POPULATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Meeting the challenges posed by population growth in biodiversity hotspots

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What is PHE?

- A cross sector and integrated approach to meeting the interrelated challenges of achieving conservation and health goals
- A way of reaching communities in remote/rural/high biodiversity areas
- Taking an integrated approach creates synergies, enhancing effectiveness and reducing costs
Population growth in biodiversity hotspots

- >1 billion living in hotspots
- Poorer access to health care
- Poorer health, less economically prosperous
- 40% faster population growth than global average
- Custodians of global biodiversity, but may be less able to engage in natural resource management or conservation programmes
Madagascar

• World’s 4th largest island – home to 5% of global biodiversity

• 80% of its flora and fauna is endemic

• Ranks as a ‘Least Developed Country’

• GDP per capita $438
93% endemism among mammals
96% endemism among reptiles
89% endemism among plants
Population growth

- Population of 19.6 million\(^1\), 45% aged 15 or under\(^2\)
- One of the fastest growing populations in the world, projected to reach 29 million by 2025\(^3\)
- 5 live births per woman\(^3\)
- Only 1 in 4 women in union is using contraception\(^4\)

Sources:
\(^1\) World Bank
\(^2\) INSTAT
\(^3\) PRB
\(^4\) UNFPA
Deforestation in Madagascar
Where we work

Remote, coastal fishing communities, poor access to health care/education

>70,000 people relying exclusively on marine resources

4th largest barrier reef system in the world, 450km
530 fish species
164 hard coral species
Adjacent spiny forest, high levels of endemism
Andavadoaka
Velondriake

• “To live with the sea”
• Covers an area of 640 km², encompassing 24 villages
• First and largest locally managed marine area in Western Indian Ocean
• Complemented by a range of other programmes to support sustainable resource use
Uncovering an unmet need

- Higher fertility rates than the national average, 6-7 live births per woman; limited access to sexual and reproductive health services (SRHS), and health education
- Closest SRHS facility 50km walk through spiny forest
- Population growing so fast, demand for resources outstripping supply
Impact of population pressure on fisheries

- In one region, number of fishers has risen from 235 to 1510 in 20 years
- In 1991 fish caught were predominantly carnivorous; in 2011 fishery dominated by herbivorous species
- In 2011, 60% of fish caught are juveniles
- Of concern to communities and conservation practitioners
Meeting the need

- August 2007, first regional family planning clinic opened by Blue Ventures
- In 2011, multisite service covering 40 villages
- Clinics and Community Based Distribution
- Community education, to raise awareness and empower couples
Integration

- Sharing resources and opportunities
- Staff/community members trained in multiple disciplines
- Integrated messages, reaching broader audiences
- Greater cooperation from communities
Preliminary results

Contraceptive prevalence rate

Jan-07  Jan-08  Jan-09  Jan-10  Jan-11

Contraceptive prevalence rate
Preliminary results

General Fertility Rate

- Jan-07
- Jan-08
- Jan-09
- Jan-10
- Jan-11

General Fertility Rate
Lessons learnt

• It is possible for a marine conservation organisation to offer family planning services
• Yields health, social, economic and environmental benefits
• Integrating this work into an existing programme has created synergies, and has enabled us to reach this isolated population living in an area of high biodiversity
• A reproducible model
The next steps

- Maternal health, WASH, women’s empowerment
- Replicate in other parts of Madagascar, and beyond
- Advocate for and identify opportunities for integrated programming
- Answer key questions to inform policy
Thanks to...