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Environmental Change and Security Program

New Insights into the Population Growth Factor in Development

Monday, December 6, 2010

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Edited Transcript – Martha Campbell

Thank you very much, Geoff. It's a great pleasure to be back here again. I just want to mention that I teach at Berkeley as a lecturer in the School of Public Health and was on the, was heading the Population Program in the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in the 1990s, and then started Venture Strategies for Health and Development nonprofit working a lot on maternal health issues and low resource settings. But also really keenly interested in the population growth effect on development and on health, and something we worry about a lot. The subject of population growth has been around for a long time, but it's been pretty silent among a lot of people and the media, especially in the last 15 years, which means people can't learn about it if the language of population growth and the language of family planning haven't been really open to the public. We consider these very important because there are a lot of things that can't get done without that. We have not found, for example, any country that has developed or gotten out of poverty while maintaining high birth rates. We can't find any. And that's some kind of a clue right there as to the relationships, and get into that, I hope, later in discussion. And I think there will be a lot of discussion and time for it later.

We have some very special people here today, who are experts, both African, one a demographer, one a physician, and who have special interests in clarifying for policymakers the information that they need. There's a lot of good research out there, but trying to pull together what the priorities are on the basis of just clarity in translation of how you can turn this into practical use for decision makers is very important. I would like to first introduce Dr. Eliya Zulu, who is a premier demographer in, who has, in Africa, and who is the elected director of UAPS. UAPS is the Union for African Population Studies, which has at least 1,000 demographers centered in Africa. And it's a four-year post. And he also has been the person who founded AFIDEP, the new African institute for policy studies, exactly to do the transition or translation, if you will, from the research into policy language for decision makers, for policymakers throughout Africa. It's a very, very interesting concept. And it's exciting to see the kind of work that they are doing. I think we'll just turn this over to Dr. -- he's from Malawi, by the way. And



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his degrees are from the University of Pennsylvania, his Ph.D., and earlier degrees, in fact, from Australia. But let me turn this over now to Dr. Zulu.



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