



Partners in Population and Development

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1999 Annual Report



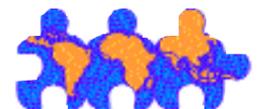
Partnerships

for Capacity Building

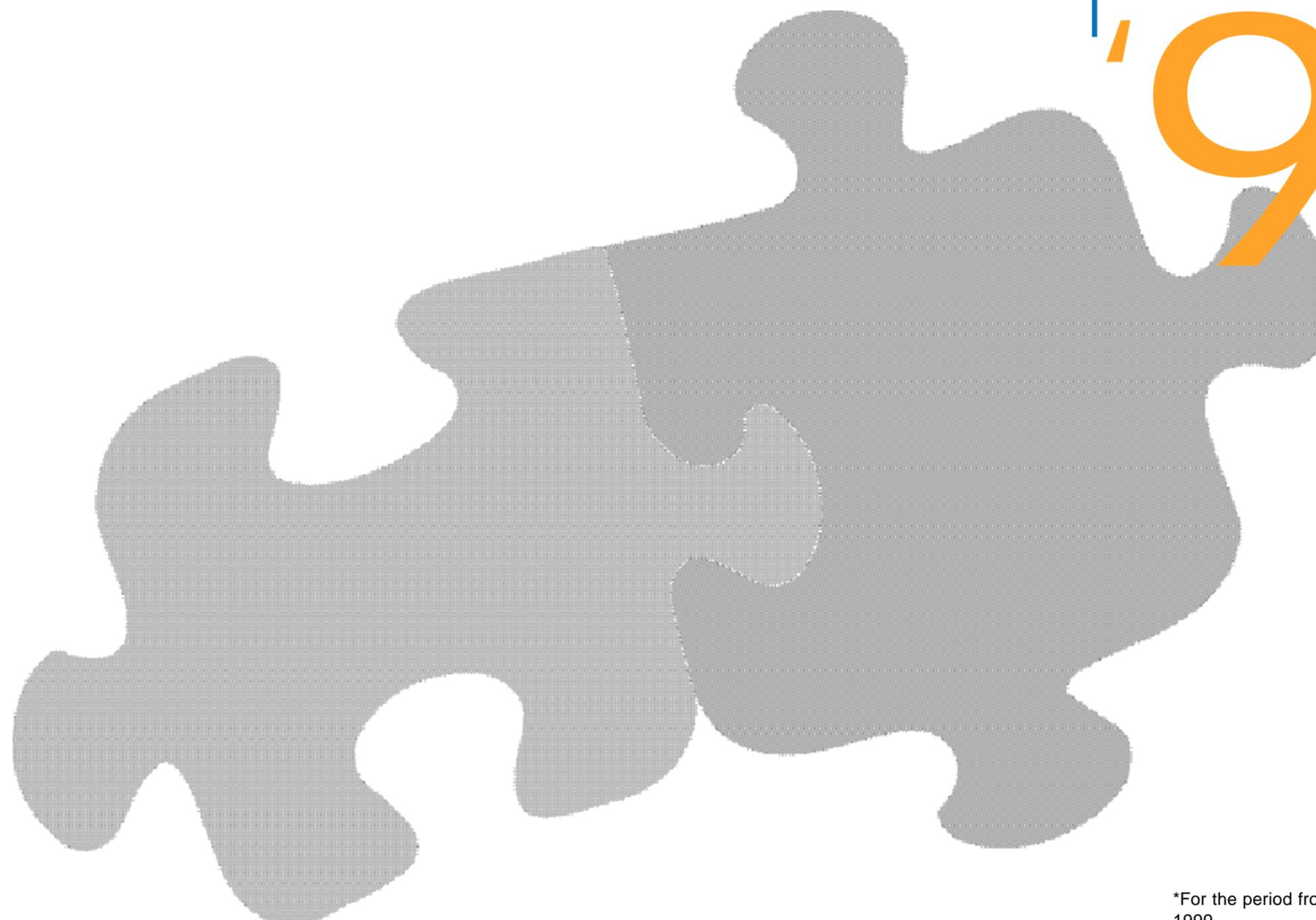
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Partners in Population and Development



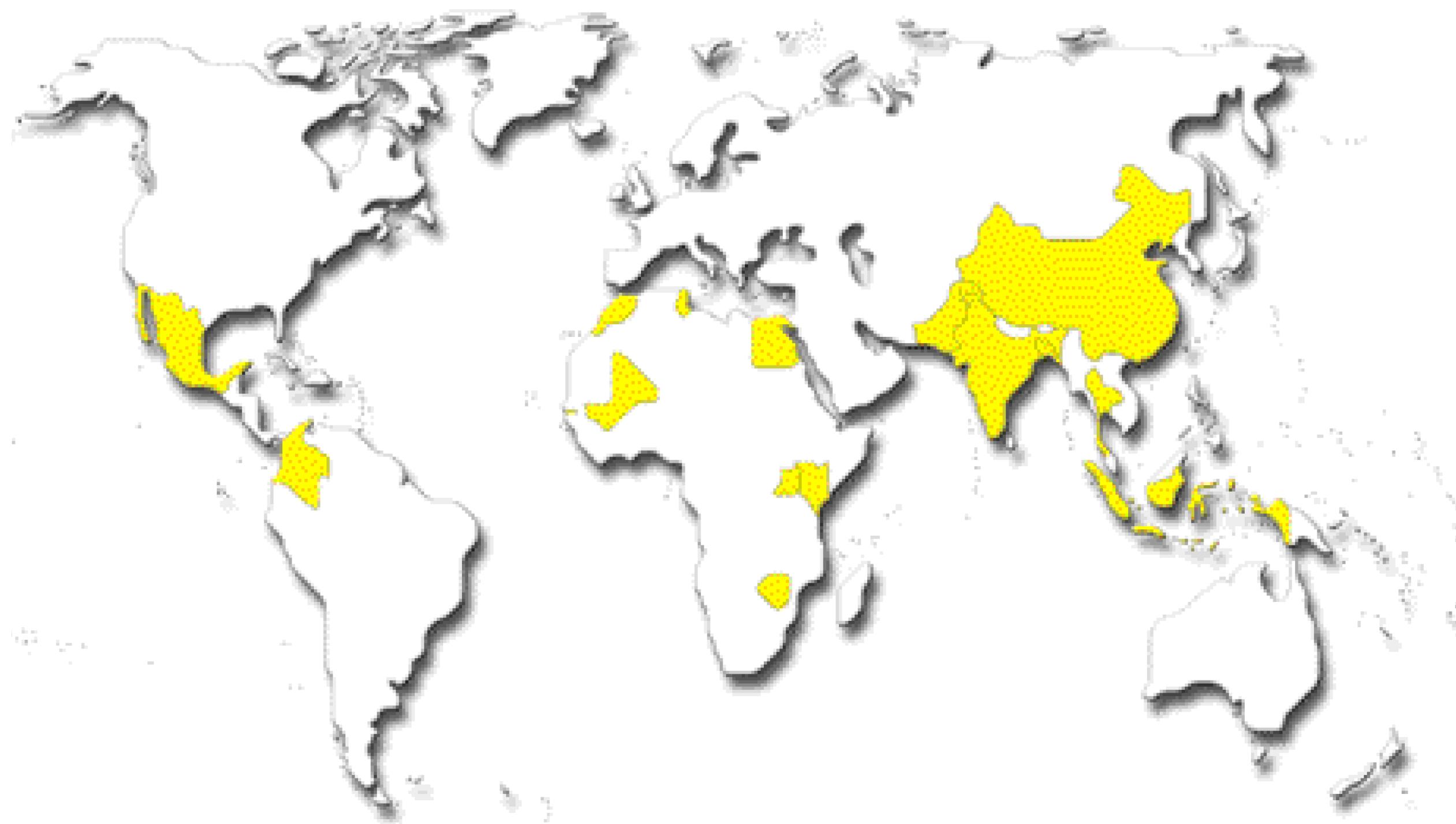
Annual Report '99*



*For the period from November 1998 to December 1999

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- Bangladesh
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- The Gambia
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Mali
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Pakistan
- Thailand
- Tunesia
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe

Member countries

of Partners in Population and Development



Mission Statement

The mission of the Partners is to help implement the Cairo Program of Action by quickly expanding and improving South-to-South collaboration in the fields of family planning and reproductive health. Each Partner will

strengthen institutional capacity to undertake South-South exchange activities and will rapidly expand the number of South-South training and

consultative programs. Long term collaborative arrangements will be encouraged. The Partners Secretariat will provide a central point for networking among Partners and for



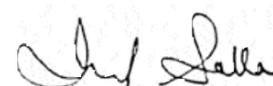
Foreword

Much of the discussion around ICPD+5 focused not only on achievements, but also on the need to maintain the momentum that many of us helped to create in Cairo in 1994. We know there are many millions of families who are in need of quality reproductive health practices in order to enhance their development. They rely on advice and services from governments, from NGOs, and from the private sector. There is an urgency to ensure that the capacities of reproductive health/family planning organizations in all sectors of society increase in line with the increasing needs of the population.

One way to expand capacities is to get higher returns from the collectivity of our existing investments and capitalize on experience that is available all over the developing world. This is where South-to-South cooperation can add value. Yet the capacity for effective cooperation does not exist. Professionals and institutions in the fields of reproductive health and family planning are eager to learn from each other and share their experiences. However, often they do not know how to initiate their search; who to contact with a question; whom to tell that they have found some unique way to get useful results.

This year's Annual Report draws attention to **Partners'** role in helping to strengthen the capacity of institutions and individuals to share experiences and learn from each other. The report points to innovative ways of sharing training capacities. It documents ways by which exchanges of practitioners are organized and what actions resulted from these exchanges. It shows how capacities are strengthened to permit researchers to exchange scientific results and to promote their application to policy formulation; it also reports on how new networks have been created to enable NGOs to transfer their development know-how to areas where their particular experience in reproductive health and family planning is badly needed.

As the report shows, 1998/99 was a successful year for **Partners** and we wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders for their efforts and their continuing commitment. Our appreciation goes to our colleagues in the Executive Board, to the Partner Country Coordinators and to their collaborating institutions and individuals. We thank our donors and supporters, as well as the Secretariat staff and many collaborators who have shared with us their enthusiasm about South-to-South cooperation and given their sound advice. Last, but not least, our thanks go to the Government of Bangladesh for hosting our Secretariat and giving us support.



Dr. Ismail Sallam
Chair - Partners Board



Ambassador Simon A. Bullut
Secretary - Partners Board

From the Executive Director

Our report on the 1999 activities is devoted to the theme of "Partnerships for Capacity Building," as expanding capacities are at the heart of the South-to-South concept. The Report covers several countries and regions of the world where Partners has been active and has moved forward in path-finding initiatives.

As I write this note, I am happy to announce that we have been given the financial support that we had sought from the EC/DFID consortium for the implementation of five model projects to demonstrate different ways of transferring expertise. This program involves eight organizations in 18 countries.

Similarly, we are grateful to the Gates Foundation for providing us the grant to implement the Global Leadership Development Program we submitted in 1999. Through this program, 1,000 persons will receive customized training in some of the best training institutions in the South. This will help create a much needed new generation of policy makers, program managers, technical experts, and service providers to move forward the agenda of the ICPD.

In the report, we mention our small-grants approach. Recently, we made two small grants to the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (MEXFAM), one for using cyber-communications to share best practices for South-to-South cooperation among NGOs and the other for a regional NGO conference in Latin America for South-to-South collaboration in the design and delivery of IEC materials on sexual and reproductive health, targeting young people out of school.

I take this opportunity to express the Secretariat's appreciation to our Board Members for the guidance and support we received from them and from all our partners.



Balla Musa Silla
Executive Director



A. Graziano/Unicef

A grant has been awarded to the Mexican Foundation for Family Planning to enhance South-to-South collaboration in the design and delivery of IEC materials on sexual and reproductive health, targeting young people out of school.

What is *Partners* all about?

A South-to-South initiative in response to Cairo

Partners in Population and Development (**Partners**) is an innovative intergovernmental initiative created specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South-to-South collaboration in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development. **Partners** was launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), when ten developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America formed an intergovernmental alliance to help implement the Cairo Program of Action (POA).

This POA, endorsed by 179 nations, stresses the need to establish mechanisms to promote development through the sharing of experiences in reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) within and among countries, and to promote effective partnerships among intergovernmental organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions and the private sector. During the five-year review of the implementation of the POA ("Cairo+5"), representatives at the June 1999 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly not only documented renewed commitment to the goals of the ICPD, but also encouraged intensified support of

Advancing reproductive health, population, and development

The ten founding members (Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) are countries that have received international recognition for advancing development through their successful population policies, family planning programs and health services. Since then, the organization has expanded to include China, the Gambia, India, Mali, Pakistan and Uganda, broadening the reach of **Partners** to over half of the world's population.

A unique organization

The concept of South-to-South collaboration in the fields of population and development is not new. However, most earlier exchanges of experiences and technical know-how between developing countries tended to be ad-hoc and consisted mostly of short-term training and study tours. Usually, these were donor-initiated and donor-driven. Unlike other organizations, however, **Partners** does not merely incorporate or add a South-to-South dimension to its program, but develops mechanisms that help institutionalize South-to-South cooperation and thus taps a considerable, but still underutilized, resource for development in a systematic way.

In fact, **Partners** is the first and only organization devoted entirely to fostering long-term South-to-South partnerships in RH/FP. It is important to note that **Partners** does not confine its activities to its members alone: on the contrary, it is the organization's explicit philosophy to reach out to NGOs and governments of other developing countries to share the available

The substantive focus of *Partners*

All Partner Countries are committed to the implementation of the POA agreed upon in Cairo. This includes, among other things, improvements in the eradication of poverty, the advancement of gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women through education, training and awareness of their rights, universal access to quality RH care services, and the promotion of freedom of choice and the absence of coercion in family planning.

Within this overall framework, the **Partners'** Board decided to initially give priority to four program areas:

- Integration of FP and RH services and the establishment of RH structures
- Promotion and integration of sexually transmitted disease (STD) and HIV/AIDS prevention and care within RH structures
- Provision of FP and RH services aimed at the special needs of male and female adolescents
- Reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity

In addition, there are several crosscutting areas such as gender issues, including the empowerment of women and concerns for the girl child, or the

Building on our comparative advantages

- **Partners** represents the political will of its member countries to improve RH and FP in a self-determined and sustained manner.
- **Partners** provides a climate of mutual trust, respect and openness which places it in a unique position to address culturally sensitive subjects.
- **Partners** was established on the premise that scarce resources need to be pooled and shared for maximum cost-effectiveness.
- **Partners'** members are willing to commit their own resources to help improve capacities not only within their own but also within other developing countries.

Partners strives to engage the whole

spectrum of civil society, from research and training institutions to the private sector, in forming partnerships to improve the sexual and reproductive health of the poor.

The “value added” of *Partners*

In addition to the uniqueness of its mission, mandate and structure, several factors contribute to the value added of *Partners*:

- *Partners* takes a long-term approach to cooperative research, training and information exchange.
- *Partners* develops programs and projects that the countries themselves desire. This invariably brings the kind of political commitment necessary for impact and sustainability.
- Since *Partners*' Board Members are usually the highest-ranking officials in the Reproductive Health or related Ministries in their countries, they can easily engage in dialogue with counterparts in other countries. Because of their positions, *Partners*' Board Members not only possess the most relevant knowledge and overview of their countries' needs and opportunities, they are also in the best position to facilitate action.
- Through its Board Members, *Partners* is most advantageously placed to have an impact on policy improvement - another crucial element for developing successful programs.
- *Partners* does not work with governments alone. It strives to engage the whole spectrum of civil society - from research and training institutions to the private sector - in forming partnerships to improve the sexual and reproductive health of the poor. By working through *Partners*, donors too are able to have access to partnerships throughout society.
- *Partners* is in a unique position to address highly sensitive cultural issues, such as the involvement of religious leaders in RH programs, or adolescent's sexual and reproductive rights - still considered taboo in many societies. Such issues do not

The *Partners* Secretariat as facilitator

To provide a central point for networking among Partner Countries for identifying opportunities for exchanges as well as sources of financial support, the Board decided to establish a Secretariat, which the Government of Bangladesh has generously hosted throughout the past four years.

Membership in *Partners*

Partners welcomes new members to increase the momentum of its efforts. **Full Membership** is open to governments of developing countries and countries in transition who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the ICPD POA. Members contribute US\$ 20,000 annually to the organization's budget and must also be prepared to invest human and financial resources in support of their participation in the

Member countries appoint a representative to the *Partners*' Board, usually the highest-ranking official in charge of RH matters, i.e. a Minister or government leader of similar rank. They also designate an official to function as Partner Country Coordinator (PCC). The PCC is the focal point for developing and implementing South-to-South

Associate Membership is open to organizations which actively support the work of the member countries and the Secretariat. These may be regional or national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development organizations, private foundations, or research and training institutions.



to address complex issues of reproductive health through exchange of experiences from the South to the South.

Capacity building is a central mandate of *Partners*. One of the most important lessons learned over the last three years is that despite great interest and enthusiasm among the developing countries to share their expertise, the capacity to do so is often lacking. Having an expertise

Capacity building

does not automatically translate into having the capacity to share it with others.

In order to augment capacities in the three main modalities used by *Partners*, namely training, research, and exchange of information, numerous partnerships were formed, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed, training programs initiated and opportunities created for fruitful exchanges. The following chapters are an account of the Secretariat's efforts at initiating partnerships for capacity building, both through regional events and global programs.

The Fellowship Program

The Fellowship Program is one of *Partners*' great success stories in 1999 and an excellent example of a South-to-South initiative. It is based on the voluntary contributions of fellowships by leading training institutions in order to strengthen the human resource base of both Partner and non-Partner Countries.

Through this carefully conceived program, *Partners* provides unique opportunities for high-quality professional exchanges among developing countries at very reasonable costs. The Secretariat's role is to match the expertise of well-established training institutions with the needs and interests of qualified professionals. Prospective fellows must provide proof that the knowledge and skills they seek to acquire will actually contribute to improved program design and management in their own countries, with their current employer. Final selection of the candidates is in the hands of participating institutions.

The Fellowship Program caught on immediately. As soon as the program was approved at the Fourth Annual Board Meeting in November 1998, the Cairo Demographic Center (CDC) stepped forward with the generous offer of four one-year diploma courses in "Population and Sustainable Development." This gesture generated much enthusiasm and goodwill, and helped the program off to a very good start.

One year later, 45 fellowships have been awarded to participants from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, the Gambia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam. The awards were given by



Inauguration of the first course designed for the International Fellowship Program at the Institute of Child and Mother Health in Bangladesh.

"ICMH has gained confidence after organizing a successful international program of this magnitude. The facilitators and faculty here have been enriched by sharing the RH situations of the participants' countries."

Dr. Shumona Shafinaz
Training Coordinator at ICMH, Bangladesh

"Indian NGOs are taking great action towards child development in India. I will introduce some of the things I have learned in the training course to NGOs in China."

Dr. Huang Jun, China
Participant in NIPCCD Management Training, India

- Bangladesh: Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) for courses in "RH and Emergency Obstetric Care"
- Egypt: Cairo Demographic Center for courses in "Population and Sustainable Development"
- India: National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) for courses in "Holistic Approach to the Development of Adolescent Girls" and "Management of Child Development Programs"
- Indonesia: National Family Planning Board of Indonesia (BKKBN) for courses in "FP/RH and Development: The Indonesian Experience"

Participating institutions provided free tuition, training materials, accommodation and subsidized meals, while the Secretariat provided for airfares and incidental costs. The total cost of offering these programs was approximately US\$ 307,000 in 1999, about 70 percent of which were borne by the member countries.

The real value of the Fellowship Program, however, cannot be measured by money alone. Participants were asked to evaluate the programs they attended and to prepare proposals on how they plan to apply what they learned to the situation in their own countries. Many fellows stressed that they benefited not only from the training curriculum but also from the daily opportunities for discussions and the exchange of experiences with colleagues from other countries. Many plan to "keep the network alive." The management and staff of the institutions expressed similar sentiments. In addition to broadening their own horizons, they are expanding their network of international alumni.

The year 2000 promises even more success. Already, a large number of fellowships are under discussion, and at least one country is exploring ways

"After attending BKKBN's training course, I will suggest that in Uganda we train FP volunteers to do family enumeration. All of us trained in Indonesia plan to meet again to develop a plan of action on how to apply the Indonesian experience to Uganda."

Naumo Juliana Akoryo, Uganda
Participant in BKKBN Training, Indonesia

"After attending the program in Cairo, I now understand the demographic problems of my country and am better equipped to render my services in the fields of population and development."

Ratna Talukder, Bangladesh
Participant in long-term training at CDC, Egypt

Through *Partners*' Fellowship Program, professionals from developing countries learn from successful strategies applied in the host country.



The Global Leadership Development Program

Based on the experience already acquired through the fellowship program, during the latter part of 1999 the Secretariat developed a capacity building and human resource development program.

The goal is to provide demand-driven and customized training programs to about 1,000 persons over the next three years, and thus to help create a new generation of policy makers, program managers, technical experts, and service providers to advance the agenda of the ICPD.

This will be achieved by expanding training programs and enhancing the capacity of trainers of ten to twelve selected training institutions in different regions. There will be a major shift from purely traditional training approaches by broadening the exposure of the trainees to relevant lessons learned from other developing countries, and by upgrading the training curricula to address comprehensive RH and related issues, with a particular focus on Partners' four priority areas. Regionally organized short-term courses will expose participants to concrete examples of what works in RH and development, even under formidable institutional, personnel and financial constraints. Participants will analyze success stories as well as failures and learn how to adapt viable programs to the realities of their own situations. Already existing investments in one country are thus brought to bear on similar problems faced by other developing countries. This maximizes the use of scarce resources and ensures cost-effectiveness.

The program will be carried out under the guidance of an International Advisory Committee comprised of eminent scientists and leaders in the field; a Program Committee representing the participating training institutions; and National Coordination Committees. The proposal has been submitted for funding. Participating countries will be expected to share the costs for their

Strengthening research capacity

To promote South-to-South collaboration in the area of research and to strengthen institutional capacities, Partners and the International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), signed a MOU in May 1999. The Center is renowned for its long-term research in health and population and for designing and testing sustainable service delivery systems.

Last December, Partners and ICDDR,B jointly organized an "Expert Group Meeting on Developing Research Capacity." The four-day meeting brought together 44 participants, including senior researchers from 12 countries whose main objectives were to:

- identify capacity building needs for RH research in the Partner Countries
- formulate corresponding strategies through South-to-South cooperation
- discuss how to develop cross-culturally comparable research tools so that research findings from one country can be compared to others
- promote the application of research results to policies and programs

The participants produced a set of recommendations for collaboration and decided to establish a research network. To take the recommendations a further step towards implementation, a "Core Group Meeting" is scheduled for March 2000 in Thailand.



The Cairo Demographic Center in Egypt can look back on many years of experience in providing customized training programs to an international clientele.

Strengthening NGO capacity

Partners' Strategic Plan for 1999-2000 clearly spells out the goal to increase NGO participation in the South-to-South process. NGOs are widely recognized for their ability to be innovative and to respond quickly, cost-effectively, and sensitively to the needs of underserved populations. However, they also tend to work in isolation from each other, often with overlapping goals or duplication, and there tends to be inadequate coordination among themselves and with the governments. To increase NGO impact on RH/FP, Partners has embarked on supporting NGOs mainly in two ways:

a) First, it created several important opportunities for NGOs, both from the South and the North, to meet and share their experiences and to elaborate strategic alliances among each other and with their governments. As a first step towards developing a shared vision for the role of NGOs in South-to-South collaboration, Partners convened a NGO Consultation simultaneously with the Board Meeting in Cairo, Egypt. Fifty NGOs from 20 countries conferred about challenges, priorities, and modalities for collaboration.

In November 1999, Partners helped sponsor and organize the Conference on NGO Partnerships for RH in Nairobi with the goal to form partnerships based on complementary strengths. Held under the auspices of the Center for African Studies (CAFS), the conference brought together NGOs from 24 sub-Saharan countries and six countries from other regions.

Partners' goal is to establish a South-to-South Forum that will help augment NGO capacity in every way. The Forum should trigger long-term collaboration, networking, and various organizational arrangements to increase the flow of resources as well as to enhance efficiency in the use of these resources. Work is well under way with the help of an interim NGO South-to-South development group composed of the International Council on Management of Population Programs (ICOMP), the Mexican Family Planning Association (MEXFAM), the Center for African Family Studies (CAFS), and the National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) in Egypt. However, because of the enormous diversity of the NGOs' backgrounds, political environments, and interests, progress in forming workable arrangements has been uneven.

b) Another strategy for enhancing NGO capacity used by Partners has been the funding of pilot projects. With support from the Gates Foundation and the World Bank, Partners set up a small grants fund for the specific purpose of enabling NGOs to develop innovative South-to-South pilot projects that would then attract other funds for the actual implementation. Some of the grantees listed in the



Partners organized several meetings designed to strengthen NGO capacity through forming strategic alliances.

Tom Hasbani

In Ethiopia,
villagers were aided in
finding

Learning

Our Way Out

What a small grant can do

One example of a successfully completed pilot project that generated not only a lot of interest but also attracted further funding even before its completion, is the "Learning Our Way Out" (LOWO) project in Ethiopia. Carried out under the overall guidance of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) from the Philippines, this project transferred the concept of "community validation," which had been successfully used in natural resource management, to the field of family planning.

The approach makes villagers aware of the consequences of having very large families. Many village facilitators

who had been trained in the LOWO process became so convinced of the need to plan their own families, that their commitment and enthusiasm quickly inspired the villagers who began to talk openly about their increasingly limited ability to provide for their children. In fact, the demand for FP services was so encouraging that the question arose whether community-based distribution might have been equally effective. The answer given by the villagers was that they would not have trusted anyone whom they had not invited.

This issue is intriguing since research conducted in Ethiopia by Family Planning International (FPI) shows an acceptance rate of less than ten percent. Therefore, FPI will conduct research to evaluate the usefulness of the LOWO method, while Pathfinder International and others have already requested LOWO to collaborate with them!

solutions

to population issues.

Strengthening communication

Partners is founded on the belief that the knowledge required to meet future RH challenges resides in its member countries. To ensure that others can benefit from this know-how, the Secretariat seeks to facilitate the exchange of experience through its communications program and has been building the foundations during the past year. With support from the Hewlett and Rockefeller Foundations, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), **Partners** has been working to create print and internet based mechanisms to facilitate exchange of information among health professionals.

Through its print publications, **Partners** strives to provide members with a vehicle for letting them and others know about RH programs and South-to-South opportunities. The Secretariat developed and disseminated a range of printed publications including *Partnerships in Action* (1998 Annual Report), the quarterly newsletter, and public information flyers on **Partners' Comparative Advantages, Lessons Learned** and the *Fellowship Program*. A series of interviews on the topic of partnerships held with key individuals in the Bangladeshi development scene was published under the title *Partnerships: New Approaches to Development - Perspectives and Experiences from Bangladesh.*

With Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and HIVE, **Partners** is using new communications tools such as the internet to support South-to-South exchange. The first step has been to renovate the web site (www.south-south.org) which now features new material such as the *Partners Handbook*. In addition, the first four editions of LINKS, an e-mail bulletin designed to facilitate quick exchange of information,

Training on the use of *Partners Handbook*

One year ago, the Secretariat reported on the development of a Handbook to serve as a guide for PCCs, consultants, and others who wish to collaborate with **Partners**. The Handbook has now been expanded to include more practical information and a package of training materials was developed to support training sessions on the Handbook.

After a pilot test, the Secretariat organized a training workshop, where 25 consultants and NGO representatives from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe were given practical information on how to plan and implement South-to-South partnerships. They made valuable recommendations for further improvements on the "Handbook Training." The revised Handbook is now available on **Partners'** web site and there are plans to provide on-line

Efficient communication and information exchange

through traditional as well as electronic media are essential to accomplishing the work of *Partners*.

Training for proposal development

Responding to a need expressed by many partners, the Secretariat developed a "Standard Format for Development of Collaborative Project Proposals" to facilitate project formulation, appraisal, and processing. Although minor differences exist in the requirements of different donors, this format addresses most donors' requirements in a reader-friendly manner.

The format was tested at the sub-Saharan Africa Regional Seminar in May in Zimbabwe. The workshop was organized to further develop a regional project titled "Girl Child Friendly Education Initiative," and gave participants the opportunity to provide constructive

Regional highlights and activities

Latin America and the Caribbean

Partners promoted the capacities of Mexico and Colombia in providing training programs and technical assistance. In September, Partners and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) organized a dialogue in Washington, D.C., with the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), USAID and cooperating agencies to discuss means of taking advantage of the RH expertise of these two countries.

PAHO, USAID and the IDB decided to disseminate information to their own field networks about the training and technical cooperation opportunities offered by Mexico and Colombia. IDB will also explore how its loans could be used for South-to-South actions. Both PAHO and USAID expressed interest in using experts from Colombia and Mexico for assignments on topics in which the two countries have a comparative advantage; USAID would like to do this in a more systematic fashion but pointed out the need for a quality control mechanism. To meet this need, Partners' Secretariat is designing a Technical Advisory Service for identifying, promoting, and deploying

The delivery of health services in remote rural areas is a critical development issue for all Partner Countries.



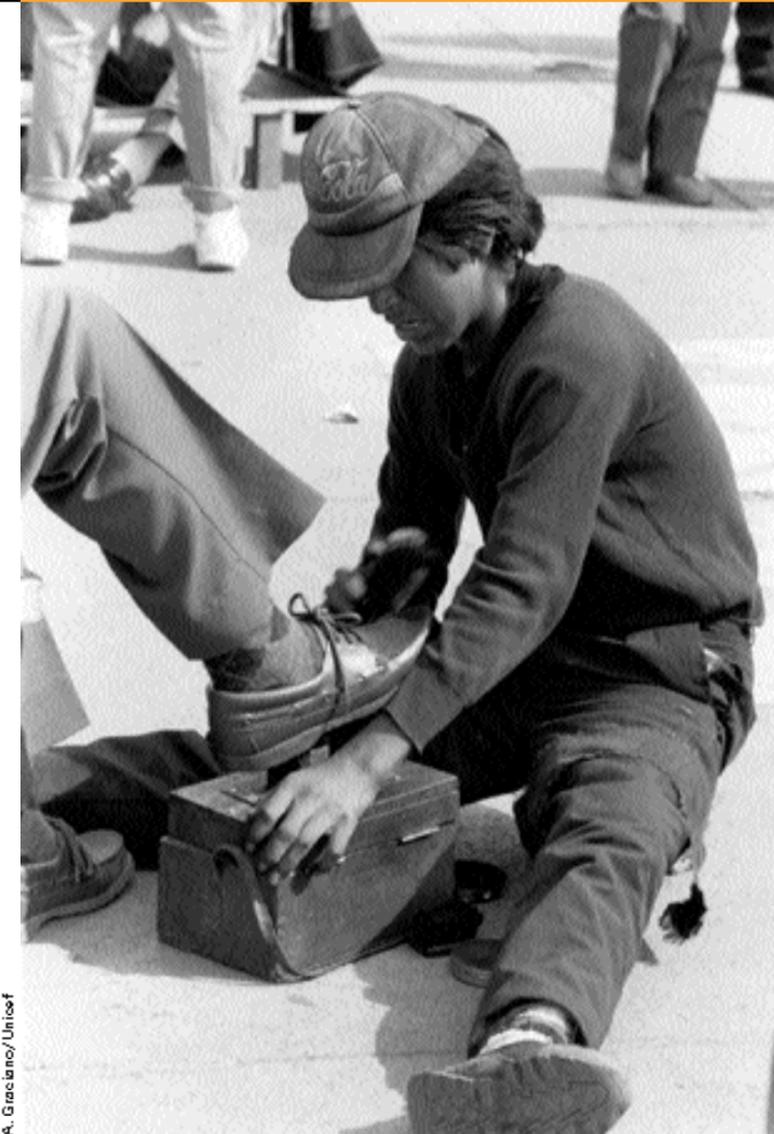
A. Graciano/Unicef

Colombia

PROFAMILIA'S South-to-South training program, which was implemented with funding from the Dutch Government and support from UNFPA, completed its first year. More than 80 managers and service providers from ten countries have already benefited from the thirteen training modules. One to two week courses include topics such as the provision of services (with particular attention to adolescents, men, slums), management (including health sector reform, hospital management, MIS), and advocacy for gender and reproductive rights. The number of modules and fellowships is being expanded for the year 2000.

With support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), PROFAMILIA also shared its experiences in providing RH services for adolescents with NGOs from Venezuela, Panama and Ecuador. A "tool-box" with program and administrative guidelines was developed in CD and diskette format.

The following sections merely highlight some of Partners' activities since it would be beyond the scope of this report to list all the many activities that Board Members, the PCCs and the Secretariat were involved in.



A. Graciano/Unicef

In Latin America, particular attention is given to providing RH services to adolescents - including those out of school, men, and slum dwellers.

Mexico

In April, a workshop was held in Mexico City by Partners' Secretariat and Mexican partners; participants came from Colombia, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Belize. They analyzed specific opportunities for South-to-South actions and formulated four project profiles. Representatives from major donor agencies, who had also been invited, discussed the perspectives of resource mobilization for South-to-South activities in the region.

The South-to-South training program, established in 1996 with UNFPA funding and executed by the General Directorate of Reproductive Health, completed its third year of activities. To date, more than 230 RH managers and service providers from 14 countries have benefited from the various training modules. This successful initiative has created a forum for dialogue where participating countries can take advantage of each other's experiences in implementing various RH strategies. Upon returning home, many have initiated changes in their own national health programs and have requested further assistance from Mexico in implementing these changes. In November, a follow-up meeting for participants in these courses was held in Mexico City, where successful strategies, as well as pitfalls in implementing new programs

Middle East and North Africa

The three Partner Countries in the region, namely Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, have given priority to three issues:

- Completion of Country Profiles: To facilitate exchanges, the comprehensive data include best practices, perceived needs and inventories of consultants and institutions.
- Finalization of project proposals: High-level country representatives consulted with each other and signed a number of MOUs to advance their agenda. Tunisia and Niger, for instance, finalized a proposal on integrated perinatal care and signed a cooperation agreement. Officials from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia met to refine a proposal for the organization of the first North African Network for strengthening STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and care.
- Resource mobilization and advocacy: Numerous activities were undertaken for this purpose, but the three countries have committed themselves to funding a substantial part of their current South-to-South projects. In November 1998, the Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt and Tunisia's Office National de la Famille et de la Population (ONFP) signed an MOU that includes the provision



ONFP

Egypt

Egypt hosted the Fourth Annual Board Meeting in November 1998 in Cairo as well as Partners' first International NGO Forum (see section on Governance). One of the decisions taken at the Board Meeting was to create a fellowship program, for which each member country would donate at least ten fellowships in its best training institutions for RH and related fields. The Cairo Demographic Center was the first to come forward with an offer of four fellowships; this example paved the way to attracting considerable further support from other Partner Countries.

Over the last year, Egypt also hosted study teams from Pakistan, Thailand, Mali, Morocco, Tunisia and Mexico. They visited both governmental and non-governmental institutions to learn

Morocco

Morocco hosted a meeting of the Board's Executive Committee in October 1999 (see section on Governance) and formalized the country's action plan for South-to-South activities prior to the meeting.

In November 1998, USAID funded a mission of seven Moroccan experts to Egypt to explore cooperation with NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, and others in the private sector. USAID subsequently committed funds for both countries' activities to promote the involvement of the private sector. It is also noteworthy that USAID earmarked a special budget line for South-to-South activities in its bilateral 1999 action plans.

In May 1999, Partners organized a workshop on consultant capacity building with funding from USAID and technical assistance from MSH. The workshop led to a constructive dialogue with seven of Morocco's major donors on involving national experts in their bilateral and regional projects.

In June, delegates from Morocco and Mauritania agreed to collaborate on a project to augment safe motherhood. The Secretariat helped to develop a corresponding project proposal.

Tunisia

Left: With the help of 18 brightly coloured mobile clinics, Tunisia's National Family and Population Board is able to respond to the needs of a much larger number of clients.

Below: A highlight of Partners' Fourth Annual Board Meeting in Cairo was an inter-faith panel where the leaders of the three major religions in Egypt discussed key issues of reproductive health and family planning. The picture shows religious leaders being escorted by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ismail Sallam.

Tunisia continues to be a very active partner in the promotion of South-to-South collaboration. In December 1998, Tunisia organized an expert round table to examine the country's experience in the field of RH/FP, where strengths and weaknesses were shared in a frank and constructive manner. The results of this workshop served as a background for the Tunisian profile for South-to-South cooperation.

Mrs. Hilary Rodham Clinton visited Tunisia in March and chaired a round table discussion on the South-to-South programs of the ONFP. Mrs. Clinton was very supportive of South-to-South exchanges in RH/FP and acknowledged the leading role played by Tunisia, especially in the area of training.

Tunisia received funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop a course in education for RH. The course aims at participants from African, Middle Eastern and Caribbean countries.

In June, Dr. Nabiha Gueddana, Honorary Chair of Partners, delivered a paper on "Partners in Population and Development: New Perspectives for Arab Countries" at the regional conference on the "Role of Arab Journalists in the Implementation of the



Partners

Sub-Saharan Africa

Three new members from the region joined **Partners**, namely the Gambia, Mali, and Uganda.

Raising the quality of life of the girl child by increasing access to education and retention in school, and controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic are two key concerns in sub-Saharan Africa.

Partners has responded to this challenge and concentrated on

- a) the development of the "Girl Child Friendly Education Initiative" and
- b) the creation of conditions for policy improvement for concerted action to check the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Secretariat has been working intensively with Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe at various levels and is facilitating the development of proposals that capitalize on the comparative advantages of South-to-South collaboration.

The East African Reproductive Health Network (EARHN) continues to play an active role in many development activities. It is an alliance of governments, NGOs, and donor agencies in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania with the purpose of developing and implementing regional projects. It was established in 1996 with support from **Partners**. For its activities in 1999 and 2000, EARHN received a grant from USAID through



to schooling
and relevant information

that allows them to exercise greater control over their sexual and reproductive lives are not only inalienable rights of girls, but constitute an essential component of social development.

Facts on HIV and AIDS

- In some sub-Saharan countries, one out of four persons is infected with HIV
- Two thirds of the 33 million people having HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa
- At least half of all new infections are among young people aged 15-24
- Last year, AIDS killed more people than malaria

The Gambia

The Gambia joined **Partners** in November 1999. It is one of the smallest, but most densely populated countries in Africa.

A National Family Planning Policy was formulated in 1993 that promotes the status of women and helps couples and individuals choose their desired family size. A year later, this was followed by a National Health Policy.

The National Population Secretariat located at the office of the President has involved NGOs in a series of workshops on the ICPD Program of Action; it also allocates funds, equipment and offices to a number of NGOs. The Gambia Family Planning Association (GFPA) plays a growing role in the formulation, consolidation, and implementation of the National Policy Framework and provides FP information and services throughout the country.

Kenya

Kenya hosted the Fifth Annual Board Meeting of **Partners** in November 1999 (see section on Governance).

Kenya forged many partnerships with NGOs to support EARHN and other RH projects, including the Kangemi Women Empowerment Center, the Medical Women Association, the Center for Adolescent Studies, Maendeleo Ya Wanawake, the Federation of African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), and its affiliate, FIDA Kenya.

In November 1999, **Partners** helped to sponsor and organize the Conference on NGO Partnerships for RH held under the auspices of the Center for African Studies (CAFS). The conference brought together NGOs from 24 sub-Saharan countries and six countries from other regions with the goal to form partnerships based on complementary strengths.

Mali

Mali joined **Partners** in November 1999. A special Commission for the Promotion of Women organizes fora and discussions to create awareness about RH issues. L'Association Malienne pour la Promotion et la Protection de la Famille (AMPF) supports efforts of governmental and other agencies in FP and RH.

Mali's collaboration within the context of **Partners** is based on the 1991 Population Policy and corresponding up-dates following the ICPD. Of special concern are the reduction of maternal mortality, the integration of women in development activities, and the

Uganda

Uganda joined **Partners** in November 1998. The country has integrated STD/HIV/AIDS into a broader package of FP and RH. Health centers routinely provide STD/HIV counseling, care and treatment along with pre-natal and post-natal care, nutrition education, and childhood immunization services. As consequence, HIV prevalence rates among young people are now beginning to stabilize.

This is a most significant experience to share and many countries have shown their interest in learning from it. During 1999, teams from Bangladesh, India, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe came to study Uganda's approach. A visit by a group of parliamentarians from Zimbabwe resulted in corresponding programs in their own constituencies in Zimbabwe, with

Zimbabwe

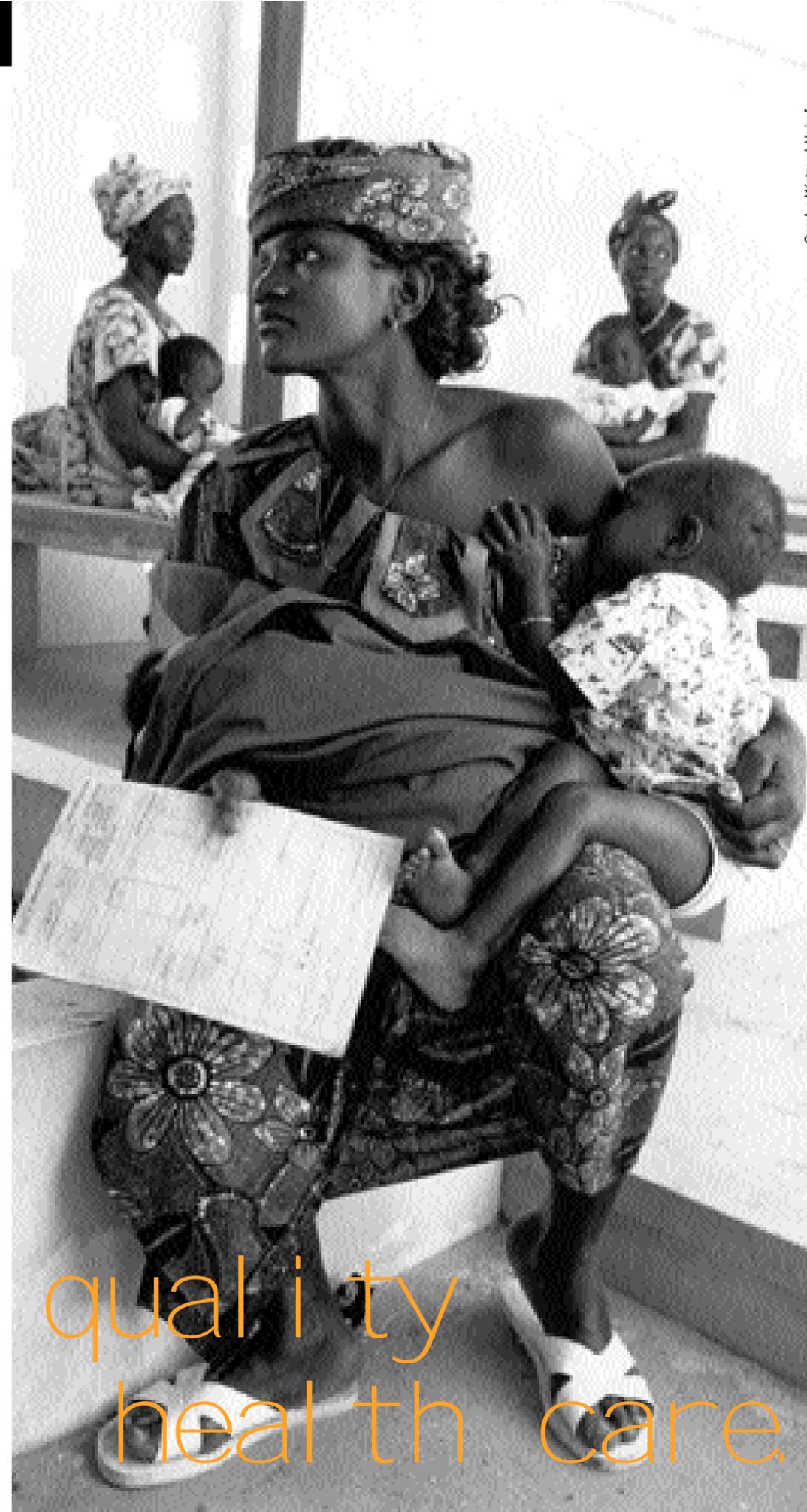
Zimbabwe was engaged in numerous South-to-South activities. It hosted study tours from Botswana and Malawi, and trained doctors from Swaziland in IUD/Norplant insertion and removal. On the other hand, it benefited from experiences of other countries. The visit of a group of midwives to study private programs with Ugandan counterparts, for example, led to a conference to develop a similar approach in Zimbabwe.

Adapting the experience from Thailand, Zimbabwe launched a project on perinatal HIV transmission in conjunction with the National AIDS Coordinating Program and the University of Zimbabwe.

To promote better understanding of South-to-South mechanisms, Zimbabwe hosted a regional orientation on the *Partners Handbook* in May for consultants and NGO staff from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe (see section on Capacity Building). Based on that orientation, Zimbabwe developed training modules, formed an Advisory Committee for South-to-South, and identified focal persons for various technical areas. The section on resource mobilization and advocacy reports on another important activity of **Partners** in Zimbabwe, namely the Donor Dialogue.

In June, this was followed by a regional Proposal Development Workshop to further elaborate the "Girl Child Friendly Education Initiative" and to use this occasion to pre-test the South-to-South proposal format introduced by the

Partners aims
at building
capacities to provide



Carolyn Watson/ Unicef

quality
health care.

**Facts on
Maternal
Mortality**

- Each year, close to 600,000 die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. That is more than one woman every minute.
- In addition, each year over 50 million women experience pregnancy-related complications, many of which lead to life long disability.
- In some countries, one woman in ten dies from a pregnancy related cause.
- Poor maternal health care is the cause of nearly half

Asia and the Pacific

Partner Countries in the region organized numerous productive exchanges of professionals from key institutions and NGOs, and have continued to develop networks for the transfer of technical skills and the dissemination

Bangladesh

Bangladesh, host to the Partners Secretariat, has played an active role in all dimensions of South-to-South interaction.

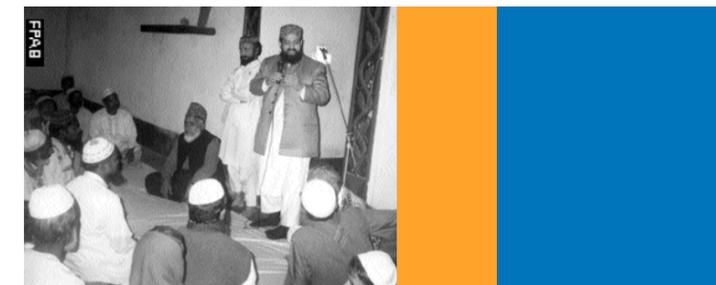
Through the Institute of Child and Mother Health in Dhaka, Bangladesh has offered 16 fellowships to health professionals from other countries for training programs in RH and emergency obstetric care (EOC). Further fellowships are planned.

Bangladesh set up an NGO Technical Committee which undertook a survey of all NGOs working on RH and FP. After a screening process, questionnaires were sent out to those NGOs that met certain criteria. Based on these, the committee compiled a comprehensive directory that is expected to facilitate future interactions.

China

Since China joined Partners in 1997, South-to-South cooperation in RH and involvement in international exchanges have accelerated. China hosted numerous delegations from Asian countries, while delegations from China visited Iran, Vietnam, Thailand, and other countries. In Thailand, for example, family planning workers of China's State Family Planning Commission received training for more effective approaches to work at the grass-roots level, and professionals from the Chinese National Research Institute for Family Planning attended a training course on management of RH and

Muslim Religious Leaders in support of reproductive health and family planning



Religious norms and values play an important role in reproductive health. One of *Partners'* most innovative programs provides backstopping to a partnership that links China, India, and Thailand to the experiences gained in Bangladesh and Egypt.

Much of the Islamic thinking on RH/FP has been inspired by scholars from Al Azhar University in Cairo.

In Bangladesh, the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) has been at the forefront of translating these ideas into practice. An Islamic Research Cell provides background analysis and advice for a very successful program to involve religious leaders. Advocacy campaigns have been successful in spreading awareness about the need for a pro-active approach to RH/FP throughout religious circles. A program for Imams, Madrasah teachers, marriage registrars and principals of religious colleges has enabled many religious leaders to deal with RH and FP in a new and supportive way. These experiences are now transferred to partner organizations in China, India, and Thailand.

The lessons from this experience could have far-reaching implications for the many societies in which religious leaders have a strong influence on the way RH/FP is dealt with. As it turns out, these lessons are of utmost importance in involving large numbers of ethnic or religious minorities in family-related development efforts. For instance, it is not widely known that the Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region of China has a Muslim population of 18 million. The exchanges supported by *Partners* promise to have a considerable impact on the programs organized in this region.

Attracted by the encouraging results of this approach, the European Commission and DFID will provide support for incorporating this experience into a series of model projects to demonstrate

of experiences on sensitive issues such as son preference.

Partners facilitates sharing



India

India joined **Partners** in November 1998. Collaboration with India, however, had already begun several months earlier.

India is presently adapting Bangladesh's and Egypt's successful model for involving Muslim religious leaders in RH programs, Malaysia's success in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, and Thailand's HIV/AIDS prevention strategies. It has also learned from Bangladesh's success in setting up satellite clinics through NGOs on a cost-sharing basis.

Partners' advocacy with top government officials, including the Prime Minister, has drawn attention to India's HIV/AIDS prevention program.

In addition, **Partners** facilitated the establishment of a strong network of NGOs working on adolescent RH. Strategies are being developed for joining forces with the Government to improve the provision of services. Thus

far, the Government has agreed in principle to integrate RH activities for adolescents into national RH programs. To further develop this strategy, a workshop involving about 60 NGOs, government agencies, donors, and other organizations is under preparation.

The fellowship program for capacity building has taken off very well in India. So far, ten fellowships on Adolescent RH and Management of Child Health Programs have been awarded by the National Institute for Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). Four more institutions have indicated their readiness to offer fellowships.

India has boldly embarked upon the gigantic task of improving the availability, equity, and quality of RH and child care services for its large population. Programs emphasize issues of gender, quality of service, inter-sectoral cooperation, and involvement of civil society. India has signaled that it would like to share these experiences

Indonesia

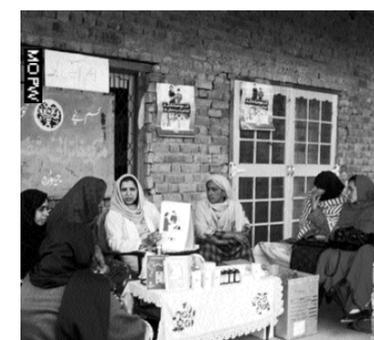
The establishment of the National Family Planning Coordinating Board's International Training Program (ITP) in 1987 signaled Indonesia's remarkable commitment to South-to-South cooperation in RH and FP.

Since then, many countries have sent officials from public and private sectors to learn and observe first-hand what makes Indonesia's RH/FP programs so successful. To date, Indonesia has hosted nearly 4000 participants from 90 countries in various types of training programs. This year, ITP contributed ten fellowships to the **Partners** program.

Partners was instrumental in obtaining support from the European Commission (EC) to launch a collaboration project among Indonesia, Mali, and Senegal, through which the two African countries are expected to significantly improve the implementation of participatory and community-based RH/FP programs.



Indonesia has a long history of sharing its RH experiences with other developing countries.



A counseling session by means of a "mobile camp" in rural Pakistan.

Pakistan

Building on internal experience and confirmed by exchanges with member countries, Pakistan is now pursuing a broader RH/FP approach in order to implement the ICPD Program of Action. The recently developed policy package is seen as a solid basis for determining Pakistan's future agenda of South-to-South exchanges within the framework of **Partners**. Pakistan plans to:

- increase emphasis on maternal and child health in the context of socio-ethical, religious, and cultural values
- increase inter-ministerial coordination for better provision of services
- increase involvement of the private health sector in service delivery
- increase collaboration with the NGO sector
- improve the quality of services through training and skill development and
- enhance knowledge of policy makers and service providers through operations research with special focus on management aspects

Thailand

In 1999, Thailand hosted numerous study tours of its RH program and organized an internal evaluation to improve the effectiveness of future study visits.

On the initiative of the PCC, Thailand formed a high level national committee on South-to-South issues and ensured a strong relationship between **Partners'** activities and the new Center for the South-to-South Initiative. **Partners** also worked with governmental and non-governmental organizations on setting up a network of agencies to strengthen their technical assistance to other countries.

In addition, Thailand's PCC designed training courses for participants from China, Laos, and Myanmar including courses on IEC, quality of care, STD and HIV/AIDS prevention, and birth spacing.

Expanding capacities for international partnerships in Thailand

The Center for the South-South Initiative

Thailand has given added momentum to the idea of international partnerships by converting a modest unit of dedicated individuals into a "Center for the South-South Initiative."

The Center is part of the Family

hence directly related to Thailand's work in the FP/RH/population development field. It cooperates with university institutions, teaching hospitals, several ministries and other governmental entities, and numerous NGOs engaged in

- capacity building of cooperating organizations and professionals in their endeavors to network more effectively with partners in other countries
- technical assistance and
- support to visitors from

In 1998/99 alone, the Center conducted observation study tours for at least 400 visitors from various countries, mostly from the Asia region, as well as training courses for five groups of

On behalf of a Thai-UNFPA initiative for South-to-South cooperation, the Center also published a directory of training courses, institutions and experts on population and FP/RH for dissemination to agencies

Advocacy and resource mobilization

Diversifying the funding base

Partners in Population and Development depends on its member countries' contributions in the form of annual membership fees; the provision of salaries, office space, and secretarial support for PCCs; local support provided for various events, e.g. exchange visits, workshops, Board Meetings, and visits by Secretariat staff; travel costs, e.g. to attend Board Meetings and others; contributions in kind, e.g. fellowships for various capacity building programs, including provision of free tuition, accommodation, subsidized meals, field trips, etc.; Bangladesh's provision of office space, and many other in-kind contributions. Partners will continue to intensify resource mobilization efforts in its member countries in order to strengthen its resource base.

In addition, Partners depends on the generosity and advice of its cooperation partners. Partners particularly appreciates the continued support from DFID, the Gates Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, UNFPA, USAID, and the World Bank.

However, as mandated by the Board, a more diversified funding base is sought. The Secretariat, therefore, concentrated its efforts during the last year on exploring the potential for support from new donors, including Denmark's DANIDA, the European Commission (EC), the German Government, GTZ (German Technical Assistance Agency), the Japanese Government, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the private sector.

Intensifying the cooperation with the EC and DFID

Partners, the EC, and DFID share a number of interests and aims with respect to improving sexual and reproductive health. This has given rise to a policy and strategy dialogue that initially focussed on the support of a few projects but eventually resulted in a concrete plan for a challenging long-term cooperation.

The EC and DFID have agreed to support five model projects to demonstrate different ways to transfer expertise. The projects will be implemented by eight organizations involving 18 countries. The over-arching goal of this global program is to have South-to-South collaboration adopted as an accepted approach for improving sexual and RH, population and development, and to demonstrate that this can be done in an efficient way.

The following five projects have been approved for funding:

- "Improved utilization and quality of RH services by strengthening organizational capacity to provide these services," involving the

- "Transfer of adolescent RH urban outreach strategy in four urban areas in Latin America," involving Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela.
- "Training of Muslim religious leaders in support of RH and FP," involving China, India, and Thailand, with technical support from Egypt and Bangladesh.
- "Research and policy development among participating Ministries of Health on STDs," involving Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.
- "Increased institutional capacity to offer high-quality integrated RH services," involving Thailand and Vietnam.

This joint initiative represents a milestone in forming meaningful long-term partnerships with funding agencies for the purpose of advancing South-to-South collaboration. The full implementation of this global program

Explorations with the private sector

Fund-raising was explored with pharmaceutical companies in Germany (Bayer International Corporate Headquarters, Leverkusen; Hoechst International Corporate Headquarters, Frankfurt; and BASF International Corporate Headquarters, Ludwigshafen), Switzerland (Novartis - formerly Ciba-Geigy-Hofmann-La Roche - International Headquarters, Basel), Egypt and Morocco (see section on Morocco), and with major industrialists in Bombay.

Other resource mobilization and advocacy activities

Secretariat staff, Board Members, and PCCs have undertaken numerous resource mobilization and advocacy activities, many of which have been mentioned in this report. While it is impossible to list all activities, the following paragraphs point out a few additional undertakings:

- The Secretariat held discussions with DSE (German Development Foundation, Health and Population Department, Berlin), BMZ (Ministry for Development Cooperation, Health and Population Division, Bonn), and GTZ (German Technical Assistance Agency, Eschborn).
- Secretariat staff visited over 20 development assistance agencies in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, and the Gambia and initiated numerous new alliances.
- Experts from Belize, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Peru attended a workshop in Mexico on "Reproductive Health, Population and Development," where four projects for South-to-South exchanges were drafted and presented by the working groups to representatives from donor agencies.
- The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea and Partners organized a seminar on South-to-South initiatives in Seoul in March 1999. Twenty-two experts from seven Korean organizations attended. Participants identified various areas suitable for collaboration and outlined possible mechanisms to support these activities. Quality of care was identified as a particularly promising area of collaboration. This will be further elaborated in a forum planned for spring 2000, when participants from 11 countries will meet to jointly develop common strategies for improving the quality of care in RH/FP services.
- The East-West Center in Hawaii organized the Cooperative Strategies Forum with support from the Packard Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. This workshop united population/RH NGOs, development NGOs, and officers from six donor countries supporting the Asia and Pacific region in a discussion on needs and opportunities for

collaboration. The Partners Secretariat served on the steering committee for this initiative.

- 2050, a Japanese NGO dedicated to creating a better understanding of global population and development issues, organized an international seminar on "South-to-South Cooperation into the 21st Century: Meeting Reproductive Health, Population and Development Challenges in Africa and Asia." Japanese policy makers, government officials, NGOs, and representatives from the Partners Secretariat and member countries attended the seminar.
- A Donor Dialogue facilitated by Partners in May in Harare helped donors as well as local program representatives to understand each other's needs and constraints. Donors appreciated the constraints faced by implementing agencies and explained that they were interested in programs that have a comprehensive, sector-wide approach, a clear expression of policy commitment on the priority issues in order to contribute towards national development, and a results-orientation. Participating national program staff gained a better understanding on requirements and priorities of donors.

Partner Countries
collaborate on
developing
policies
to

reduce
poverty.



Looking back and looking ahead

*Paragraph 88

"External funding and support, from donor countries as well as the private sector, should be provided to promote and sustain the full potential of South-to-South cooperation, including the South-to-South Initiative: Partners in Population and Development, in order to bolster the sharing of relevant experiences, and the

ICPD+5

Five years after the historic Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, **Partners** was actively engaged in the "ICPD+5" review process that included a series of regional and technical meetings and workshops.

Partners played an active role in these meetings and organized several events at The Hague Forum which was convened in the Netherlands in February 1999, including a working session with delegates from **Partners'** Board, donors, and NGOs. In a panel session, Board Members were able to present their country programs and to advocate for the goals of **Partners**.

The subject of effective partnerships was at the heart of many debates and **Partners** was highly commended for effecting an enabling environment. Ambassador Biegman, President of

The Hague Forum, put it as follows: "*Out of the things that people who had anything at stake in the Cairo Conference can be most proud of is the development of this South-to-South initiative. The Partners have demonstrated an enormous capacity and willingness to take on these challenges.*"

The invaluable dimensions that partnerships bring to the development efforts, the importance of building partnerships within all segments of civil society, and **Partners'** role in this endeavor were also at the center of discussions at the "Dialogue on Partnerships" held in April 1999 in New York. The dialogue was sponsored by "The Earth Times" and brought together an international group of leaders in population and development, including **Partners'** Executive Director, several

After the preparatory events, a Special Session of the General Assembly was held in June/July 1999 where a document on key actions for further implementation of the Cairo POA was adopted. In **paragraph 88***, special recognition is given to **Partners**.

With the four priority areas for action identified by its Board Members in 1994, **Partners** is right on target. In fact, HIV/AIDS received much greater attention than during the Cairo conference; adolescent reproductive and sexual health generated considerable debate; the reduction of maternal mortality was pointed out as deserving much more concerted action, while health reforms to integrate FP and RH remain a special area of concern.

An external evaluation of *Partners*

From March to August 1999, the Rockefeller Foundation and UNFPA conducted a joint evaluation of **Partners'** first five years. Based on findings regarding the "external and internal realities" which the organization faces, the evaluation team presented a list of recommendations to the **Partners'** Board, including a "Future Look" study and giving priority to resource mobilization - especially within Partner Countries.

The recommendations were received with much interest and discussed at various levels. It was decided to develop a five-year strategy that would give close consideration to programming issues. A draft will be ready for discussion at the Executive Committee

Achievements and challenges

1999 was not only the year of ICPD+5, but it was also **Partners'** fifth anniversary. This was taken as an occasion to reflect and to take stock of the achievements as well as challenges.

All in all, **Partners** has been a remarkable success in its first five years, but many challenges remain. Its achievements are especially significant considering the fact that the Secretariat in Dhaka began functioning only in 1996:

- **Partners** is now much better known in international circles.
- It has developed a coherent strategic framework for its program.
- A series of new inter-country programs have been launched, promising to fulfill the original vision of the founders.
- It has widely advocated for expanded South-to-South collaboration and has become a source of information and inspiration for other agencies as well as donors.
- **Partners** has been able to mobilize generous contributions in kind from its member countries.
- **Partners** has been able to maintain the goodwill of its founding donors and has also been able to attract several new donors.
- It has met the "market test" of demand through its growing membership from originally 10 to

- **Partners** is working intensively at creating the institutional basis necessary for intensified collaboration. This important activity does not always receive adequate recognition, because the focus in traditional development thinking has always been on project implementation.
- **Partners'** achievements have earned it a special mention in the document of the Special Session of the ICPD of the General Assembly of the UN (**par. 88**)*.

Some challenges remain which will be addressed in a five-year strategy to be presented at the next Executive Committee Meeting:

- **Partners** has been successful in attracting the support of international donors. Its goal, however, is to increase the contributions from within the Partner Countries and to find new funding sources in the developing countries themselves. This will be a challenging task, particularly since many of these countries have suffered from economic crisis or natural disaster in recent years, and are actually struggling to keep the quality of service delivery at an adequate level in their own countries.
- Though **Partners** can point to a number of successful South-to-South endeavors, it plans to create models for high-impact and cost-effective cooperation that will be carefully documented for possible replication. But this takes time and requires patience on the part of donors. Fortunately, the EC and DFID have agreed to form a long-term

Governance

Board Meeting, Cairo, Egypt

Partners' Fourth Annual Board Meeting and an Executive Committee Meeting were held 7-13 November 1998, in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting focused on:

- Admission of two new member countries: India and Uganda
- Election of the new Executive Committee members for a term of three years
- The approval of Partners Strategic Plan and Action Plan 1999-2000
- The approval of Partners Fellowship Program
- The presentation of plans to conduct a joint evaluation of Partners' first five years by the Rockefeller Foundation and UNFPA
- The Adoption of the Cairo Declaration and signing of the By-Laws by the Board Members
- A panel discussion of the leaders of the three major religions in Egypt on the different stances taken vis-a-vis FP and other RH issues

The Board Meeting was accompanied by an IEC exhibition on the activities of the participating countries and organizations.

Executive Committee Meeting, Marrakech, Morocco

The Executive Committee Meeting held in Marrakech, Morocco, 3-5 October 1999, focused on:

- Presentations on Morocco's experiences and challenges in RH and related South-to-South activities
- The Interim Evaluation Report of Partners
- The decision to keep the Secretariat's location in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- The decision not to standardize the location of the PCCs but to let each member country decide in which Ministry the PCC should be located
- The presentation of a draft paper on Partners' membership

Board Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya

Partners' Fifth Annual Board Meeting was held 8-10 November 1999, in Nairobi, Kenya. It focused on:

- Admission of Mali and Gambia as new members
- Presentation of the Evaluation Report prepared by the Rockefeller Foundation and UNFPA, and Partners' response
- Planning for a five-year strategy
- Establishing a Technical Advisory Committee
- Sharing of responsibilities between PCCs (responsible for the work at the country level) and Board Members (responsible for regional issues, advocacy, and adequate support and resources for the PCCs)
- Coverage of costs for PCCs, local staff, and South-to-South Centers by individual member countries
- The date for the next Board Meeting (13-15 November, 2000, in China)



Out-going Chair, Dr. Nabiha Gueddana, newly elected Chair H.E. Prof. Dr. Ismail Sallam, and Executive Director of UNFPA,

Annex

Partners' supporters

- Partner Countries (membership fees and contributions in kind)
- UK Department of International Development (DFID)
- European Commission (EC)
- The William H. Gates Foundation
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- The Packard Foundation
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The World Bank

Financial statement for FY 1999 (January - December)

Budget for FY 1999

Contributions from Partner Countries	146,537
Gates Foundation	75,852
Hewlett Foundation	41,582
Packard Foundation	250,000
Rockefeller Foundation	1,365,672
UNFPA	277,231
World Bank	61,898
USAID*	
Total budget	2,218,772

Expenditures during FY 1999

Administrative costs		757,324
Program related costs		
Consultancies	185,111	
Travel (including travel for technical assistance, proposal development, fellowships, Board and Executive Committee Meetings)	428,101	
Publications	50,080	
Subcontracts	171,234	
Training fellowships	287,718	
Equipment	35,196	
Miscellaneous	71,636	
Subtotal		1,229,076
Total expenditures		1,986,400

Balance

232,372

* For the period May 1999 - September 2000, USAID is providing **Partners** with approximately US\$ 450,000 in technical assistance through Management Sciences for Health's Family Planning Management Development (FPMD) (see page 22)

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List of abbreviations

ABC	Brazilian Cooperation Agency
AKEA	African Know-how to End Aids
BKKBN	Indonesian National Family Planning Coordination Board
CAFS	Center for African Studies
CD	Compact Disk
CDC	Cairo Demographic Center
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
DANIDA	Danish Overseas Development Assistance
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EARHN	East African Reproductive Health Network
EC	European Commission
EOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
FP	Family Planning
FPAB	Family Planning Association of Bangladesh
FPI	Family Planning International
GCFEI	Girl Child Friendly Education Initiative
GTZ	German Technical Assistance Agency
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Deficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICDDR,B	International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh
ICMH	Institute of Child and Mother Health
ICOMP	International Council on Management of Population Programs
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDB	Inter American Development Bank
IEC	Information/Education/Communication
IIRR	International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
ITP	International Training Program
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LOWO	"Learning Our Way Out"
MEXFAM	Mexican Family Planning Association
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NCPD	National Council for Population and Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ONFP	Office National de la Famille et de la Population
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCC	Partner Country Coordinator
POA	Program of Action
RCH	Reproductive and Child Health
RH	Reproductive Health
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development