

South – South Cooperation
in population and reproductive
health and poverty alleviation.



Introduction.

South –South Cooperation (SSC) seen as an important mechanism to implement the ICPD PoA (Res. 51/176 of 16 Dec. 1996)

3 avenues for SSC in the field of population and development proposed by ICPD PoA:

- (a) technical and financial collaboration among South countries;
- (b) mobilization of support among donors for population activities;
- (c) partnership between Governments, NGOs and private sector in formulating / implementing South-South projects;

Observed patterns of Population Assistance through SSC.

- 1. Bilateral support for countries in similar stages of development, (study tours) – especially in West Africa and to a lesser extent in East Africa, and in South and South-east Asia**
- 2. Regional pivot countries with area specific experiences in planning and delivering population programmes providing TA to other countries in the region. Examples: Brazil, Thailand, Senegal, Mexico, Tunisia, India and Egypt. Also, the cases of the RH Networks in West Africa, East Africa, and the Mediterranean Forum on GBV.**
- 3. Countries providing support beyond their region in research and analysis, training and the development of new products. Examples: China, India, and Brazil.**
- 4. SSC modalities that are culture centred, for instance, among Muslim countries supporting efforts to foster commitment to a rights-based approach to RH service delivery and gender equality.**

Changing Environment since ICPD

1. **The Millennium Summit and the MDGs;**
2. **Paris Declaration and the New Aid Environment;**
3. **The 2005 World Summit.**

Implications.

- **Focus on Poverty Reduction.**
- **Government in the driver seat.**
- **MDG-based PRSP and national development strategies**
- **Provides a basis for strategic positioning as well as accountability for results.**
- **Focus of SSC on capacity building (UNDG position paper)**

UNFPA and South – South Cooperation.

- UNFPA firmly committed to SSC within the framework of capacity development;
- New modalities for delivering SSC being considered, with options including:
 - **triangular cooperation arrangements**
 - **Providing support through inter-governmental institutions, partnerships, etc.**
 - **Working with regional training centres to deliver training in population.**

The potential for SSC –post World Summit

(i) SSC can be instrumental in building sustainable capacity in population and RH for engagement in the PRSP and SWAP processes within member countries and in integrating ICPD elements into national development agendas;

(To note that reviews of PRSPs undertaken thus far show that the inclusion of population dynamics and RH within PRSPs have been lacklustre especially in the policy matrices and in list of interventions proposed ,and have been in many instances not found a place in the national budgets.)

The potential for SSC –post World Summit

(ii) SSC as a modality to scale up national programme delivery

(this can be done by improving the absorptive capacity of relevant sectors through the transfer and application of good practices found successful elsewhere; through the sharing of expertise for improving implementation; and through networking across member countries;)

The potential for SSC –post World Summit

- (ii) SSC as a mechanism for supporting member countries in their implementation of the 2010 Census Round or other population surveys.

Conclusion.

- Vast potential for SSC within the PPD framework;
- UNFPA currently developing its own national capacity development strategy, with SSC as a key component of the strategy;
- Strategy will focus largely on building upon broad partnerships especially at the global, regional and country level for providing TA through greater south-south collaboration.