Population Dynamics

Realizing the Future We Want for All:

The Post-2015 Development Agenda
Global Thematic Consultation

POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

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Executive Summary

Population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will have a major impact on the post-2015 development agenda and the achievement of socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development. Population dynamics comprises trends and changes in population growth; migration; urbanization; population density; and age structures, and associated with the latter, young and older people. Population dynamics influence consumption and availability of natural resources, and together with consumption levels and efficiencies determine environmental sustainability. Addressing population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights must therefore be part of the solution, alongside other important sustainable development strategies, including those addressing unsustainable and inequitable patterns of consumption, while recognizing that a post 2015 framework needs to be putting consumption of resources on a sustainable and equitable trajectory.

Population growth will occur mainly in developing countries. With relatively high birth rates and a high proportion of young people, populations of least developed countries are projected to double from 803 million in 2010 to 1.7 billion by 2050 and to almost triple to 2.5 billion by 2085. This is likely to undermine poverty alleviation and economic growth, and outpace investments in health, education and other basic services.

Fertility decline, combined with increased longevity, means an increase in the number and proportion of people aged 60 and over. The global total is expected to rise from the current 810 million worldwide to more than 2 billion by 2050, with more people over the age of 60 than those aged 14 and under. The most rapid increases in population ageing are taking place in developing countries. There will also be large rises in the number of young people in some countries/contexts because of population momentum. International migration has increased by almost 40 percent since 1990, reaching 214 million annually in 2010 and is expected to continue to rise, with significant consequences for both origin and host countries. Internal migration is also rising, with increasing numbers moving from rural to urban areas, in addition to seasonal migration. More than half of humanity now lives in urban areas, a third in slums, and numbers are expected to increase.

Under-pinning population dynamics, promotion of SRHR is an essential component of the post-2015 development agenda. Originally missing from the Millennium Development Goals, SRHR was partially addressed as Target 5B in 2007, as part of MDG 5, which is the MDG that is most off-track. This omission should not be repeated in the post-2015 framework. SRHR, within a human-rights framework and addressing the unmet need for family planning, offer opportunities to influence population dynamics positively and contribute to sustainable development while addressing gender inequality and women’s empowerment. Without the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education and access to youth-friendly services, the needs of young people will not be met. The failure to factor population dynamics into
planning of services will mean that the future health, education, job services etc of people will be unlikely to be met.

This paper includes a comprehensive set of recommendations that are essential for the post-2015 development agenda. (See page 15)
1 Introduction

The process for framing the post-2015 development agenda has identified eleven areas for consideration. Of these, population dynamics are a critical determinant of the other ten, and will be an essential element for achieving socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable development. They have a major impact on the development agenda’s fundamental principles of human rights, equality and sustainability, and the core dimensions of inclusive social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security.

Population dynamics include trends and changes in population growth; migration; urbanization; population density; and age structures, and associated with the latter, young people and the elderly. Discourse on the post-2015 development agenda has focused on sustainable development, poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability and specific development priorities. Population dynamics have attracted less attention, despite population size, location etc shaping and determining the scale and scope of development challenges and influencing the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Development planning and policies should monitor and address population dynamics in ways that respect and protect human rights and advance SRHR as part of sustainable and inclusive development and poverty eradication.

Population dynamics are a consequence of the options and institutional structures available (in families, communities and beyond) as well as the ability of individuals to enhance their status and dignity. Protection, promotion and free exercise of individuals’ social, political and economic rights are essential to these processes.

2 Key elements of population dynamics

Overview

Births, deaths and migration drive population changes and influence age structure and population distribution, urbanization and population density. Rapid population growth increases the proportion of young people. As birth rates decline and longevity increases, with the proportion of older people in the population increases. This process is the demographic transition: the changes that take place as countries move from high mortality and fertility to low mortality and fertility. During this transition, population growth and movement occur, including internal, rural to urban and international migration.

Least developed countries are typically in the second stage of demographic transition, where death rates are declining but birth rates remain high, experiencing rapid increases in population size and density and, because of the high proportion of young people, high youth dependency ratios. Other developing countries are in the third stage of transition. In these countries population growth remains high despite a declining total fertility rate because of demographic momentum (population growth
that occurs when a relatively high proportion of the population reach their reproductive years). As the fourth stage is reached and demographic transition achieved, the profile of the population ages. This is tied to an epidemiological transition towards diseases of older ages (including non-communicable diseases) requiring attention. Population dynamics and trends, particularly given their interaction with social inequalities, strongly influence the capacity of countries to achieve development goals. Countries positions in the demographic transition determine the extent and pace of changes in age structure and therefore the policies and programmes that facilitate positive and mitigate negative impacts.

### 2.1 Population growth

The world’s population doubled between 1965 and 2010, reaching 7 billion in 2011. According to the UN’s medium variant, it will reach 9.3 billion by 2050 and 10 billion by 2085. In contrast, the UN’s high projection variant, (with fertility just half a child above that in the medium variant), projects a world population of 10.6 billion in 2050 and 15.8 billion in 2100. The increase in least developed countries is projected to be from 803 million in 2010 to 1.7 billion in 2050, then almost tripling to 2.5 billion by 2085, due to relatively high birth rates and a high proportion of young people. The rate of growth and size at which the world population ultimately stabilizes significantly affects the world’s potential to reach its development goals.

Growth is driven by increasing longevity, an above replacement birth rate and increases in the number of people reaching reproductive age as a result of past population growth (population momentum). Global average life expectancy at birth has increased from under 50 in the 1950s to around 70 today and is projected to reach 80 before the end of the century. The global average fertility rate has fallen, from just under 5 children per woman in the 1950s to around 2.5 today, varying from under 2 for more developed countries to around 4 for the least developed countries. Future population growth is also related to future fertility levels, which depend on access to family planning, the reproductive choices of present and future generations and economic, social, educational and political factors.

Population growth, and associated rises in demand for food, water, land, energy and other resources, increases pressure on the environment. As this growth will be mainly in developing countries, it may undermine poverty alleviation and economic growth, outpacing investments in health, education and other basic services. Slowing population growth in ways that respect and protect human rights and advance SRHR can alleviate pressures on the environment and on natural resources, energy and water, and services, particularly at the local level. However, addressing population growth on its own will not enable humanity to live within the carrying capacity of the Earth, which is already being significantly exceeded. Unsustainable and inequitable consumption patterns, particularly in developed countries, are driving large-scale environmental degradation, with impacts that touch the lives of many of the world’s poorest people. The post-2015 development framework must therefore consider and address the influence of both demographic- and consumption-related factors.
“Demography is not destiny”. Policies, cultural values and programmes can affect demographic trends and impacts. Where there are universal, adequate, affordable and accessible sexual and reproductive health services that respect and protect rights, women’s health has improved, maternal mortality declined and fertility fallen. Investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and in health, education and gender equality therefore advances development prospects and achieves the demographic transition in developing countries, while stabilizing the world population, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Unsustainable consumption patterns urgently need to be reduced at the same time that the world’s poorest need to be lifted out of poverty.

2.2 Population ageing

Fertility decline and increased longevity mean increasing numbers and proportion of people aged 60 and over; currently there are 810 million worldwide, with a projection of 2 billion by 2050 and more people will be over the age of 60 than those aged 14 and under. The most rapid increases in population ageing are taking place in developing countries. Changing family structures mean less family support for older people. Governments should provide services to protect the rights of the elderly, including social security and health care, suitable housing and transportation systems.

Providing for the elderly is increasingly a problem in those countries that have completed their demographic transition – ie developed and an increasing number of middle and low income countries\textsuperscript{xix} with challenges including the high cost on various services and infrastructure to meet their needs. Factors such as migration and the HIV pandemic increase the numbers of ‘skipped generation’ households in some regions, with older carers bringing up grandchildren.\textsuperscript{x}

Data on the number and situation of older people, disaggregated by sex, is required. Evidence-based policies are also required to ensure that both men and women are able to enjoy their rights to full, productive and remunerative employment that encourages savings, with pensions and social security measures in place to provide for those older persons in need of support. Support is also important for grandparent care and skipped generation households, recognizing the needs and rights of both older persons and the children in their care.\textsuperscript{xii}

Societal attitudes towards people in later life have a significant impact on access to support and services. Age discrimination and abuse (financial, physical and psychological) regularly deny older people access to healthcare, social and economic activities within the community that would enable them to address their own poverty.

2.3 Young people

Today’s generation of young people is the largest ever, with 1.2 billion aged 15-24, which will have a major impact on Government policies and development strategies.
With their capacity for creativity and innovation, growing numbers of young people can contribute greatly particularly in developing countries, in addition to the challenges they pose. Governments must enact the necessary laws and policies to foster the innate innovative capacity of their youth. Promoting lower birth rates while increasing employment rates enables societies to profit from the so-called demographic bonus.

Policies and strategies should include access to quality education, training and employment opportunities for all young people, particularly for girls and young women, to enable them to earn incomes. Young people must also have access to comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services, which address barriers including discrimination, social stigma and lack of confidentiality. Together these will allow young people to delay marriage and family responsibilities for as long as they wish and to plan their pregnancies.

2.4 Migration

Migration occurs for reasons including economic disparities, low-cost transportation, improved communication and migrant networks, with short-term positive outcomes for some migrants, but conflict and persecution may also be major causes. Climate change, declining food and water supplies and rising sea levels may also increase future migration. Internal migration takes place within countries, including from rural to urban areas. It may be seasonal and not always permanent. Migration includes undocumented migration and the displacement of people as refugees.

Migration has increased by almost 40 percent since 1990, reaching 214 million annually in 2010, and is expected to continue to rise. Large-scale migration can have significant consequences for both origin and host countries, including transfer of labour and skills, transfer of funds via remittances and other payments, and reducing resource pressures in countries of origin, while increasing it in host countries.

For some people seeking better socio-economic conditions migration is the only option. Women migrants may be adversely affected, particularly as refugees or undocumented migrants. The increase in adolescents and children, migrating often alone and without family support, should be noted, as 33 million migrants are under 20, representing 16% of all migrants, with 11 million aged between 15 and 19 years.

Migrant-responsive policies are important, including proper documentation and full information. Migration should take place in safe and legal conditions, respecting human rights. In addition, the root causes of undocumented migration and human trafficking should be addressed. Women migrants may be particularly adversely affected, especially as refugees or undocumented migrants, while children must be protected from abuse and exploitation commonly associated with trafficking and
assured fair treatment and equitable access to education and other services in destination countries.\textsuperscript{xvi}

2.5 Urbanization

Over half of humanity lives in urban areas and this is expected to increase to 70 percent by 2050. One third live in slums with numbers expected to rise due to population growth and internal migration.\textsuperscript{xvi} Urbanization can be an engine for growth for national economies, and as stated in The Future We Want (the Rio+20 outcome document), well-planned cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. This requires a holistic approach for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizing slum upgrading and urban regeneration, including “a safe and healthy living environment for all, particularly children, youth, women, elderly and disabled.”\textsuperscript{xvii}

Cities and urban areas must ensure access to education, health (including SRH care) and other social services and employment opportunities. To avoid isolation and being confined to their homes, vulnerable groups including women, youth, children and those with disabilities must have adequate infrastructure and transportation. The specific needs of children should also be considered.

2.6 Social processes and individual capabilities and choices

The welfare of communities, families and individuals can be enhanced if population dynamics are managed and monitored. Some population dynamics mechanisms work through aggregate processes: a larger proportion of working age people in the overall population, coupled with investment in health, education and SRHR and with policies conducive to job creation, can increase total savings and investment and spur economic growth and poverty reduction (the demographic bonus).\textsuperscript{xviii} A parallel mechanism operates at family and individual level: a smaller family with multiple earners can save more and/or invest in a higher quality of life and opportunities for its members (potentially escaping the inter-generational poverty trap).\textsuperscript{xix}

The impacts of population dynamics do not always have such direct analogies. Increases in education, decreases in child mortality and other social changes that support decisions to delay marriage and family formation and reduce desired family sizes, for example, have substantial impact on fertility rates through attitude and behavioral change. Smaller families also mean reduced competition for household resources and facilitate more collaborative relationships. The number of siblings can impact the extent of social networks and the balance between intra-familial and other social relations and provide challenges and options for old-age support for parents. Changing fertility patterns affect the relative length of a generation (with implications for population momentum). Migration is often higher among relatively young adults, again changing household composition, and remittances can improve family welfare and alter power relations\textsuperscript{xix}. In different settings, the gender profile of migrants (especially labour migrants) varies. Intergenerational relations are also affected by the dispersion of formerly more settled extended family structures.
Urbanization has multiple impacts on life styles, social relations, and attitudes. Wealth flows in most settings are directed from older to younger family members but might require public programmatic intervention to ensure life quality through the life cycle.

Population dynamics are a consequence of the options and institutional structures available (in families, communities and beyond) as well as the ability of individuals to enhance their status and dignity. Protection, promotion and free exercise of individuals’ social, political and economic rights are essential to these processes.

### 2.7 Population dynamics and consumption

Humanity’s impact on the environment is determined by population size and rates of change, consumption patterns and efficiency levels of resource consumption. Population dynamics, not only population size but also population density, age-structure, population movements and geographic location influence consumption patterns. The linkages between demographic patterns, consumption levels and environmental sustainability are highly complex as well as sensitive, in part because of demographic and consumption differences at the local, national and global levels. The majority of projected population growth is due to take place in developing countries and amongst the poorest populations with the lowest per capita consumption rates. In contrast in the developed world, where total fertility rates are at or below replacement, high per capita consumption rates are environmentally unsustainable and are exacerbating global inequalities.\textsuperscript{xi} When considering the relationship between population dynamics and environmental sustainability, it is therefore necessary also to consider consumption patterns and inequalities.

If all of humanity lived like an average Indonesian, for example, only two-thirds of the planet’s biocapacity would be used; if everyone lived like an average Argentinean, humanity would demand more than half an additional planet; and if everyone lived like an average resident of the USA, a total of four Earths would be required to regenerate humanity’s annual demand on nature. The excessive use of limited resources by more affluent sectors of the global population, linked to growing levels of inequity between and within nations as well as increasing numbers of people, drives pressure on the Earth’s resources and its capacity to support us.

An urgent global priority for the post 2015 framework is the need to enable a transition to more resource efficient and equitable consumption patterns. In those countries where population growth is expected, space must be made globally to enable the consumption levels necessary for lifting people out of poverty and for enabling sustainable livelihoods. This will require a much more concerted focus in developed and developing countries for absolute decoupling of resource intensity and environmental impacts from economic growth. Innovation can occur anywhere and receive both public and private support, with respect for intellectual property rights. In essence, both population and consumption issues are of critical relevance to the post-2015 agenda. Without addressing both simultaneously sustainable development cannot be achieved.
3 Importance sexual and reproductive health and rights

3.1 ICPD Programme of Action

Securing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a goal in itself and is critical for achieving social, economic and environmental development. The interrelationships between population, sexual and reproductive health, development and the environment were recognized in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) in 1994.\textsuperscript{34}

The ICPD PoA defined sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights within primary health care systems, including addressing the unmet need for family planning, maternal mortality and morbidity, unsafe abortion, sexuality and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS.\textsuperscript{33} Gender equality and women’s empowerment are central guiding principles, as are the specific sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and vulnerable groups, including older persons, those with disabilities and indigenous people. Most important, the ICPD PoA is rooted in respect for human rights and the need to address gender-based violence and harmful practices.

3.2 Sexual and reproductive health and rights and the MDGs: the unfinished past agenda

SRHR were not included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), although maternal health was included as MDG5. This was partially rectified in 2008 with the introduction of MDG Target 5B on \textit{Universal access to reproductive health by 2015}. Access to sexual health and rights, however, remained outside the goal framework.

MDG 5: Improve maternal health is the most ‘off-track’ MDG with Target 5A \textit{Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio}, only being met, or expected to be met, by 2015 in two sub-regions – Eastern Asia and the Caucuses and Central Asia. Target 5B has only been achieved, or is expected to be achieved, in Eastern Asia.\textsuperscript{35}

The significant increases in contraceptive use that occurred in the 1990s have not been sustained. While women and couples “have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children...”\textsuperscript{36} and more than half of all women aged 15 to 49, married or in a union, were using some form of contraception in 2010, the contraceptive prevalence rate of women in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania was only 25 percent. The unmet need for family planning, i.e. “the percentage of women aged 15 to 49, married or in a union, who report the desire to delay or avoid pregnancy, but are not using any form of contraception”, has declined only slowly since 1990.\textsuperscript{37} Moreover, it will probably expand sharply as the number of young people grows and as urbanization and globalization affect social structures. Girls who are married early or who are living on the streets are especially vulnerable with limited rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services.
Given the investment to date and the progress in some regions and sub-regions, a strong argument can be made for the inclusion of SRHR in the post-2015 development framework. This will also influence population dynamics, with positive implications for sustainable development priorities, including poverty alleviation, equity, health, education, food and water security, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

3.3 Sexual and reproductive health and rights agenda: Looking forward post-2015

An estimated 222 million women and girls in developing countries have an unmet need for modern contraception.\textsuperscript{xxvii} 40 percent of pregnancies worldwide are unintended, leading to 21 million unsafe abortions and 47,000 maternal deaths each year.\textsuperscript{xxviii}

The Family Planning 2020 initiative has led to a commitment to provide voluntary family planning services to an additional 120 million women and girls in the world’s poorest countries by 2020.\textsuperscript{xxx} Investment in family planning is cost effective – for every dollar spent, 2-6 (US) dollars can be saved for other development interventions.\textsuperscript{xxx} Avoiding unintended pregnancies, moreover, can reduce demand for other services including for education, infrastructure, and other health needs (not related to pregnancy) and/or allow investment in service quality. Such attention to meeting expressed needs for family planning should be reinforced in the post-2015 agenda.

Funding is also required for health services other than family planning, as part of comprehensive rights-based sexual and reproductive health services. Sustained funding and appropriate policies are necessary at all levels, including for health workers and essential medicines; comprehensive sexuality education; universal access to affordable, adequate, accessible sexual and reproductive health care, and information respecting reproductive and sexual rights, including for marginalized groups, such as young people, undocumented migrants, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and AIDS, drug users and sex workers.

4 Population dynamics – a cross-cutting issue for the post-2015 development framework

Population dynamics will determine the potential for poverty eradication, economic growth, and health and education service provision and for achieving environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive growth. Each of these priority areas will also have implications for the ability of developing countries to achieve their demographic transitions. Population dynamics therefore need to be integrated into the conceptualization and design of the next framework – including the design of indicators. (More details are provided below.) In addition, services should be planned taking into account population changes and therefore population
projections should be used to inform national development policies and programmes.

4.1 Poverty eradication, economic and social development

The size, structure and spatial distribution of the population has implications for economic growth, sustainable development and prosperity, by influencing labor markets, income distribution, pressure on resources and infrastructures, poverty and social protection and pension schemes. Population dynamics also affect household and community options to promote economic and social development.

Access to voluntary family planning services and the resulting falling birth rates and smaller families can mean more disposable income for households, fewer children to support and more opportunities for paid employment for women. Countries can benefit from the demographic bonus resulting from the voluntary decrease in fertility rates and the corresponding increase in the employed proportion of the population, if employment opportunities, education, investments in women’s and girls’ health and other requirements are in place.

The high population growth of many developing countries contributes to preventing the breaking of vicious poverty circles, slowing human development and undermining initiatives for economic prosperity and poverty alleviation.

Increasing numbers of older people are expected to dampen economic growth in some contexts, but poor evidence and data fail to make visible the economic contributions of people in later life in the family and community as a whole. Poverty eradication can only occur where the greatest poverty, vulnerability and marginalization are correctly identified. Continued participation of older people in society also reaps many economic and social benefits: improved physical and mental health lessening the impact on services; increased economic activity; and volunteering within the family and community.

4.2 Environmental sustainability

As outlined in section 2.7, population dynamics have implications for consumption and availability of natural resources, and therefore environmental sustainability. Population growth is highest in the world’s poorest countries, which are also most vulnerable to food and water insecurity. In these countries population growth can undermine climate change adaptation and poverty reduction by exacerbating pressure on resources. Meeting the need for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, including voluntary family planning, would support climate adaptation and increase resilience in ecologically fragile areas. Without sound policies to manage the environment, population growth contributes to environmental issues such as soil degradation and erosion, fresh water scarcity, deforestation and shortages of farmland as well as reductions in natural habitat and biodiversity, particularly at a local level.
At the global level, the links between population growth and environmental sustainability are more complex. The consumption patterns of richer populations have a far greater impact on environmental sustainability at a global level than the consumption of poorer populations. In fact, high-income countries have a footprint five times greater than that of low-income countries. xxxiii

4.3 Food, water and energy

Population growth is likely to undermine progress towards achieving food, water and energy security for the global population, particularly because the vast majority of projected population growth will take place in the world’s poorest countries, where water shortages are severe and hunger is prevalent. By 2030, the world will need an estimated 50 percent more food and energy; and 30 percent more water because of increased demand because of population growth and increasing per capita consumption, driven by urbanization and changing lifestyles including the growth of the middle class.

Global food prices are already rising, due in part to stock situations and to financial speculations, while water scarcity is increasing. xxxiv Moreover, food production is being impacted by climate change, as well as by the depletion of natural resources such as fish stocks and water for agriculture, and by limited availability of inputs such as clean energy and fertile land.

A post 2015 framework should deliver food, water and energy for all, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

4.4 Health

Health, including SRHR, is critical for human and sustainable development, with ‘the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health’ as a recognized human right. xxxiv Reducing unplanned pregnancies would reduce maternal and infant/child mortality and morbidity and alleviate pressure on limited health resources. Health services should consider the needs of both women and girls and men and boys throughout their lives, addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases and other health risks. Such action requires strengthened health systems with SRHR fully integrated. Access to preventative and curative health services is essential for people of all ages. Improved health outcomes for older people can mean less dependency, but longer life expectancy is also increasing the need for care in later life, placing greater burdens on family and state services.

4.5 Education and employment

Links between education, sexual and reproductive health rights, and women’s empowerment are multiple and mutually reinforcing.

SRHR are linked to achieving universal access to, and completion of, education for girls by combatting early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, HIV and AIDS and
other sexual and reproductive health issues that prevent young people, particularly girls, from attending school and from completing their education. Comprehensive sexuality education, both in and out of school and for both girls and boys, together with youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, are critical for empowering girls and young people.

Education is itself a means to promote SRHR and to enable women to control their fertility. Girls who go to school are more likely to delay sexual initiation and to make more informed, empowered choices. Women with seven or more years of schooling have fewer children than those who have not been to school, and their children are healthier and better educated. Similarly, enabling women to determine the timing and spacing of their pregnancies will allow them to take advantage of opportunities for education and employment. Educational opportunity enhances employability and spreads entrepreneurial skills that can accelerate economic development. Employment-related health services directly provided (or otherwise enabled) improve productivity and opportunity.

4.6 Gender inequality and women’s and girls’ empowerment

SRHR empowers women and transforms their economic and social position, increasing their opportunities for education, employment and full participation in society.

Women and girls should not be subjected to harmful practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting, early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, domestic and gender-based violence, rape and sexual coercion, pre-natal sex selection and infanticide, honour crimes and widow inheritance and sexual harassment, all of which disempower them. Elimination of gender-based violence throughout the life cycle needs to be a development priority.

4.7 Conflict, violence and disaster

High rates of population growth or density can lead to conflict over resources or dissatisfaction with insufficient employment or inheritance opportunities, particularly in resource poor settings. This can contribute to political instability and the creation of fragile states. Population pressures can also increase vulnerability to disasters, by forcing people onto marginal land or areas of greater risk, and by contributing to household poverty. Increasing access to rights-based family planning programmes can reduce population-related pressures and increase resilience.
5 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in the context of the post-2015 development agenda:

i. Promote as a framework the outcomes of relevant international processes, particularly ICPD Beyond 2014 and Rio+20, that comprehensively addresses the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development, including population- and consumption-related factors and the nexus between population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality and sustainable development, creating synergy and coherence.

ii. Include population dynamics and SRHR in the post-2015 development agenda, within a human-rights based and gender-sensitive framework, recognizing the inter-related benefits that universal access to SRHR, employment opportunities for women and promotion by voluntary means of the existing trend to smaller families bring to gender equality, population and environmental sustainability.

iii. Ensure development goals, planning and policies, including for health, education, food and water security, environment and wider poverty reduction programmes, consider, address and monitor population dynamics, and advance SRHR as part of sustainable and inclusive development and poverty eradication.

iv. Ensure development goals are based on projected changes in population size, location etc., which influence demand for and supply of essential resources and services, and population data is used for planning, monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms, including, where relevant, data disaggregated by sex, age and rural/ urban etc. This improvement in data on current and projected population sizes and needs (especially among selected marginalized groups) can be incorporated in accountability frameworks

v. Prioritise universal access to SRHR, including providing voluntary family planning and youth-friendly services, increasing demand for SRHR services, promoting integration of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS programmes and encouraging male participation within the context of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform of Action.

vi. Address both population- and consumption-related factors, shifting consumption patterns onto a sustainable and equitable pathway with goals for sustainable consumption (and production) for all countries. Responsibilities will differ between countries and there is an imperative for richer countries and populations to reduce their per capita consumption of resources, while poorer populations will need to increase their per capita
consumption in as resource efficient a manner as national circumstances permit.

vii. Improve transparency and accountability in the provision of SRHR services through, for example, the involvement of the private sector, introducing results-based financial systems, and greater involvement of civil society, particularly in strengthening maternal mortality surveillance, reducing under-registration, preventing default and improving maternal deaths classification.

viii. Reduce migratory pressures while respecting the human rights of migrants, including child migrants, eliminate forced female migration such as bride importation, forced marriages and trafficking and seek to improve living standards for those living in slums, rural and hard to reach areas and refugee/migrant camps.

ix. Provide quality education and training at all levels, particularly secondary education for girls, including reducing user fees in a properly phased and responsible manner; ensuring safe school environment and access for girls; enabling adolescent mothers and pregnant girls to continue their education; and ensuring a full curriculum including comprehensive sexuality education, and developing systems to foster lifelong learning.

x. Provide decent employment opportunities for young people and women to enable them to earn a sustained livelihood and be financially independent; establish and enforce rights-based policies to address early and forced marriage and early childbearing.

xi. Include in relevant SRHR programmes the specific needs of older people, including those dealing with skipped generations, and of other marginalized groups such as people living with HIV and men who have sex with men.

This paper is issued on behalf of the Beyond 2015 campaign. The original draft was produced by a drafting team comprised of the following Beyond 2015 organizations: Campaign 2015+, Christian Relief & Development Association; Commonwealth Medical Trust; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Population Matters; Population and Sustainability Network; Women Deliver; and with the coordinating efforts of the Christian Relief & Development Association and the Commonwealth Medical Trust. The drafting process consisted of a thorough literature review and team drafting. The draft was circulated to the campaign for review. Comments and feedback were received from 11 organizations. The redrafting was coordinated by the team, and it was possible to incorporate most of the inputs received. In accordance with the Beyond 2015 protocol on forming policy positions, the final version was signed off unanimously by the Executive Committee of Beyond 2015.

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ENDNOTES

1. The areas identified are: Inequalities, Environmental sustainability; Health; Water; Food; Energy; Education; Employment; Conflict, violence and disaster; Governance; and Population Dynamics.
4. Ibid.
7. Ibid
12. Form more information see See Africa’s Demographic Challenges:  http://www.berlin-institut.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Afrika/Africas_demographic_challenges.pdf
13. Population Dynamics. Thematic Think Piece
16. UN-Habitat The Challenge of Slums 2003
Ibid. paras 7.2, 7.3, 7.6


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