

Finding the Entry Points

Opportunities for Reproductive Health in Climate Change Adaptation

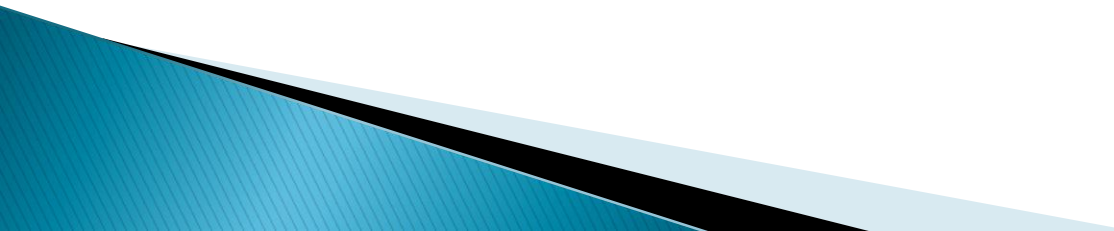
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Women's Health: Key to Climate Adaptation Strategies
February 27, 2012
Environmental Change and Security Program

Universal access to reproductive health: win-win opportunities for climate change adaptation

- RH programs relatively easy to implement
- Already in demand among the world's women
- Relatively inexpensive
- Strengthens women's and family's resilience to climate change impacts
- By slowing population growth over time, reduces the scale of human vulnerability to climate change impacts



Population and Climate Change Vulnerability

- ▶ Population size, composition, and spatial distribution constantly changing
 - ▶ These changes have important implications for climate change exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity
 - ▶ Assessments of vulnerability rarely include detailed population trends, particularly fertility and reproductive health needs
 - ▶ Opportunities exist to integrate population and climate change responses
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Central Challenge

Among climate specialists,
understanding of population
dynamics remains limited

In general, climate specialists:

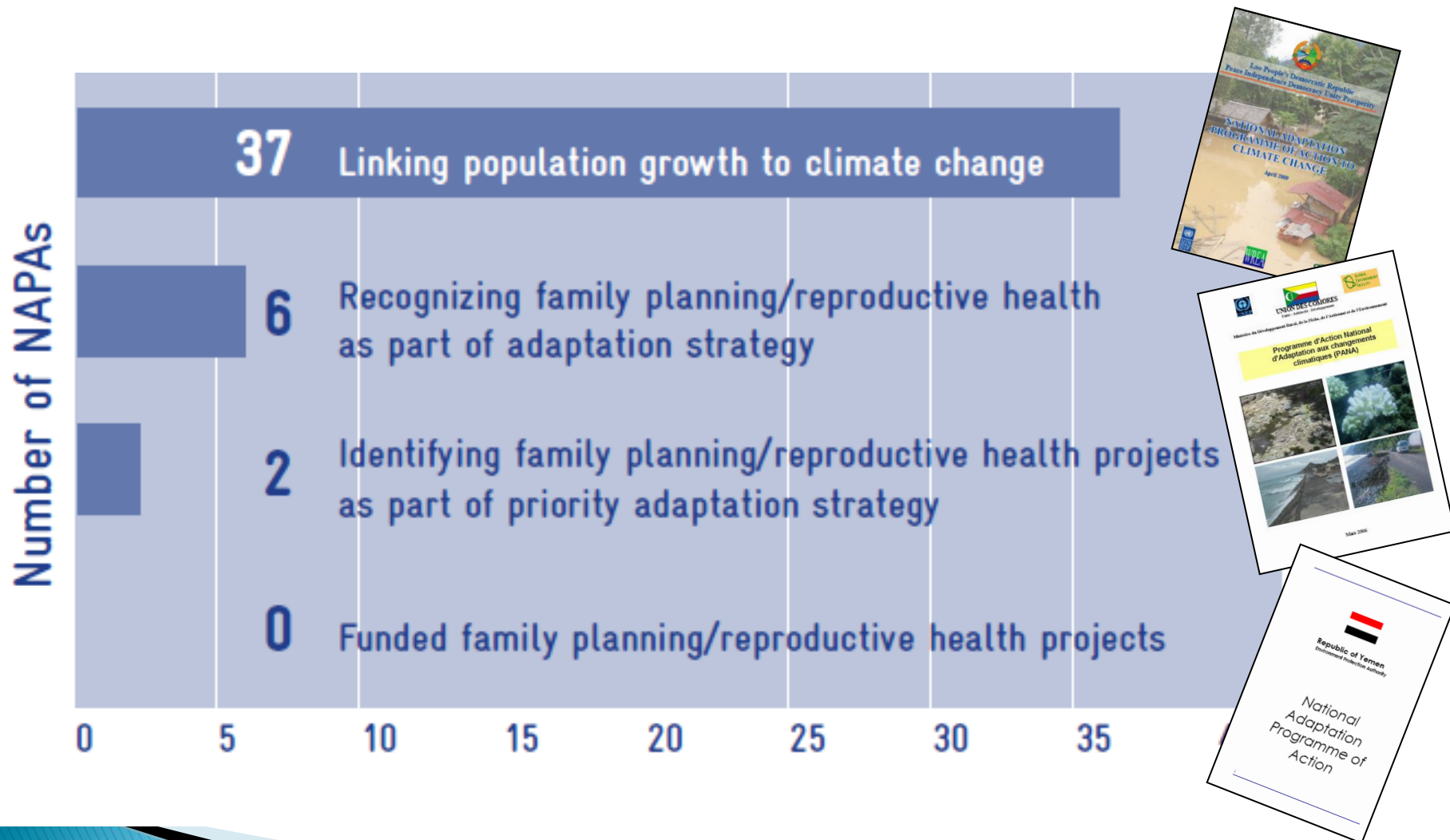
- ▶ Don't think about population dynamics, or
- ▶ Think about it sometimes, but don't fully grasp the scale of demographic changes that are coming, or
- ▶ Assume that “doing something” about population requires limiting people's rights

Key Targets for Awareness–Raising and Integration

- ▶ Adaptation Planning Frameworks
- ▶ Tools and Training
- ▶ Program Design
- ▶ Strengthening the Evidence Base

Adaptation Planning Frameworks

Population, Reproductive Health/Family Planning and Adaptation Strategies in NAPAs

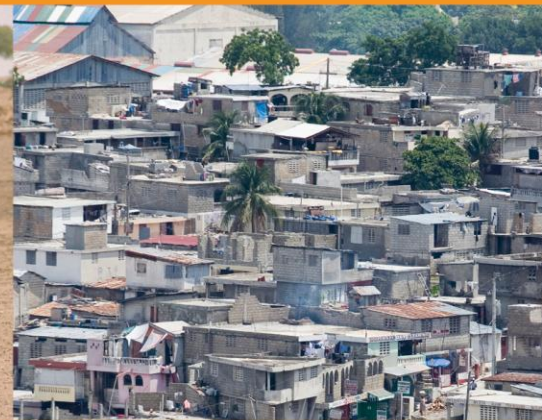


From NAPAs to NAPs (National Adaptation Plans)

- ▶ Under the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework, process was set in motion for development of NAPs
- ▶ While NAPAs identified urgent and immediate adaptation needs, NAPs will assess medium- and long-term needs
- ▶ Technical guidelines will be elaborated by LDC Expert Group by the end of 2012
- ▶ Modalities for NAP preparation include workshops, trainings, technical papers, regional exchanges, etc

Tools and Training

Population Dynamics and Climate change



Tools for Vulnerability Assessment and Proj



Population Action
INTERNATIONAL
HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY PLANET.



DRAFT

How Does Population Matter for Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation?

The poorest countries and poorest groups within a population are most immediately vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as floods, droughts, and landslides.¹ Many developing countries are also experiencing rapid population growth, a trend that has been identified by adaptation planners as a factor that can exacerbate vulnerability to climate change.²

The world's population has doubled since 1960 and continues to grow by almost 80 million people per year.³ While the rate of global population growth is slowing, in many parts of the world population growth rates remain high. According to the most recent projections from the United Nations, 40 countries are projected to at least double in population over the next 40 years.⁴ Population dynamics—particularly population growth, population density, fertility, and reproductive health—have important implications for climate change vulnerability and adaptation. While migration is an important consideration in climate change vulnerability and adaptation, this brief focuses on challenges and solutions associated with

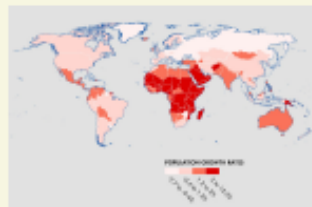
high fertility and associated population dynamics. It provides an overview of population dynamics and climate change vulnerability, and outlines resources for incorporating population factors in vulnerability assessments.

AREAS OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH OVERLAP WITH AREAS OF CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY

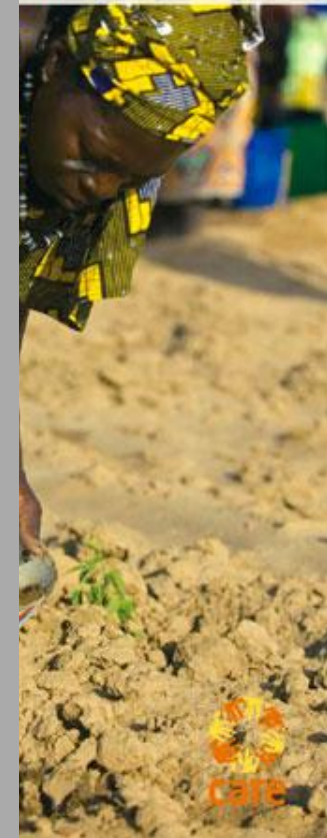
Nearly all of future natural population growth will occur in the developing world, often in places that are least resilient to climate change. Growing populations will place increasing pressure on ecosystems and natural resources that may already be under strain from climate change impacts. These include forests, fisheries, and freshwater resources.

POPULATION GROWTH INCREASES THE SCALE OF HUMAN VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Increases in population density can expose greater numbers of people to climate change-related risks, including droughts and extreme weather. For example, population density is already high in low elevation coastal zones. These areas are increasingly exposed to extreme weather events



and Capacity Analysis book



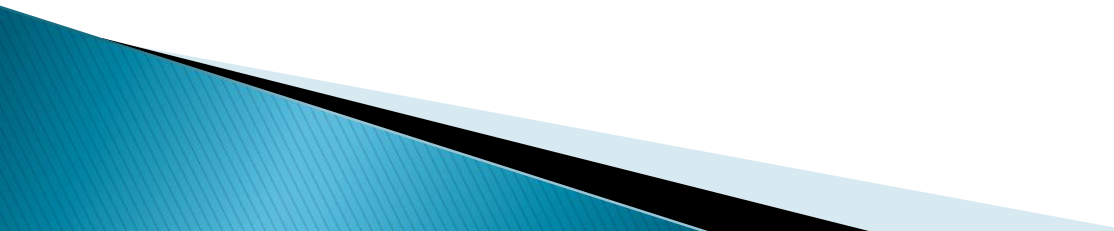
Program Design

Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Approaches

- ▶ Integrated, community-based projects supported by USAID and others over past decade
- ▶ Aim to meet health and development needs of remote, underserved communities while sustaining natural resources
- ▶ Key component: explicit focus on addressing unmet need for family planning



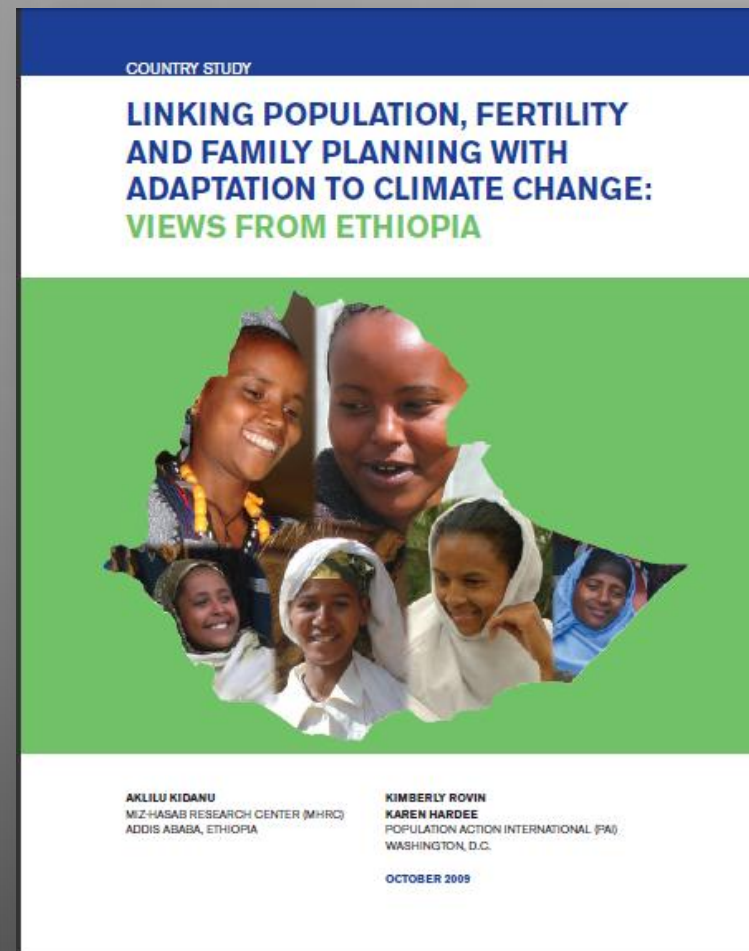
PHE and Community-based Adaptation: Common Elements

- ▶ Community engagement in participatory processes to identify needs and implement appropriate interventions
 - ▶ Prioritization of underserved communities highly dependent on natural resources
 - ▶ Support for community stewardship and sustainable use of natural resources
 - ▶ Grounded in multi-sectoral assessment, planning and implementation
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Strengthening the Evidence Base

Evidence is Growing, But More Needed

- ▶ How does meeting reproductive health needs contribute directly to adaptive capacity?
- ▶ Peer-reviewed publication and inclusion in IPCC assessment reports would boost legitimacy

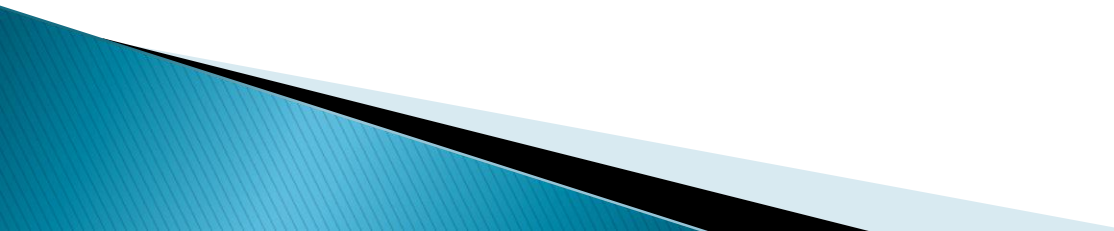


Further Applied Work also Critical



- ▶ Develop and test tools to integrate population dynamics into vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning
- ▶ Design, implement, and document adaptation programs with a reproductive health component

Climate Finance: Opportunities and Challenges

- ▶ Proliferation of funds for adaptation – “fast track” finance and beyond
 - ▶ Funding is frequently sectoral and targeted to respond to specific climate threats. Where does that leave interventions that boost overall resilience and adaptive capacity?
 - ▶ Guided by country-driven priorities, placing a premium on partnerships, training, and technical assistance
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Thank you

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