

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

**PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME
UNEP - MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

**First Meeting of National Focal Points
for the Priority Actions Programme**

FPM.1/INF.2

Split, 6-8 December 1982

**EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES
DEALING WITH HINTERLAND - COASTAL MIGRATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN - UNEP

PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME (PAP)

Project proposal for the second phase of
the priority action on human settlements

Title of Project:

Evaluation of government policies dealing
with hinterland - coastal migration in the
Mediterranean region.

Executing Agency:

International Labour Office (Geneva)

Duration:

18 months

Estimated total cost:

\$271,000

Donor contribution:

\$202,000

ILO contribution:

\$ 69,000

1.0 Introduction

Since the Second World War, many Mediterranean countries have experienced increasing levels of migration from the hinterland to the coastal areas. As a result, an increasingly higher percentage of the total population is concentrated near the coast, while the size of the hinterland population is becoming smaller.

This migration has, to a large extent, been a response to the rise of employment and income opportunities in the coastal areas. Industrialisation, the construction of harbours and the development of tourism have been the major sources of this growth. Migration to the coastal regions was further stimulated by a relative backward agrarian structure unable to provide employment to the growing rural population.

The population in the coastal regions has also increased because an increasing number of migrants returning from abroad have settled in the coastal zone. Preliminary evidence shows that many of these migrants originally came from the hinterland but do not want to resettle there because of insufficient income and employment opportunities.

Preliminary studies have pointed out the negative effects of hinterland-coastal migration in both the areas of origin and destination. In the latter, it is said to have contributed to rapid population growth which has led to higher unemployment, urban congestion, inadequate social services and a deterioration of the environment. In the hinterland areas, migration has sometimes reduced agricultural productivity and it has led to economic stagnation.

Besides these, hinterland-coastal migration in the Mediterranean countries also appears to have produced some positive effects. Migrants frequently sent remittances back to the hinterland thus stimulating the development of its economy. Migration has also benefited economic growth in the coastal areas by providing the necessary labour to such sectors as tourism, construction and services.

While these positive effects are important, most governments consider that they are outweighed by the negative effects. An increasing number of governments in the Mediterranean region are of the opinion that the population distribution is a limiting factor in the development of the economy.¹ As a result, they have adopted policies, or envisage doing so, to influence the patterns of migration to the coastal lands, and to attract return migrants to the inland region.

So far, these governments have experienced serious difficulties in implementing such policies. First, they possess insufficient information about the patterns and characteristics of coastal migration. It is often not known where migrants come from, who they are (age, sex and educational characteristics) and how they migrate (permanent, annual, seasonal, etc.) Such information is no doubt available in census and survey material but it has not been processed or analysed within the context of hinterland-coastal migration. Secondly, effective policy design has also been hampered by insufficient knowledge about the impact of migration. Such information is essential for designing migration policies. A limited number of such studies exist in several Mediterranean countries, however they have dealt exclusively with the impact of rural-urban or international migration. Thirdly, there have been no systematic attempts to evaluate the impact of population redistribution policies that have already been adopted. Several countries have experimented with measures such as policies to improve the rural infrastructure, to create more employment opportunities in the hinterland, to redirect migrants to intermediate urban areas or to accommodate migrants in their destination through the expansion of public services, housing, transport, etc. Sometimes, countries have adopted policies not designed to deal with coastal migration but which have had a major impact on it. Clearly, information about the impact of such measures is also essential for the formulation of effective migration policies.

2.0 Objectives

It is proposed to set up pilot study projects in four Mediterranean countries. A definite choice has not been

¹ UN Fourth Population Inquiry Addressed to Governments, 1978, in UN: World Population Trends and Policies: 1979 Monitoring Report, Vol. II (New York, 1980) p. 119.

made yet. These countries should be selected in such a manner so as to ensure that the studies will correspond to the objectives of the project. First, the countries chosen should have a high level of coastal migration from depressed rural areas and extensive return migration from abroad to the coastal zones. Second, these countries should also have adopted rural policies designed to affect migration. In addition, it is desirable that the studies will be set up in both developed and less developed countries.

It is proposed that the final choice of countries will be made after discussions with the governments of individual Mediterranean countries. So far, Algeria and Yugoslavia have shown a strong interest in participating in the project.

The main activity of each pilot project will be to organise a policy-oriented study focusing hinterland-coastal migration and the resettlement of return migrants. This will be done in close collaboration with a local research institute which already has experience in migration studies. Each of these studies will consist of two parts. The first part will analyse the current patterns of migration on the basis of existing data (censuses, surveys, data from employment services, etc.) and examine the economic and social impact in both the areas of origin and destination. Permanent as well as seasonal migration will be studied. Attention will also be paid to the resettlement of return migrants.

The second part of the report will examine the effects of government policies on these patterns of migration. It will analyse to what extent these measures have been successful in influencing migration. Special attention will be paid to the problems and obstacles that were faced in implementing these. Each study will also contain specific suggestion regarding alternative government policies that could be introduced to influence migration.

It is envisaged that the results of these studies will provide feedback to other activities of the Priority Actions Programme (PAP) such as the project Integrated Planning and Management of the Social and Economic Development of Coastal

Zones in the Mediterranean Basin.

3.0 Organisation of Work

As a first step, it will be necessary to choose a counterpart institution in each of the countries. Ideally, this will be an institute with prior experience in migration studies. This institute will collaborate closely with ILO in preparing the study. It will largely be responsible for collecting and processing data necessary to carry out the study. Staff members of the institute will also be involved in drafting the final section of the report dealing with alternative migration policies (see section 2.0).

It is estimated that each study can be finalised within seven months. The ILO will have final responsibility for preparing the study.

After all the reports have been prepared, a workshop will be organised to discuss the findings of the individual studies. These will be summarised in a special report which will be the main agenda item for the meeting. The meeting will also serve to make concrete suggestions for follow-up activities in the countries where pilot projects have been organised as well as in other Mediterranean countries. This workshop will be attended by government officials, members of the research institute and representatives of international organisations.

Timetable

1983

1982

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First report

Data collection and processing

Data analysis

Writing report

Second report

Data collection and processing

Data analysis

Writing report

Third report

Data collection and processing

Data analysis

Writing report

Fourth report

Data collection and processing

Data analysis

Writing report

Workshop

Preparation synthesis report

Preparation meeting

Provisional Budget covering Donor Contribution to Project "Evaluation of Government Policies dealing with hinterland-coastal migration in the Mediterranean region"

	<u>Total</u> (US\$)	<u>1982</u> (US\$)	<u>1983</u> (US\$)
18 person/months			
research economist - (UNDP standard cost)	105,000	69,000	36,000
external collaboration contracts with local research institutes	60,000	60,000	-
workshop	20,000	-	20,000
printing costs	10,000	2,500	7,500
travel	5,000	2,500	2,500
sundry	2,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL Donor contribution	202,000	135,000	67,000

Provisional Budget covering ILO contribution to Project "Evaluation of Government policies dealing with hinterland-coastal migration in the Mediterranean region"

	<u>Total</u> (US\$)	<u>1982</u> (US\$)	<u>1983</u> (US\$)
18 person/months			
research assistant (external collaborator)	36,000	24,000	12,000
18 person/months			
secretary	33,000	11,000	22,000
Total ILO Contribution	69,000	35,000	34,000
Grand Total	<u>271,000</u>	<u>170,000</u>	<u>101,000</u>

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