



Population and Sustainability Network

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Current Events in Family Planning

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Key topics

- ▶ What's happening post Rio?
- ▶ How will this link with the post 2015 discussions on what will succeed the MDGs?
- ▶ Other initiatives



What's happened post Rio?

- ▶ Open Working Group on SDGs established; it is intergovernmental, and has been working on a number of inter-related themes
- ▶ In June 2013, it held discussions on health and population dynamics
- ▶ In January it discussed cities, climate change, in February, oceans and seas, forests and biodiversity, as well as gender equity



How will the OWG discussions link with the post 2015 negotiations?

- ▶ In September 2014 the OWG will present its suggestions for SDGs
- ▶ That will input into a synthesized report from this and other processes before end 2014
- ▶ Inter-governmental negotiations will take place
- ▶ In September 2015 a Heads of Government summit will adopt the post 2015 development agenda



What's it got to do with Population?

- ▶ Population dynamics, although more discussed, are not systematically integrated into the discourse
- ▶ The outcome international development agenda is likely to dictate funding streams for the next decade
- ▶ There is still reluctance to talk about population for historical reasons
- ▶ PHE initiatives have yielded persuasive evidence in favour of integrated approaches



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.



Five most frequently mentioned factors that will be made worse by population growth and climate change

- ▶ Population pressure on fresh water availability
- ▶ Population affecting soil degradation/erosion – implications for agriculture
- ▶ Shortage of land per capita/over grazing
- ▶ Deforestation
- ▶ High population density/migration to coastal areas, thereby increasing vulnerability



The Right to Health

- ▶ “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”

ICESCR, 1966, Article 12.1



General Comment on the Right to Health

▶ Normative Content

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Acceptability
- Quality



Why did Population disappear as a development priority?

- ▶ Assumptions that family planning programmes are in place
- ▶ People/donors “bored” with family planning
- ▶ Commodities
- ▶ HIV/AIDS – new priority/old \$\$\$
- ▶ FP2020 – 120 million new users by 2020



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



Consensus themes emerging from a PSN/BMA 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



Parting thoughts...

- ▶ Sustainable 2050
- ▶ Demography is not destiny
- ▶ Complexity is not chaos
- ▶ Human rights principles
 - Participation
 - Accountability
 - Non-discrimination
 - Empowerment
- ▶ Right to health care and health protection
 - Available, Acceptable, Accessible, Quality

