Population, Health and Environment: Exploring the Connections

Dr. Lori M. Hunter
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Presentation Outline

- Conceptual Framework
- Illustration
- Rationale
- Foundations
- Tools
- Conclusions
Concerned about the Environment?

Population matters.
Population Size Shapes Environmental Impact

Population growth, 1750-2050

- More Developed Countries
- Less Developed Countries

2007: 6.6 Billion

Population Distribution Also Matters.
Over 1 billion live in ecological hotspots.

Source: Conservation International, Biodiversity Hotspots
Consumption Shapes Impact
• Impacts have ecological consequences.
• Deforestation and biodiversity loss;
• Fisheries decline.
Table 1. Inverse relationship between Population Growth and Fish Catch: Philippines: 1950-2000

- Population growth
- Catch per unit effort for small pelagic Municipal fisheries

YEAR


Population (million)

CPUE (U/hp)

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0

Population growth
Catch per unit effort for small pelagic Municipal fisheries
Concerned about the Environment?

Population matters.
Concerned about Health?

Environment matters.

Health

Environment
Environmental Health

• Clean water
Water supply, distribution of unserved populations

Coverage with improved sanitation, 2002

UN Water World Assessment, 2006
Environmental Health

- Clean water
- Clean air
“In 2000, indoor air pollution from solid fuel use was responsible for more than 1.6 million annual deaths .... the second biggest environmental contributor to ill health, behind unsafe water and sanitation.”

WHO, 2002
Environmental Health

- Clean water
- Clean air
- Productive lands/waters: food security
Concerned about Health?
Environment matters.
Concerned about Population?

Health matters.
Population-Health Linkages

• Health care access often constrained;
  – Including reproductive health services
• Shapes life expectancy and quality-of-life
~70% in high-income settings
Reproductive Health: Benefits of Choice

Family planning: number and spacing of children.

- **Individuals:**
  - improved maternal and infant health;
  - expanded opportunities for women’s education, employment and social participation
  - reduced exposure to health risks.
Reproductive Health: Benefits of Choice

• **Families:**
  – reduced competition for resources;
  – more possibility for shared decision-making;

• **Community/Society:**
  – reduce population pressures;
  – perhaps speed economic development.
Concerned about Population?

Health matters.
Population

Health

Environment
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Illustration: PHE in the Philippines

Population
2.36% growth rate – doubling by 2040

Health
High rates of malnutrition
Islands with access issues

Environment
High diversity and endemism
“Successful Communities Ridge to Reef”
Roxas, Philippines
“Successful Communities Ridge to Reef”
Roxas, Philippines

Project components:
   – Reproductive Health
     • Family Planning Action Sessions
     • Community-Based Distributors
“Successful Communities Ridge to Reef”
Roxas, Philippines

• Project components:
  – Marine Protection
    • Ecological Assessments
    • Protected Areas
Other PHE Components

• Field Projects

• Advocacy
  – Using media to increase public and policymakers’ awareness

• Capacity Building
  – Increase collaboration to enhance leadership capacity

• Research
  – Promote research around key PHE interactions such as food security and environment health
Population

Mediating Factors

Science & Technology

Policy

Culture

Environment
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PHE Rationale

“Add value” in several ways:
- Address multiple needs
- Gain efficiencies in delivery
“Added value” for Reproductive Health Efforts

– “Open door”
  • To men
  • To youth
“Added value” for conservation efforts

- Women manage childbearing timing, may be better able to manage resources
- Healthy families may have longer-term vision
- Population pressures reduced
PHE Rationale

• “It’s the right thing to do”
  – Often reaching underserved, most marginalized, remote communities
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The Foundations of PHE

- History of variety of integrated programs;
- PHE roots in *Integrated Conservation and Development Programs*, mid-80s;
  - Link alternative livelihoods and conservation
- Evolved in various ways across contexts.
- Agro-forestry perspective provided by Louise.
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PHE Tools

- Substantial background material
  - Case studies
  - Lessons learned
  - Thoughts on “scaling up”
  - “Toolkits” on
    - Program development and implementation
    - Monitoring and evaluation
Introduction - Below are links, by topic, to selected full-text versions of reports on a range of PHE issues. Additional documents are also on the PHE Toolkit page. The organizations linked to below are not necessarily affiliated with, or receive support from USAID. The Document Links are organized as follows:

- General Links - Links to organizational website pages with multiple PHE documents.
- Highlighted Documents - Direct links to full-text versions of documents
  - Integrated PHE Programming - Strategies, Links
  - Advocacy
  - Field Experiences
  - Other Topics
    - Poverty-health-ecosystems
    - Gender Issues and PHE
    - Global climate change and PHE

General Links

- Population Action International (PAI) - Population and Environment Publications
  - General publications
  - Population and environment issues articles
  - Population and environment reports
  - Population and environment fact sheets
  - Population and environment research commentaries
- Population Reference Bureau (PRB)
  - Population, Health and Environment Publications – over 80 publications from 1999 to present addressing strategies, field experiences, etc.
- Wilson Center’s Environmental Change and Security Program (ECSP)
  - Population-Health-Environment publications – link to all ECSP documents
• General Links - Links to organizational website pages with multiple PHE resources
• Highlighted Documents - Direct links to full-text versions of documents
  ○ Integrated PHE Programming - Strategies, Links
  ○ Advocacy
  ○ Field Experiences
  ○ Other Topics
    ■ Poverty-health-ecosystems
    ■ Gender Issues and PHE
    ■ Global climate change and PHE
Below are links to a variety of full-text resources for planning, implementing and monitoring PHE projects and activities. These include:

1 - DESIGN/PLANNING TOOLS

1.1 Guidelines and Frameworks
1.2 Lessons Learned/Best Practices
1.3 Scaling Up

2. - IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

2.1 Implementation - Training Modules
2.2 Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Tools
2.3 Job Descriptions/Job Aids

3 - MONITORING AND EVALUATION TOOLS

4 - ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING TOOLS

1 - DESIGN/PLANNING TOOLS

1.1 - Design/Planning - Guidelines and Frameworks

- USAID
  - Opportunities in population and health for community forest user groups in Nepal. 2006.
Monday, March 27, 2006

**Experts warn sex is a threat v. food security**

*By Jimmy P. Abayon*

POPULATION management experts warned that the country's food security is under threat from a galloping population that could reach 147.3 million forty-five years from now from the current 83.7 million.

The warning came at the opening day of the two-day workshop training on "Communicating Reproductive Health through Integrated Population-Environment Approaches" for selected media practitioners and information officers from various regions in the Visayas and Negros islands.
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Conclusions

- Community based, integrated programs
Population

Reproductive Health

Conservation Initiatives

Health

Environment

Enhanced Environmental Health

PHE
Conclusions

• Community based, integrated programs
• Aim to “add value” to single sector efforts
• Lessons to be learned from past integration efforts
• Include advocacy, capacity building, research
• Resources available for support
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http://www.ehproject.org/phe/phe.html

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