UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research,
Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction
HRP

External evaluation 1990-2002

Executive summary





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Department of Reproductive Health and Research

World Health Organization

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To order a copy of this publication, please contact:

Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Fax: **41-22-7914189 41-22-7914171**

Tel: **41-22-7914447 41-22-7913346**

E-mail: rhrpublications@who.int

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The members of the External Evaluation Team are responsible for the views expressed in this document.

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If this evaluation has succeeded in providing information that will enable the Programme better to plan for the future, then key to that success were the members of the External Evaluation Monitoring Team (EEMT): Berit Austveg, Chairperson; Elizabeth Lule and Khama Rogo, World Bank; Laura Laski, United Nations Population Fund; Valerie Young, Canadian International Development Agency; and Jean Marie Kasia, Cameroon. WHO input to this group was provided by Tomris Türmen and Carla AbouZahr. In addition to providing advice on the design of the study, the EEMT reviewed and responded to early drafts of the report, and suggested additional information and analysis.

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PREFACE

This document contains a summary of the external evaluation of the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), conducted in 2002–2003 and covering the period 1990–2002.

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess whether HRP had met, and was continuing to meet, expectations in terms of its mission and objectives. The evaluation was based on an independent review by a group of evaluators selected through an open global tender. It assessed various outputs or HRP products, and included qualitative and quantitative reviews of country reports and information and opinions from key informants. The full external evaluation report is available on request from:

Publications Unit
Department of Reproductive Health and Research
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Fax: (+41-22) 791-4171
E-mail: lamberts@who.int

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT

DAC Development Assistance Committee
EEMT External Evaluation Monitoring Team

EC External Evaluation Team emergency contraception

FWCW Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)

GAP Gender Advisory Panel

HIV human immunodeficiency virus

HRP UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development

and Research Training in Human Reproduction

ICPD International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994)

IG informant group IUD intrauterine device

LID long-term institutional development MSH Management Sciences for Health NGO nongovernmental organization

NIS Newly Independent States (of the former Soviet Union)
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PCC Policy and Coordination Committee

RAP Regional Advisory Panel

RCS research capacity strengthening

RHR Department of Reproductive Health and Research

RHT Reproductive Health (Technical Support)

RTI reproductive tract infection

SCIH Swiss Centre for International Health (of the Swiss Tropical Institute)

SERG Scientific and Ethical Review Group
STAG Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

STI sexually transmitted infection

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund WHO World Health Organization

ABBREVIATED SUMMARY

The UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the main instrument within the United Nations system for the coordination, promotion, conduct and evaluation of international research in human reproduction. The Programme was last evaluated in 1989. The current external evaluation, covering the period 1990–2002, was conducted by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and the Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH) of the Swiss Tropical Institute.

The evaluation focused on four key issues: (1) the relevance and effectiveness of HRP-supported research in reproductive health; (2) the dissemination, global use and impact of the results of HRP's reproductive health research; (3) reproductive health research capacity strengthening by HRP and the use and impact of HRP's work at country level; and (4) the HRP governance process, management, administration and efficiency. Conclusions and recommendations are based on document review, citation analysis of selected publications, seven country visits, and input from more than 300 informants, of whom 249 provided detailed information through interviews and email questionnaires. Two thematic case studies (one on emergency contraception and one on mainstreaming gender and women's perspectives) were also performed, which provided further in-depth information on specific aspects of HRP's work.

The overall conclusion was that, during the period 1990–2002, HRP clearly met expectations in terms of its core mission to coordinate, promote, conduct and evaluate international research in reproductive health and achieved its major objectives. The Programme maintained its position as the global leader in generating research results and establishing the scientific consensus needed to advance reproductive health policies and practices, especially for developing countries.

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Relevance and effectiveness of HRP-supported research in reproductive health

Conclusions

HRP was a major contributor to the paradigm shift from family planning and demographic

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