

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Findings and recommendations of the “Review of the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Pacific: Beyond 2014”

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Priority areas covered by 2013 ICPD

Review:

1. Population, sustained economic growth and development (III)
2. Population growth and structure (VI)
3. Urbanization and internal migration (IX)
4. International migration and development (X)
5. Family, wellbeing of individuals and societies
6. Reproductive rights and reproductive health, health, morbidity and mortality
7. Gender equality, equity and empowerment of women
8. Population, development and education

Message from the authors....

General conclusion:

Progress in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action and achieving its goals in the Pacific has been greatest where countries had established working partnerships with NGOs and/or the private sector...supported by donors willing to fund NGOs and Civil Society.

I. Population, sustained economic growth and (sustainable) development

ICPD Objective: Integrate population into development strategies, planning and decision-making....

Findings of Survey

- Countries varied widely on the extent to which population was integrated into their NDS
- Most countries paid cursory attention to population dynamics in their development strategies
- Only two countries (Vanuatu and Tuvalu) have active National Population policies while PNG's policy is in the process of being revised
- Most countries have addressed poverty reduction as well as environmental issues (especially preparation for climate change effects, solid waste management, food security, etc.)
- Overall, slow progress has been made in integrating population into development plans and strategies

Population, sustained economic growth and (sustainable) development (2)

Future priorities:

- Climate change and disaster preparedness
- Food security
- Environmental management

Recommendations:

- Encourage national debates on essential elements of population and development
- Regular reviews of national population policies and
- Invest in research on population issues to inform policy
- Provide resources for research on specific population groups
- Form partnerships with universities and CSOs to develop research programmes
- Train policy makers on the use of research results in policy development

2. Population growth and structure

ICPD objectives: To facilitate the demographic transition as soon as possible in countries where there is an imbalance between demographic rates and social, economic and environmental goals. Meet the special needs of adolescents and youth. Enhance the self-reliance of elderly people and promote their quality of life.

Findings of survey: demographic transition

- Only one country (PNG) mentioned their high population growth rate as an issue
- Teenage pregnancy and unmet need for family planning were mentioned by several countries but not in the context of population dynamics
- Fertility rates in general were not mentioned as issues addressed or priority issues
- Population growth is mainly identified as an issue in relation to **urban** growth rather than at the national level.

Population growth and structure (2)

Findings of survey: Population groups

Youth

- All countries have taken action to address youth issues
- Most countries have developed youth plans
- Youth unemployment has been addressed in several countries
- Access to SRH services for adolescents and youth given high priority
- Efforts have been made in many countries to address the sexual abuse and exploitation of youth and children
- One country has recognized the need to address the mental health of youth to prevent suicide

Ageing and the Elderly

- Three countries have policies on ageing and a further six have benefits for the elderly
- Several countries have not responded to ICPD objectives on ageing
- One country has established a national coordinating body on ageing

Population growth and structure (3)

Future priorities for youth and the elderly

Youth

- Employment creation, technical and vocational training
- Drug and alcohol abuse, crime and violence
- Increasing youth participation in decision-making
- Education
- Reducing high STI rates
- Teenage pregnancy
- Strengthening youth programmes
- Updating youth policies

Ageing and the elderly

- Providing support for families caring for elderly people, including housing and social services
- Strengthen social security and broaden coverage
- Ensure accessible and affordable health services and promote healthy living to reduce/mitigate NCDs

Population growth and structure (4)

Persons with disabilities

Findings of the survey

- 11 countries had developed rights-based national disability policies
- 9 countries had signed the CRPD
- Most countries have addressed the need to make education inclusive
- 7 countries have indicated that people with disabilities have equal access to SRH information and services
- Few countries provide support to families caring for people with disability

Future priorities

- Improving infrastructure, especially in remote areas
- Review of legislation
- Improving public awareness and attitudes
- Collecting data and improving knowledge, situation analysis

Population growth and structure (5)

Priorities for disability (continued)

- Ratification of CRPD
- Rehabilitation, education, employment

Population growth and structure (6)

Recommendations: growth and structure

Youth

- Improve data collection to inform policy and programme development
- Build capacity of youth divisions in government ministries
- Ensure accessible SRH and mental health services in schools, youth organizations, churches
- Develop programmes to address crime, drug and alcohol abuse and violence, especially in urban areas and informal settlements

Elderly

- National consultations to assess the priorities of the elderly
- Develop strategies and programmes to support families caring for the elderly, housing and health services
- Adopt the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing** (2002) as a policy development tool and to ensure that ageing priorities are integrated with other social policies and programmes.

3. Urbanization and internal migration

ICPD Objectives: To foster a more balanced spatial distribution of the population... to reduce the role of push factors as they relate to migration flows...to enhance the management of urban agglomerations through more participatory and resource-conscious planning and management... to improve quality of rural and urban life.

Findings of the survey

- Four countries have national policy statements on urban development
- Seven countries have taken steps to address urban development concerns, including upgrading of informal settlements
- Several countries had attempted to re-balance population distribution by promoting small and medium size centres and outer islands development

Future priorities

- Provincial, regional or outer islands development
- Rapid urban growth, urban poverty
- Growth of peri-urban settlements
- Mobilization of land for urban development

Urbanization and internal migration (2)

Recommendations

- Develop national policies on urbanization and rural-urban linkages
- Engage landowners, private sector and other stakeholder in dialogues on urban development
- Improve housing and services in underserved settlements
- Strengthen provincial or outer island development programmes
- Greater engagement with development partners... foster local delivery of services
- Strengthen regional initiatives led by UN-Habitat in partnership with UNFPA...to address urban issues, including waste management, water, housing and social services.

4. International migration and development

ICPD objectives: To address the root causes of migration, especially those relating to poverty; To encourage cooperation and dialogue between sending and receiving countries to maximise benefits (contribute to development of both); Facilitate the reintegration of returning migrants. (Other objectives listed under “actions”)

Findings of survey

- 7 countries reported having a policy, programme or strategy on international migration and development
- The other countries had no policies
- Some countries had difficulty measuring the movement of citizens and lacked data on the living conditions of their citizens overseas
- 7 countries had taken steps to combat trafficking
- 5 countries stated that they protected immigrants from racial abuse, xenophobia, etc.
- 5 countries stated that they were addressing the root causes of migration
- Only 3 countries were addressing the issue of migrant remittances in any way

International migration and development (2)

- No country mentioned having dialogue with a migrant receiving country (in fact much dialogue has occurred!)
- No country mentioned the issue of skills loss due to international migration
- One migrant receiving country reported that a review of the living conditions of its immigrant population was underway.

Future priorities in international migration & development

- Improved data collection on migration, including border controls
- Address depopulation of outer islands and rural areas
- Encourage the “diaspora” population to support local development
- Strengthen dialogue between origin, transit and destination countries
- Facilitate the use of remittances to support development
- Better data on citizens abroad
- Develop immigration policy and legislation
- Study the impact of high fertility on emigration.

International migration and development (3)

Future priorities (continued)

- Maintaining access to seasonal migration schemes in Australia and NZ
- More situation analyses on migrant groups
- Prepare population for possible relocation due to future possible inhabatability of islands due to climate change

Recommendations

- Strengthen country capacity to collect data on migration and migrants
- Strengthen laws on immigration, including registration of foreign workers
- Address the root causes of migration and develop viable alternatives
- Facilitate the flow of remittances by sound policies and good banking facilities
- Strengthen short-term temporary labour migration

International migration and development (5)

Recommendations (continued)

- Facilitate the exchange of information on migration policies
- Facilitate the reintegration of return migrants
- Strengthen trafficking laws

Facilitating and constraining factors in implementing PD component

Facilitating factors

- Stakeholder engagement and partnership arrangements, including bilateral and multilateral programmes, private sector, CSOs, NGOs and CBOs
- External or shared resources to support implementation

Constraining factors

- Geographical remoteness and isolation (“tyranny of distance”)
- Lack of political will
- Limited capacity to absorb (funding and programmes)
- Lack of budget allocation for activities

Summary: Areas of more and less progress (PD)

Most progress:

- Youth
- Disabled
- Urban management/planning
- Climate change adaptation/mitigation

Less progress

- Integration of population into national plans/strategies
- National population policies
- Situation analyses (research) on population groups
- Ageing and the elderly
- Population distribution
- International migration

Thank you!

