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### **INVITED SESSION 1: STATISTICS AND INDICATORS FOR MEASURING DEVELOPMENT**

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
FOR MONITORING POPULATION PROGRAMMES**

By

**Michael VLASSOFF  
And  
Jagdish UPADHYAY**

UNFPA, New York

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**"IMPLICATIONS OF THE ICPI) PROGRAMME OF ACTION  
FOR MONITORING POPULATION PROGRAMMES"**

**MICHAEL VLASSOFF**  
SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER  
POPULATION DATA, POLICY AND RESEARCH BRANCH

AND

**JAGDISH UPADHYAY**  
UNFPA CONSULTANT

UNFPA  
NEW YORK

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## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR MONITORING POPULATION PROGRAMMES**

The United Nations Population Fund has been playing a crucial role in helping the global community to address population issues in relation to sustainable development. Over the years UNFPA has primarily focused its assistance on creating favourable social and institutional conditions for women and men to make informed, free and responsible choices. We are convinced that this is a right way to achieve the global population goal of meeting as a minimum the UN medium variant population projection, which would allow in the long run to stabilize the world population around 10 billion people.

While at the beginning most of effort was devoted to collect and analyze population related information, to create awareness among decision makers, to integrate population concerns into development planning and to assist the governments of developing countries in formulating their population policies and programmes, in subsequent periods the resources channelled by UNFPA were increasingly devoted to their implementation through activities in the areas of MCH/FP, education and communication as well as projects addressed to women. Increasing resources have been also spent in monitoring and assessing the implementation of population policies and programmes in order to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo reaffirmed the principles relating to population and development. Sustainable development implies, *inter alia*, long-term sustainability in production and consumption relating to all economic activities, including industry, energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, tourism and infrastructure, in order to optimize ecologically sound resource use and minimize waste. Explicitly integrating population into economic and development strategies will both speed up the pace of sustainable development and poverty alleviation and contribute to the achievement of population objectives and improved quality of life of the population. Countries need to develop strategies in the areas of population policies and sustainable development with data and deeper understanding of complex interactions of the underlying factors that determine incidence, perceptions and behaviours/practices.

On the basis of the ICPD, the following areas can be established as the strategical areas for country's population and sustainable developments.

**1. Population Policy development.** Over the years UNFPA has provided considerable leadership in this field and it is expected to continue to do so. To enable countries to adequately carry out policy development activities, a set of relevant and reliable data covering a wide range of subjects, related to population, socio-economic and cultural conditions and the environment, is needed. Support from all concerned agencies for the establishment of a system for basic data collection, analysis, development and maintenance of data bases, socio-cultural, economic and operations research is a

necessary prerequisite for successfully building up national capacity for monitoring and follow up.

**2. Basic health improvement to induce reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality** has directly and indirectly been the objective of many if not all UN agencies and organizations activities in developing countries. Continued improvement of the public health infrastructure is a prerequisite for developing further activities that contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality of infants, children and women.

**3. Reproductive health care within Primary Health Care (PHC)** will be the challenge for the future. Reproductive health should be designed to serve the needs of women, including adolescents, and must involve women in the leadership, planning, decision-making, management, implementation, organization and evaluation of services. A challenge for reproductive health programme design lies in defining its interventions and implementing those interventions in a way that delivers comprehensive and appropriate services to clients and achieves the intended impacts. This will likely require linkage among or coordination of existing reproductive health-related services, e.g., STD, prenatal, and family planning clinics. Alternatively, it may call for consolidation of these services under one health authority. The exact design for or means to achieve a comprehensive service system are not well-known in most places. In spite of this, many advocates of reproductive health intervention will be interested in ways to determine the progress and success of their efforts while simultaneously pursuing a more comprehensive delivery strategy.

**4. Generalization of basic education for all, with a special emphasis in reducing gender disparities has been generally acceptable as a valuable development objective in itself, and as a powerful contributing factor in improving the health status of the population and as a crucial factor in fertility reduction. The introduction of health education and population education in the basic education, including in informal education, will require substantive normative and technical support.**

**5. Empowerment of women is a multi-faceted undertaking supported by all UN agencies and organizations. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself. The full participation and participation of both women and men is required in productive and reproductive life, including shared responsibilities for the care and nurturing of children and maintenance of the household. There are a number of activities that may require special support from all concerned agencies and organizations:**

**5.1 Income generation especially for women and adolescents girls, may require special support.**

**5.2 Eradication of practices harmful to the health of women and children and especially female genital mutilation, will require the concerted efforts. Awareness creation activities plus social support measures for women affected**

by the negative consequences of these harmful practices, including those suffering from the unsafe child-birth, will require special attention.

**6. Environmental protection activities** especially, those affected by and affecting human population growth and distribution are becoming more important. These consequences in turn have economic implications for productivity and the sustainability of the development process, and direct effects on human well-being and quality of life. Obvious examples are the relationships between population growth/distribution and resource depletion, air and water pollution, and biodiversity. Understanding such relationship as they exist in real situations at the local, national and global level is a large part of the "consequences" story and is of critical importance in designing public policy.

**7. Migration, displaced persons and refugees** are additional areas of emerging importance. UNFPA will continue to play a key role in supporting data collection as well as research on the causes and consequences of internal migration and urbanization which would be an important elements in the policy development activities of the countries. International migration is now becoming a developmental issue for an increasing number of countries. The plight of the displaced persons and refugees is being recognized by the international community. In addition to emergency support, which should include reproductive health, it is necessary to explore the possibilities to provide more developmental assistance to long-term refugees and displaced persons.

## **QUANTITATIVE GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

The overall objective of the collective efforts of all UN agencies and organizations involved in development is to assist developing countries to achieve sustainable development. The ICPD Programme of Action also reaffirms that population-related goals and policies are integral parts of cultural, economic and social development, the principal aim of which is to improve people's quality of life. Some specific goals are outlined below:

### **Education goals**

Beyond the achievement of the goal of universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015, the Programme of Action urges countries to ensure the widest and earliest possible access by girls and women to secondary and higher levels of education, as well as vocational education and technical training. The gender gap in primary and secondary school education is also to be overcome by the year 2005.

### **Mortality reduction goals**

#### Infant and child mortality

a) The World Summit for Children, held in 1990, adopted a set of goals for children and development up to the year 2000, including a reduction in infant and under-5 child mortality rates by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births, respectively, whichever is less.



b) Over the next 20 years, through international cooperation and national programmes, the gap between average infant and child mortality rates in the developed and the developing regions of the world needs to be substantially narrowed, and disparities within countries, those between geographical regions, ethnic or cultural groups, and socio-economic groups eliminated. Countries with indigenous people are urged to achieve infant and under-5 mortality levels among their indigenous people that are the same as those of the general population. By 2005, countries with intermediate mortality levels, according to the Programme of Action, need to aim at infant mortality rates below 50 deaths per 1,000 and an under-5 mortality rates below 60 deaths per 1,000 births. By 2015 all countries should aim to achieve an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-5 mortality rate below 45 per 1,000.

#### Maternal mortality

a) A reduction in maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by 2015 has been set by the Programme of Action. The realization of these goals will have different implications for countries with different 1990 levels of maternal mortality. Countries with intermediate levels of mortality should aim to achieve by the year 2005 a maternal mortality rate below 100 per 100,000 live births and by the year 2015 a maternal mortality rate below 60 per 100,000 live births. Countries with the highest levels of mortality should aim to achieve by 2005 a maternal mortality rate below 125 per 100,000 live births and by 2015 a maternal mortality rate below 75 per 100,000 live births.

**Reproductive health, including family planning, goals**

a) A major goal set out in Programme of Action is to make reproductive health accessible to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015. Reproductive health care in the context of primary health care should, *inter alia*, include: family-planning counselling, information, education, communication and services; education and services for prenatal care, safe delivery, and post-natal care, especially breast-feeding, infant and women's health care; prevention and appropriate treatment of infertility; abortion including prevention of abortion and the management of the consequences of abortion; treatment of reproductive tract infections; sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health conditions; and information, education and counselling, as appropriate, on human sexuality, reproductive health and responsible parenthood. Referral for family-planning services and further diagnosis and treatment for complications of pregnancy, delivery and abortion, infertility, reproductive tract infections, breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS are to be available, as required. Active discouragement of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation is to become an integral component of primary health care including reproductive health-care programmes.

b) All countries need to take steps to meet the family-planning needs of their populations as soon as possible and should, at least by the year 2015, seek to provide universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family-planning methods and to related reproductive health services which are not against national law.

c) The goal is to be set as part of the effort to meet unmet needs, and to remove all programme-related barriers to family-planning use by the year 2005 through the redesign or expansion of information and services and other ways to increase the ability of couples and individuals to make free and informed decisions about the number, spacing and timing of births and protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases.

#### **IMPLICATIONS OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR DATA SYSTEMS**

The population and development paradigm, consolidated at the Cairo conference, puts heavy emphasis on integrated sustainable development strategies which link population policy with socio-economic development and environmental protection. Such integration will require a comprehensive data and information system for policy formulation, programme development, and programme monitoring at national and sub-national levels. Inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary efforts to generate and disseminate data at national and international levels are to be streamlined. Special emphasis should be given to the development of innovative methodologies to generate, disseminate and use data in population and related areas such as education, migration and reproductive health.

The policy-relevant research and analysis are needed to help monitor the implementation of population policies and programmes, as well as to assess the impact of development strategies on demographic phenomena. Such studies should

focus on, inter alia, the acceptability of reproductive health and family planning practices in various social, economic and cultural settings, and the role and status of women and reproductive rights. There is also a need for operations research on the management and effectiveness of reproductive health/family planning programmes; the quality and acceptability of service delivery personnel; the availability, accessibility and quality of care; and the design of advocacy programmes that address the interrelationships between population factors and development.

Some specific changes emanating from the ICPD are outlined below:

#### **Analysis of demographic variables at the world level**

The Programme of Action of ICPD calls for strengthening information networks dealing with demographic and socio-economic data, and for providing information disaggregated by gender, geographical area, ethnicity and social and economic characteristics.

**Reproductive health:** The Cairo conference gave a prominent role to data systems, research and analysis in reproductive health and family planning. Of particular importance was the recommendation on the development of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of reproductive-health programmes and services, including assessment of quality of services. The fundamental requirement established for reproductive-health interventions was the need for basic data on demographic, socio-cultural and economic characteristics, the incidence of reproductive morbidity and information on

women's attitudes, life circumstances and needs. The social, cultural, legal, economic and psychological factors that affect women's ability to protect their own health was also emphasized. There is a need to strengthen the capability of developing countries to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistical and qualitative information to successfully implement the reproductive health component and other related recommendations of the ICPD Programme of the Action.

**Mortality:** In the areas of mortality, study should focus on trends and changing causes of mortality differences. Particular emphasis should be given to the analysis of mortality differences vis-a-vis the status of women. Infant and under-5 mortality should be analyzed against the backdrop of the reproductive rights of women.

#### **The Dynamics of Population and Poverty**

A complete understanding is required to the extent of poverty, its dynamics, and its demographic causes and consequences. Two major problems are the lack of information on (1) the extent of poverty based on measures other than income, and (2) the extent to which demographic events such as a birth, a death, or a migration are a cause or a consequence of poverty. Urban poverty represents a particularly important challenge for public policy. What events, both demographic and economic, lead families and households into poverty, and what events move them out of poverty?

### **Population and development**

Research on the interrelationship between population and the environment is encouraged with emphasis to study geographically defined areas such as ecologically fragile ecosystems and urban agglomerations. Work in this area should be to accommodate the increased interest in the relationships between sustainable development and rapid urbanization. The study of the determinants of population distribution and urbanization requires the analysis of internal migration trends and policies.

The ICPD calls for efforts in the areas of data collection and analysis, comparability of data, dissemination of information and development of estimation methods. Studies are also needed to find out the "root cause" of migration and the processes that sustain migration movements over time.

In conclusion, we hope that this conference will focus on how to establish comprehensive, structurally sound and practical databases that conform to international standards and comparability, while meeting the specific needs of countries. Data systems and research methodologies should also be reviewed to address the critical challenges and interrelationships between population and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development as outlined above. The focus should be on quality of data: data should be valid, reliable, timely, culturally relevant and internationally comparable for policy and programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.