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Family Planning and Sustainable Development: Policy Options for moving forward

Countdown 2015, Brussels

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World Population Projections for 2000-2050

- **Constant Fertility**
  - 11.0 Billion
  - 2.6 children

- **High**
  - 9.1 Billion
  - 2.05 children

- **Medium**
  - 8 Billion
  - 2 children

- **Low**
  - 7 Billion
  - 1.8 children

Current International Policy initiatives/frameworks

- UN Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women and Children’s Health
- ICPD at 20 review
- Women Deliver 2013
Global Development Landscape

- MDGs
  - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve universal primary education; Promote gender equality and empower women; Reduce child mortality; Improve maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability; Develop a global partnership for development.
Global Development Landscape (cont’d)

- Funding mechanisms
  - Global funds
  - Multi-donor budget support
  - Paris Principles
  - Health Sector Reform

- Sustainable Development
- Rio/Climate Change/Environment
- Post MDG Framework
Sustainable Development

- Economic Prosperity
- Environmental Protection
- Social Justice
Sustainable Development

The Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

Economy
- Jobs
- Assets
- Investment
- Wealth creation

Environment
- Sustainable economy
- Climate
- Water
- Natural resources
- Biodiversity

Social development
- Sustainable development
- Healthy environment
- Social equity
- Health & safety
- Skilled workforce
- Supporting communities

Society
Policy approaches...

- **Principles**
  - Participation
  - Accountability
  - Non-discrimination
  - Empowerment
  - Evidence-based
  - Consistent with the rights-based Cairo ethos
Did the “population issue” go away?

- UN medium projections
- Assumptions that family planning programmes are in place
- People/donors “bored” with family planning
- Commodities
Climate change: a few facts

- The increase in Greenhouse Gas Emissions over the last 150 years has already significantly changed climate.

- The twelve warmest years on record have all occurred in the last thirteen years.

- IPCC reports best estimate temperature rises of 1.8°C to 4°C. However, global carbon dioxide emissions are already rising faster than the most dire of the IPCC emission scenarios.
Climate Change Impacts on People and Populations:

- Temperature Rise
- Unpredictable precipitation
- Sea level rise
- Flood
- Increase in storm severity
- Glacial melting

Half of world’s population to suffer food shortages by 2050

1–2 billion to suffer water shortages by 2050

Increase in diseases: Diarrhea, malaria and malnutrition
Poor countries will be hit earliest and hardest:

- Most vulnerable to impacts
- Have less capacity to adapt
  - Rapid population growth and high fertility underscore both
  - Often due to poor access to SRH services
Vulnerability...

- Dependence on ecosystems
- Poor health
- Poverty
- Geographic exposure
- Low scientific and technological capacity
Population growth underwrites these vulnerabilities in three major ways:

1) Population growth and climate change act cumulatively to deplete the source of key natural resources, for example through soil erosion and deforestation, – (availability)

2) Population growth is projected to cause a significant escalation in demand for resources that climate change diminish, including fresh water and food, (demand)

3) Rapid population growth heightens human vulnerability to natural disasters caused by climate change, including by forcing more people to migrate and settle in areas at risk of floods, storms and drought.
Rising sea levels...

- We have seen a sea level rise of over 40 mm and significant retreat of Arctic sea ice and nearly all continental glaciers.

- At the moment: –
  - one third of the world’s population lives within 60 miles of a shoreline and
  - 13 of the world’s 20 largest cities are located on a coast.
Figure 4.3: Cities at low-elevation coastal zones (LE CZs)

% of national urban population in LECZs

- Non LECZ
- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 15.0
- 15.1 - 20.0
- 20.1 - 25.0
- > 25.0

City size:
- Small
- Intermediate
- Big

Population of cities:
- Small: 100,000 - 500,000
- Intermediate: 500,000 - 1 million
- Big: More than 1 million

The designations employed and the presentation of material on the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNFPA concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Source: UN Habitat.
National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) UNFCCC

- Outline top priorities for adaptation and specific localized vulnerabilities to climate change

- Well over half of them refer to population growth/density as a factor that makes coping with the changes that climate change will bring much harder.
Population and the Environment

- Complex, Controversial, Critical Connection
  - Have to recognize different consumption patterns in GHG emissions, and the use of the world’s non-renewable resources
The Nile

- Demand for water is increasing in all ten countries of the Nile basin.
- Nile already severely depleted by the time it reaches the Mediterranean.
- Population of Nile basin set to double by 2050.
Egypt: 2006: 75 million
2050: 126 million

Sudan: 2006: 41 million
2050: 84 million

Ethiopia: 1900: 5 million
2006: 75 million
2050: 145 million

Uganda: 2006: 28 million
2050: 130 million
Key complexities

- Population and climate change/environmental issues
  - Not the same thing, although there is sometimes overlap
- Population variables
  - Household size
  - Age and sex composition
  - Population density
Have to recognize the “Yuck” factor

- History of population/family planning; horrendous mistakes; global memories are long in respect of forced sterilization, transistor radios, coercion

- Population now increasingly being discussed, but not always in ways that emphasize that the goal is increased investment in voluntary family planning/SRH programmes that respect and protect rights
Of the top 20, 17 have rapid rates of population growth, many of them expanding at close to 3% a year, or 20-fold per century.

In 5 of these 17 countries, women have an average of nearly 7 children each.

In all but 6 of the top 20 failing states, at least 40% of the population is under 15.
Policy considerations

- How useful is the silence on population?
- Is caring about rights is intrinsically incompatible with:
  - searching for equitable ways to harmonize global population with consumption of the world’s non-renewable resources?
  - global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change?
Consensus themes emerging from a recent International Symposium

- Increased investment in family planning
- Consumption/population – crass either/or approach
- “The end of geography” in Bangladesh
- Floods Cyclones Drought Landslides
- FP already a sensible rationale; sustainable development constitutes another reason for investing in it
- Ugandan Minister: developing countries will be most affected by climate change; have contributed the least to it, and have least capacity for adaptation
Priority issues (cont’d)

- Technology is not enough; behaviour also needs to be addressed
- Unmet need least met among the poor
- NAPAs – 37 out of 40 explicitly recognized population growth. Zero projects funded
- Integrated approach working with communities can make a difference; people at local level seeing links.
- Population growth drives unsustainable resource use
Policy considerations

- Can we find a language that recognizes, reflects and addresses the need to emphasize resource consumption in the North at the same time as advocating increased access to sexual and reproductive health care services in the South?
We won’t find the answers…

- If we don’t increase awareness that we have learned from the mistakes of the past; we know how important it is to respect and protect the rights of women, men and children.
- If we continue to believe that caring about rights is intrinsically incompatible with searching for equitable ways to harmonize global population with consumption of the world’s non-renewable resources, and global efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- If we remain reticent about linking population dynamics to international sustainable development priorities, including climate change, food and water security etc.
European Policy Leadership will be crucial...

- To and through the remaining Rio process
- Shaping the Sustainable Development Goals that emerge from Rio
- Negotiating the Post MDG Framework

- Preserving the focus of the MDGs, while learning from some of its mistakes
- Ensuring that social equity in general, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in particular, are identified as priorities in their own right, and as key strategies for achieving equitable, sustainable development