1984, after nearly 12 years of litigation, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia found the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Voice of America (VOA) guilty of sex discrimination against thousands of women who had applied for jobs with those agencies. The Court ordered VOA and USIA to conduct a massive advertising campaign and search to locate women who applied for jobs, primarily in the communications fields, between October 1974 and November 1984 and who were turned down. □

Women in Development

Brussels, 18-21 April 1989

The main theme at the XV General Assembly of European NGOs was *Women in Development*. Working groups on women and debt, women and emergencies, women and population, women and food and women and images produced a wide range of recommendations and proposals directed at NGOs, the European Community (EC) and the wider development community. The two other main themes of the Assembly were the European elections of June 1989 and the IV Lomé Convention, to be signed this October, by which the 12 EC member States will provide financial, commercial, technical and emergency assistance to 97 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The Assembly was hosted by the NGO Liaison Committee to the EC and the Commission of the European Communities. □

Women's Studies Convention

Colombo, 1-3 March 1989

The Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) in Sri Lanka, an NGO formed to undertake and promote research and action programmes and to provide information and documentation services relating to women, hosted this first national convention on women's studies with funding provided by the International Development Research Centre, Canada. The objectives were to stimulate multidisciplinary and in-depth research on women's issues; to develop theoretical perspectives and appropriate research methodologies; to identify research priorities *vis-à-vis* the situation of women in Sri Lanka; and to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences, among others.

Female dependent households and women's productive work were addressed in a session on women and the economy. In the area of women and agriculture, experts discussed the implications for Sri Lankan peasant women of agrarian transformations and women's participation in crop production in the dry zone. Women and household income; Sri Lankan migrants to West Asia; women entrepreneurs; and the effects of ethnic strife on self-employed women were dealt with under the heading of women and economic activities.

The broad range of topics covered at the convention also included Tamil women and the concept of matriliney; the "virginity test" for brides; Buddhism and female emancipation; gender dimensions of education; and the legal status of Muslim women in Sri Lanka. There were additional sessions on women and health, management, the media and the household.

CENWOR, which is INSTRAW's focal point in Sri Lanka, also publishes a newsletter entitled *Sthree Prabodha*. In the July 1988 issue, the cover story on "Invisible Women" discusses women's role in the informal sector, referring to the joint CENWOR/INSTRAW workshops on that area. The theme is continued in a department called Development Issues.

Other departments include Social Issues, in which the focus in this issue is on rape; networking; current research; and resources. There is also a piece on the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, a highly innovative formal credit institution that extends banking facilities and credit to the poor and landless, particularly women. Finally, the back cover is reserved for a department called Database, completed with charts and graphs; in this issue, the family is highlighted. □

Global Empowerment of Women

Washington, D.C., 17-19 November 1989

Development Challenge for the 1990s: Global Empowerment of Women is the theme of the fourth conference of the Association for Women in Development (AWID), held in Washington, D.C., USA. Specifically, the conference focuses on women's empowerment for sustainable development in political and economic life, educational access and cultural expression. It will link practitioners, policy-makers and researchers, who will relate the experiences of women from industrialized and developing countries. □

Women and Health

San Juan, 9-10 November 1989

The *Primer Congreso Puertorriqueño de Mujer y Salud* (First Puerto Rican Congress on Women and Health) was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It is being organized by the Universidad de Puerto Rico and co-sponsored by various governmental organizations and corporations and institutions from the private sector.

Topics include women in the health professions, aging women, family planning and reproductive rights, occupational health, sex education, community health, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, public policy, health and sexuality, preventive health and sports and health and family. The purpose is to disseminate research, stimulate dialogue and develop future agendas for research, service and public policy on the basis of the Puerto Rican situation and of exchanges with specialists from the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe. INSTRAW and the World Health Organization are among the international organizations who were invited to attend. □

WATER DECADE AND BEYOND

The Water '89 Conference, in Bangkok, Thailand, 14-17 December 1989, is an international forum directed towards the promotion of international cooperation in solving water and sanitation problems by bringing together a global wealth of experience and expertise from government representatives, UN agencies and other research and development organizations in the public and private sectors.

This year, the conference theme is "Water Decade and Beyond", with special emphasis on the following areas: o alternative water sources o water conservation o water pollution prevention o computer applications o water and wastewater treatment o small water and wastewater treatment system o water reuse and recycling o industrial wastewater management o hazardous waste management and o water desalination.

The conference, focuses on examining the Water Decade and the lessons learned, and on strategies, working plans, technical expertise and equipment, and international and regional co-operation networks that should be formulated for, and utilized over, the next 10 years.

The conference was organized by the Thai Environmental Engineers Association, Chulalongkorn University and the Asian Institute of Technology, in collaboration with Communication International Associated. □

UN PHOTO/John Isaac



Washing clothes
at a stream near Huyaculi,
Bolivia

Designing Credit Programmes for Low Income Women



Garland-making for religious ceremony A. Albee

The National Housing Development Authority of Sri Lanka has been involved in a successful credit programme for low-income women that aims to provide credit and support options for small enterprises, many of which are managed by women, through community action. The programme guides the community in choosing such options, which range from direct banking loans and small mutual self-help groups to allocating land for businesses and supporting rural-to-urban

marketing links. Communities choose the options most appropriate to their needs, and in this way the diversity of interests and needs are met. The amount of credit may be as little as US\$20, repayable within a month, or as much as US\$500, repayable over 12 months. Nonetheless, because the programme is particularly interested in supporting women, small loans for home-based production are emphasized. Within Colombo, the smaller the enterprise the more likely it is to be managed by a woman.

Based on its own experience, the Authority has developed 10 principles that should guide credit programmes for low-income urban women. Those principles are summarized below.

- Make credit a key issue but not the only issue. By developing a programme which familiarizes them with formal credit mechanisms, a bridge can be built that will eventually link them to credit institutions.

- Start with short-term and small loans. Small short-term loans not only "test" the borrower's willingness to repay, they also allow the borrower to see if indeed credit will help her business to grow.

- Extend credit in a simple way and quickly. Loan applicants become discouraged if they have to wait months before receiving services; they are more familiar with moneylenders who give cash quickly and informally.

- Complex recordkeeping should not be required. Programmes should be designed which build on memory skills, and recordkeeping, which may be a new idea, should be introduced as the business grows.

- Security deposits and collateral should not be required. Nonetheless, guarantees made by a pair or a group of people can be put forth.

- Encourage a group approach. Encouraging groups among poor women can build solidarity and can be a means of problem-solving and voicing needs in difficult times.

- Let the women decide who will be a member of the group. This will enable them to form groups by selecting friends and co-workers they can rely on to repay a loan.

- Building trust is the most important group function. Women who have chosen to work as a group begin functioning on trust, and should be encouraged to select a leader on the basis of trust.

- Communications and information are crucial. Experience has shown that some of the most effective field staff are those who are themselves from low-income areas, who are often very effective at both disseminating and collecting information.

- Experience is the best teacher. Groups can be encouraged to learn from their experience and exchange ideas with other groups through exchange visits involving short and frequent discussions and workshops. □

Excerpt from an article by Alana Albee, Consultant, National Housing Development Authority, Sri Lanka.

Dominican Sugarcane Cutter Attends INSTRAW Seminar

VICTORIA D'OLEO CORDERO, who has been a sugarcane cutter in Barahona, Dominican Republic, since 1940, attended INSTRAW's recent seminar on Post-Nairobi Strategies (see p. 17) on a scholarship from the Institute. Ms. d'Oleo has been honoured with two decorations for her work: in 1971 Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer awarded her three medals as the best sugarcane cutter of the Barahona plantation, and in 1989, on the occasion of International Women's Day, she received a gold medal from the National Bureau for the Advancement of Women in recognition of her long years of dedication on behalf of her fellow peasant women.

Ms. d'Oleo has been involved in every aspect of the sugarcane industry, from cutting and weeding to irrigating the fields. She now spends less time cutting and devotes her time primarily to travelling throughout the region, training other women and men in sugarcane work. She is also active in the water project of a local women's group, planting tomatoes, eggplant, sorghum and plantain.

Her life has not been easy. She separated from the father of her child when she was only three months pregnant and thereafter had to support both her son and her old mother, who died four years ago at age 108. "If I had had a husband I would have had to take care of him too; it was enough just having to provide my son and my mother with their daily bread," she said. And she is proud of her son—now 23 years old—who is studying law, thanks largely to her support.

Ms. d'Oleo remarked that several decades ago, there were as many women cutting sugarcane as there were men. That has changed, however, as women leave the countryside to seek better-paid work in the cities.

Despite her age, Ms. d'Oleo continues to cut sugarcane. Why? "Because I like it; it's my profession," she said. □

Bookshelf

selected INSTRAW publications

644-69
Report on the Regional Training Seminar on Women's Contribution to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. *INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989, 50 pages, English.*

Sponsored by INSTRAW and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), this seminar was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 23-27 January 1989 (see *INSTRAW News* No. 12, page 26).

The report presents a summary of the opening statements by Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Koji Nakagawa, and the representative of INSTRAW, Stephani Scheer.

The main part of the report deals with the substantive issues, divided into five modules:

I. Introduction of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and INSTRAW.

II. Participation of women in planning water supply and sanitation projects.

III. Involvement of women in choice of technology and implementation of water supply and sanitation.

IV. Role of women in education and training activities for water supply and sanitation.

V. Evaluation of water supply and sanitation projects.

The annexes include a list of participants from 15 countries and 13 agencies and organizations within and outside the UN system, as well as observers and resource persons.

Report on the INSTRAW/UNDP/UNFPA joint sub-regional training workshop on women in development (WID). *INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989, 39 pages, English.*

The purpose of this workshop, held at INSTRAW Headquarters, 28 Nov.-2 Dec. 1988, was to train UN staff and project officials from governments and non-governmental organizations

on the use of gender analysis for programme and project development, monitoring and evaluation. It was organized by INSTRAW in collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and attended by 50 participants from UN agencies, government ministries, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and resource persons (listed in Annex II of the report).

The report summarizes the opening session on general background and basic techniques on WID issues, with contributions on the relevant activities of UNDP and UNFPA. Other sessions and workshops, whose topics included a historical perspective on WID; an overview of the situation of women in the Caribbean; how to do a gender analysis and apply it to WID projects; how to incorporate activities at national-sectoral levels; women, population and development issues; special features of the Caribbean sub-region; and planning and country programming, are also reviewed in the report.

Contribution à l'étude du besoin actuel de renforcement des mécanismes nationaux visant à intégrer les femmes aux projets de développement. *INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989, 62 pages, French.*

This study was conducted by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in March 1987 and financed by INSTRAW. It deals with characteristics of national mechanisms for integrating women into development projects in Africa and changes in the structure of those mechanisms since 1975 and makes concrete recommendations on the position those mechanisms should hold within governmental structures and the strategies they should implement in the areas of training, information and co-operation with governmental technical services.

After stressing the preponderance

of the political factor within national mechanisms, the study focuses on the case of two specific countries, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. It analyses the functioning, objectives, tasks, responsibilities, action programme and organizational structure of the Ethiopian mechanism—the Revolutionary Ethiopia Women's Association—and summarizes its strong and weak points. Regarding the Ministry of Community Development and the Condition of Women of Zimbabwe, the study analyses the functions of its sections and programmes, its activities and its general and specific objectives concerned with the condition of women and presents a table of the strengths and weaknesses of the Zimbabwean national mechanism.

The study concludes that despite the many efforts of the last few years, women's participation in development is not yet a reality. It then examines the causes of this disappointing situation, which include the society's cultural values; prevailing economic structures; psychological obstacles that perpetuate existing stereotypes; the difficulty of access to financial, technological and educational resources; administrative impediments; and the fact that most women work in such sectors as food-producing agriculture and marginal jobs, which do not represent an important area for national planning.

One annex to the study presents the experience of three women's co-operatives in Zimbabwe as well as the programmes of various ministries in that country geared at improving the condition of women, providing the exact dates, stated goals and resources necessary for the programmes. A second annex consists of suggestions by various ministries of Zimbabwe regarding implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies adopted at the Nairobi conference on women in 1985.

The study was carried out within the framework defined by the 1985 Arusha strategies of the Economic

Commission for Africa, the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, all of which call for further achievements to be made involving women's contribution on both the sectoral and global levels.

Report on the Seminar on Women in Development: Post-Nairobi Alternative Approaches. *INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989, 23 pages, English. INSTRAW/SER.A/15.*

At this sub-regional seminar for the Caribbean, which was held at INSTRAW Headquarters in Santo Domingo, 11-14 July 1989, Caribbean women leaders gathered to share their experiences about the trends and alternative approaches related to women in the subregion since the end of the UN Decade for Women in 1985 and the adoption by consensus of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

In plenary sessions, INSTRAW personnel provided input on the Institute's approach to women and development, with particular emphasis on its innovative work in the areas of statistics and training. Participants presented summaries of the current situation in their respective countries, specifically in the implementation of the Strategies. Three topics were discussed in greater depth by working groups: the identification of WID issues for policy design and action at international, regional and national levels; integrated and sectoral approaches to participatory planning and programming—guidelines and checklists on WID; and selected country reports submitted to the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The Report begins with a summary of remarks made at the opening session by INSTRAW Director Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, who stated that a long-standing economic crisis in the Caribbean was endangering the achievements of social objectives. Hilka Pietila, discussing the activities of the Finnish UN Association and of the World Federation of UN Associations, mentioned the weaknesses of those organizations as well as of Governments' responses to the Nairobi Strategies.

The Report also includes presentations of individual country situations

by participants from Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ireland, Nevis-St. Kitts and Mexico. It summarizes presentations by INSTRAW staff members and consultants on statistics, indicators and data on women and the informal sector. Discussions of issues and problems in WID planning; INSTRAW's modular training packages; communication technologies as applied to WID and evaluation methodologies on WID are also included. Finally, the Report contains the reports of the three working groups, a list of documents and a list of the 46 participants from Governments and international organizations.

Women's studies and development: bridging the gap; an INSTRAW contribution to women in development material. *INSTRAW, Santo Domingo, 1989, 110 pages, English, INSTRAW/SER.B/39.*

This anthology is a contribution to the evolution of Women and Development Studies in the post-UN Women's Decade era, pulling together worldwide research advocating a linkage between the micro and macro, the individual and the systems which directly influence the condition of women in all societies. The 14 papers presented in the volume propose new analysis and new policies and practices on teaching/learning women's studies—an emerging discipline which is linked to several social science subjects and is begging for new methodologies and approaches. Contributors are all researchers or academics from around the world.

The two papers in the section on Micro-Macro Frontiers call for rapid, vigorous and overdue research into specific macro-economic trends which are stultifying popular development, as experienced in the Caribbean and Latin America. The second part of the volume comprises four papers with contrasting accounts of the evolution of Women's Studies in Brazil, India, Canada and Yugoslavia.

The seven papers in part three of the volume take up different approaches and methodologies developed at the national and regional levels to adapt women's studies to the changing parameters of different social science disciplines. One author calls for new

historical studies and a sensitive analysis of reproductive and productive work patterns to reclaim the past and present in the rapidly changing, pluralist African context. Some of the trends in Western and Eastern Europe are explored, as are the contradictions in policy towards rural women everywhere that are generated by the conflicting interests of the Northern powers. A final chapter is a synthesis which draws heavily on INSTRAW research and training material.

There are three annexes: a global survey on WID studies; a matrix linking various social stratification factors affecting women; and a glossary of terms. A bibliography is also included.

A second companion volume, now being prepared by INSTRAW, will compile prototype curricula in order to connect women and development to mainstream disciplines. □

DENIS McINTOSH...

(Continued from page 19)

ment. Oftentimes people take the narrow view, that we are just talking about affirmative action, and when we talk about affirmative action they think, OK, you're just talking about having a woman in the job as opposed to a man. But in fact it goes much deeper than that: WID issues get down to the very heart of the economic infrastructure. It makes sense to put all the components into place so that we can use all available resources for economic development and not ignore some of those resources because of certain historical and cultural peculiarities we are faced with.

IN: What progress do you think has been made in women's issues during the United Nations Decade for Women?

DM: One of the most significant developments has been the level of awareness created, not only with such international organizations as the UN and the Commonwealth, but also with bilateral organizations, USAID and the EEC, which have all established policies for women in development. It also profits women at the grass-roots level in general because women, children and men all benefit; it makes our societies better, and that's what this is all about. □

Book Notes

Doing development: government, NGOs and the rural poor in Asia. *Richard Holloway, Ed. London, Earthscan Publications Ltd., 1989, 233 p., English.*

Despite all the money being spent on development aid, the rural poor in Asia are becoming poorer and even more powerless. Government funding and Western assistance go to projects which often worsen the problems of poverty and exploitation. City-based "experts" design rural development programmes without consulting villagers, while local officials and wealthier villages are made responsible for distributing aid money, increasing the likelihood of corruption. The people who suffer are the very poor, particularly women.

As this book describes it, a different kind of development work is also being done by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to empowering the poor. *Doing Development* is written by people who are doing just that; based in different parts of Asia, the contributors look at the limitations of both Governments and NGOs and at how these can work together to make aid money more effective. This book challenges the conventional assumptions behind development work, and shows how the only way to make real changes is to work at the causes of rural poverty.

One chapter of the book discusses legal rights for poor women placing the work of the Socio-Legal Aid Research and Training Centre (SLARTC) in Calcutta in the context of Indian law and government. This organization has been working for many years to

give the poor some knowledge of the law and their rights under the Indian Constitution. As examples, the author describes a rape case being brought by a poor Indian woman against her assailants as well as a lawsuit against a husband accused of dowry death, both of which are being investigated by SLARTC. The organization offers socio-legal courses to social workers who organize the villagers into cells so that problems can be solved at the village level. In addition, SLARTC itself takes up difficult cases, dealing with the legal paperwork, negotiating with the police, providing advice and handling court cases.

As the author states, "The legal problems faced by men revolve around land; those of women, around men. While SLARTC works with both men and women, it is women that are the main target group as they face the double burden of poverty and the oppression of a patriarchal society..." SLARTC helps to combat their problems by encouraging them to develop self-assertion through networking and legal courses.

Midlife and older women in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Pan American Health Organization and American Association of Retired Persons. Washington, 1989, 424 p., English.*

This book is the result of a project conducted by the two co-publishers to highlight the situation of midlife and older women in Latin American and the Caribbean, a population group which, to date, has received relatively little attention from researchers and policy-makers. The first stage of the

project, and of this volume, consisted of preparing an extensive background report based on an exhaustive review of available statistical data and information from published and unpublished sources. Lee Sennott-Miller, a professor at the University of Arizona, wrote the background paper on "The Health and Socioeconomic Situation" of the target group.

The second stage of the project was the organizing and convening of the first "Consulting Group Meeting on Midlife and Older Women in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Research and Policy Implications." The papers presented at the meeting, along with a summary of discussions and recommendations, constitute the second part of the publication, and are organized around health, psychosocial and economic aspects, as well as regional and national perspectives. Topics relating to midlife women in specific countries include chronic disease; morbidity and mortality; medical care for the elderly; widowhood; female sexuality and aging; role changes; changing gender hierarchies; and domestic workers.

The book contains a paper by Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, Director of INSTRAW, entitled "Problems of Data Collection and Research on Midlife and Older Women." In it she discusses the need to revise the traditional view that the problem of the aging is negligible for developing countries, since in fact, the population of the elderly living in the developing world will reach 71 per cent of the total by the year 2025. She also summarizes the findings of an INSTRAW data base on the economic role of elderly women in Latin America

Book Notes

and the Caribbean and suggests a new conceptual framework to be used in research and data gathering in this field in order to secure elderly women's well-being and participation in development. Among the areas where further data are needed: health care and nutrition; social welfare services; environment and housing; pension and insurance systems; employment, work and personal income levels; family protection and social support for extended families; participation in political life, professional associations and community-level associations; and education and culture.

Women and South-South cooperation; bridge to the mainstream. *Centre for International Cooperation and Development and Zimbabwe Institute of Development Studies. Ljubljana, Harare, Santo Domingo, 1988, 37 p., English.*

This booklet describes a research programme proposal prepared under the support and guidance of INSTRAW, to be co-ordinated jointly by INSTRAW and the two above-mentioned organizations. In its first stage, the programme initiated a strategy for research on women and development, which deals with issues of sustainable, people-centred, self-reliant development. The programme is based on sectoral studies and was conceived to obtain data and information from the various international organizations, research institutes, public and private enterprises involved in the status, achievements and prospects of South-South cooperation. The 1986 Cairo meeting of the Group of 77 Developing Countries lent its full support to the programme.

The booklet goes on to detail a study on the role of women in development, carried out in the first stage of the programme, and which identified major obstacles to the implementation of more active South-South co-operation. It then describes the second stage of the research programme, which would move beyond exclusively research activities and concentrate on programming specific actions to overcome those obstacles.

The institutional framework for the research programme is presented, including a list of possible co-operating partners, followed by an outline of general and specific projects to be undertaken in trade, agriculture, industry, energy, money and finance, science and technology and health. The time frame (1988-1995) and budget are discussed, and there is a selected bibliography.

Population and women in development. *National Population Committee of the Economic and Social Research Council. Atif A.R. Sagbayroun, Ed. Khartoum, Arrow Press. 1987, 116 p., English.*

This book contains a selection of nine papers presented at the Workshop on the Role of Women in Development and Population Activities, held in Khartoum, 18-20 March 1985, and organized by the National Population Committee of the Economic and Social Research Council. As the editor points out, "until very recently, studies of development in the Sudan have almost totally ignored women". Accordingly, this volume "brings together in one place many scattered

socioeconomic and demographic insights into women's lives in the Sudan".

Among the most pressing health issues of women, as discussed by one of the papers, is the high maternal mortality in the Sudan - 160 to 1,100 per 100,000 live births. Another paper deals with the role of village midwives, observing that although certified midwives have by and large taken the place of traditional birth attendants in the country, the former still play a very active role in delivery and in both male and female circumcision; distressingly few of them are not even aware of family planning services.

A paper on the drought-afflicted women of western Sudan looks at the eating habits of the region's ethnic groups, noting that men eat first and in most cases women eat whatever is left over. Some 95 per cent of severely malnourished cases that had to be treated by artificial feeding were women and children.

The paper also points out the reasons for malnutrition in women as compared to men under famine conditions and considers the consequences of male migration to towns during periods of drought. It concludes with four measures for helping women in western Sudan: seed distribution, distribution of milking goats, improvement and expansion of horticulture and the development of handicrafts.

The book also contains papers on the need for a national population policy; mass media roles in women's development and education; women's training in food production; the shadow economy; and the situation of women in western and southern Sudan. □

In-house news

● In June and again in August, Lucy Marmolejos, Executive Director of Terra Nova Foundation, a non-profit group based in the Dominican Republic, visited INSTRAW to collect public information material for distribution at an international conference in the Bahamas on the promotion of women in development and the agricultural sector. She was briefed on the Institute's activities in the informal sector and on the training modules.

● INSTRAW organized an informal meeting to introduce Ragnbild Nerjord, a representative of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), to local women journalists. Nerjord was interested both in knowing more about INSTRAW's organization and plans and in evaluating the working conditions of women journalists in Central America and the Caribbean.

● Also in June, Quisqueya Palacios of the UN Personnel Office in New York gave a lecture on "Women and the United Nations: Possibilities of Working", which was attended by numerous non-governmental organizations and government officials.

● In July, Helen Hudson of the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo visited the Institute for an exchange of views.

● From Honduras, Gisela Maul, a German social worker collaborating with CO-HAAT—a German-Honduran project on food security—came to the Institute for an exchange of views and presented a study on women and food security to Krishna Ahooja-Patel, INSTRAW's Deputy Director.

● Pauline Eccles, participant in INSTRAW's seminar on "Women in Development: Post-Nairobi Alternative Approaches", spent two weeks here preparing the seminar's final report, in co-operation with INSTRAW staff.

● In August, Jurgen Heinrichs, Chairman of the London-based International Planned Parenthood Federation, was informed of INSTRAW's activities.

● Tom Lent, a training consultant for Save the Children Federation of Westport, Connecticut, came to

INSTRAW to collect materials for the organization's upcoming project for children's survival in the Dominican Republic.

● INSTRAW continuously receives local visitors for whom the Institute is a valuable source of information on women's issues. Recent examples are Elisa Rodríguez and Arelis Sánchez, President and Vice-President of the Fundación de Ayuda a la Mujer

Reclusa, a non-profit group devoted to helping women in prison.

● Erica Meltzer, a New York-based writer, worked as a consultant in INSTRAW Public Information Unit during the summer of 1989, editing this issue of INSTRAW News and the proceedings of the Institute's 1988 consultative meeting in Rome on communications for women in development. □

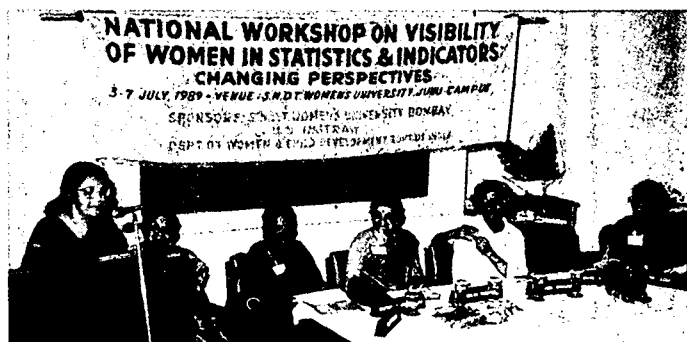
Deputy Director Leaves INSTRAW

KRISHNA AHOOJA-PATEL, Deputy Director of INSTRAW, retired from the United Nations in late September after twenty five years of service. She will hold a chair on Women in Development at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

On behalf of INSTRAW, Ms. Patel evaluated and developed teaching methodologies on linking women's issues to macroeconomic problems within and outside the UN system. She has been involved in major programme areas which included producing a state-of-the-art survey and a monograph on women's access to technology. She also wrote the conceptual framework for a study now being prepared on women's access to credit. Ms. Patel undertook research on a global survey of women and development studies in an INSTRAW publication *Women's Studies and Development: Bridging the Gap*.

Her first assignment at INSTRAW was to compile a compendium on Women in Economic Activity: A Global Statistical Survey (1950-2000), a joint International Labour Organization (ILO)/INSTRAW project. She had been working with ILO from 1968 to 1986, when she was seconded to INSTRAW. A major part of these years was spent on women workers' programmes. She also edited an ILO journal *Women at Work for the Women's Decade*. Ms. Patel has a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Geneva and a barrister-at-law degree from London's Inner Temple.

INSTRAW staff members are greatly appreciative of Ms. Patel's many valuable contributions to the Institute's work and wish her the best of success in her new endeavour. □



Krishna Ahooja-Patel (far left) lecturing at the National Workshop on Women in Statistics, in India, July 1989 (see page 22).

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The main purpose of *INSTRAW News* is to report on the work of the Institute and, in doing this, to record research trends, disseminate training materials, and promote networking on women in development issues at a global level. The editorial policy of INSTRAW is to select events, news and items linked with its programmes and related activities.

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