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Vice-Chairman

All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

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Woodrow Wilson Centre
Return of the Population
Growth Factor

Impact upon the Millennium Development Goals
United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

To be achieved by 2015:

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV / AIDs, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development
Population growth 1950 - 2050

80% of the World’s Least Developed Countries think their population growth is too high.
MDG 1 - Poverty and Hunger

Target: Reduce the number living in extreme poverty (under $1 a day) by half by 2015

Reality: Sub-Saharan Africa

Numbers living in Poverty 1990 and 2001

*Poverty is defined as people living on or less than $1 per day.

Data source: UN Status Division MDG website, UN Population Division Data
95% of the global population growth is concentrated in the world’s poorest countries.

With the exception of a few oil rich states, no country has raised itself out of poverty without slowing its population growth.

UNFPA “These groups are in poverty because of the lack of capacity to exercise their reproductive rights.” i.e. no access to family planning

UNFPA “Meeting the unmet need for family planning would be the equivalent of 1% economic growth.”
MDG 1 - Poverty and Hunger

Target 2: Reduce the by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015

Change in Numbers with insufficient food 1990 – 2001 (millions)
Ethiopian population

1984 - 42 million
2006 - 75 million
2006 - 8 million reliant upon permanent food aid

Ethiopia population 1900-2050

Population in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population in millions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
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<td>2025</td>
<td>108</td>
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<td>2050</td>
<td>145</td>
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MDG 2 – Access to Education

Target:

Universal access to primary education by 2015
Assuming class sizes of 40, an extra 2 million teachers are required each year, just to stand still.
MDG 3 – Gender equality

Target:
Eliminate Gender disparity in primary and secondary education, *preferably by 2005*, and at all levels of education by 2015

Reality:
In Sub-Saharan Africa only 26% of students entering secondary school in 2005 were girls.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:
“Women’s ability to control their fertility is the first and most important step to full empowerment and gender equality.”
Higher Contraceptive Use: Higher Proportion of Girls in Secondary Schools
Iran – Population and TFR

Iran - Population and TFR since 1955

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
- Population in millions


TFR: Yellow
Population in millions: Pink
MDG 4 – Child Mortality

Target: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five by 2015
Association of TFR and Child Mortality (2005)

Source: UNECA
Birth spacing saves lives

[Bar chart showing the percentage increase in child mortality (in relation to children born 24 to 48 months after a previous birth) for Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, and Kenya, with categories for less than 18 months and 18-24 months.]
MDG 5 – Maternal Mortality

Target:

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2015
Maternal Mortality per 100,000 live births in 2000
Maternal Mortality

- 41% of pregnancies globally are unintended.
- The UK government believes accessible family planning has the potential to reduce maternal deaths by 35%.
MDG 6 – HIV/AIDS and other Diseases

Target: To have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target: To have halted and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
MDG 7 – Environmental Sustainability

Target: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Does population growth have anything to do with MDG 7?

No and Yes
No

- Climate Change caused by CO₂ emissions is largely unaffected by population growth because 95% of population growth is in the world’s poorest countries where emissions are low.
Yes

- As poorer countries develop, their emissions will grow with them.
- The developed world must support and encourage the developing world in order for it to develop sustainably.
Population growth is exacerbating

- Fragile ecosystems
- Deforestation
- Land degradation
- Fragile fishing resources
Case study – Culion, Philippines

Fish stocks threatened as population grew at 2.36% pa.

Fishermen were noticing it was increasingly difficult to feed their families.

Integrated Population and Coastal Resource Management Initiative provided:
- Education about the environment
- Education about the option to manage family size through voluntary family planning.
Population growth has fallen as parents can manage their family size

Environmental degradation is now being reversed

Illegal fishing practices frowned upon by the community

Destruction of the mangroves has ended.

Locals are committed to maintaining a cleaner shoreline and improving disposal of waste.

Results are already showing

- Fish stocks are increasing in the Culion area
- % underweight children has fallen from 34% to 24% between 2001 and 2004 (well below the national average)
"Per capita demand for water globally is estimated to exceed the available sources by about 2050" Sir David King, Chief Scientific Advisor to UK Gov
Demand for water is increasing in all ten countries of the Nile basin.

- Nile already severely depleted by the time it reaches the Mediterranean
- Population of Nile basin set to double by 2050
Egypt
2006: 75 million
2050: 126 million

Sudan
2006: 41 million
2050: 84 million

Ethiopia
1900: 5 million
2006: 75 million
2050: 145 million

Uganda
2006: 28 million
2050: 130 million
Countries in which young adults comprise more than 40% of the population are more than twice as likely to experience civil conflict.

A few of the 59 countries with 40% under 15:
- Rwanda 47%
- Zimbabwe 41%
- Nepal 41%
- Nigeria 43%
- Sierra Leone 43%
- Sudan 44%
- Somalia 45%
Evidence is overwhelming:

The Millennium Development Goals are difficult or impossible to achieve with the current levels of population growth in the least developed countries and regions.
Where are we now?
Lost Decade

- Since 1994 ICPD Conference Cairo, momentum has been lost – focus shifted and discussion of population became synonymous with coercion.
- HIV/AIDS became issue of the moment
- The availability of contraception in Africa has not increased in the last decade.
- The poorest are those who suffer
What can we do about it?

- Fulfil the unmet need
- Fund and provide family planning to all those who want it – the poorest countries are crying out for help

**Government Views on the Rate of Population Growth in the Least Developed Countries**